



Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.  
4698 Honeygrove Road, Suite 2 | Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455-5934  
Tel. (757) 318-9082 | Fax (757) 318-9085 | [www.srta.org](http://www.srta.org)

**Contact: Jillian Metzger**  
**615-242-8856 ext.118**  
**[jillian@hallstrategies.com](mailto:jillian@hallstrategies.com)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SRTA OFFERS NON-PATIENT-BASED LICENSURE EXAMINATION AS ALTERNATIVE TO PATIENT-BASED**

*The Southern Regional Testing Agency advances its manikin-based licensure exam amid COVID-19 testing complications*

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA (April 13, 2020) – The Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA) has announced the offering of a manikin-based restorative licensing examination for dental students in response to the testing delays and complications faced by COVID-19. The virus has brought numerous challenges to the dental profession, including the closure of dental practices and clinics across the nation, thus being extremely difficult for dental school graduates who would normally seek patients to be a part of their skills assessment for required state licensure.

“SRTA and other dental testing agencies have offered manikin-based portions of its exam for several years in its endodontics and prosthodontics modules,” SRTA President George Martin, D.D.S. “In response to the coronavirus pandemic, SRTA has approved the release of its manikin-based restorative dentistry module, using cutting-edge dental products that are highly effective in simulating a live patient’s dental procedures such as fillings, crowns and bridges.” SRTA’s exam may be used in its entirety, or the manikin-based restorative skills module can be used in conjunction with the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) a digital exam recently announced by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

“SRTA has beta-tested this new non-patient restorative portion, and it is fully capable of being used as an assessing option to confront and ease current obstacles we face not having live patients,” said Martin.

The non-patient based SRTA exam is a thorough assessment that includes endodontics, prosthodontics, as well as hands-on restorative skills.

“While it remains at the discretion of each state’s licensing boards on whether to accept this alternative assessment module,” said SRTA Executive Director Jessica Bui. “SRTA continues its

commitment to being responsive and actionable during these challenging times for our industry.”

**About the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA)**

SRTA has been a trusted testing agency in the U.S. since 1975. Its innovative approach to examinations, along with the wide network of examiners from across the country, afford it the opportunity to be the most responsive testing agency to meet the present challenges facing the dental industry.

If interested in learning more about SRTA’s manikin-based exam opportunity, please contact Jessica Bui ([jbui@srta.org](mailto:jbui@srta.org)) or (757-318-9082).

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