



As the Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois – Chicago and Midwestern University - Chicago chapters of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), a student-run organization that represents the rights, interests and welfare of 22,000 dental students across the country, we urge you to change the requirements for initial dental licensure. Currently there are 255 dental school graduates in Illinois that cannot get licensed.

Dental students are required to take an exam that involves performing procedures on patients. As a result of dental school clinic closures due to COVID-19, students are unable to take the exam.

We are asking you to change licensure requirements now to allow for the following exams to be accepted as new alternatives to current licensure requirements.

- Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Exam (DLOSCE). This exam will be released on June 15 and will be administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND). The DLOSCE is a high-stakes licensure examination consisting of multiple, standardized stations, each of which will require candidates to use their clinical skills to successfully complete one or more dental problem solving tasks without performing procedures on a patient.
- American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) CompeDont DTX. It is a non-patient-based restorative examination that utilizes the CompeDont™ DTX, a new manikin tooth technology developed by the CDCA and Acadental, Inc.
- Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) all manikin exam. This exam is an option for the Periodontal and Restorative procedures traditionally administered on a patient.
- Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) manikin-based restorative skills module using cutting-edge dental products that are highly effective in simulating a live patient's dental procedures.
- Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) manikin simulation exam.
- ASDA recommends the manikin-based alternatives are adopted in lieu of the patient based restorative and periodontal (if required in your state) portions.

Recent dental school graduates can play a critical role in helping address the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19. They cannot do this without licenses.

We urge you to make these changes now to expedite the licensing process for 2020 graduates and ensure they can begin serving communities as soon as possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alexandra Nash'.

Alexandra Nash  
Southern Illinois University  
Class of 2021  
ASDA Chapter President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Subeena Thomas'.

Subeena Thomas  
University of Illinois - Chicago  
Class of 2022  
ASDA Chapter President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kirsten Farr'.

Kirsten Farr  
Midwestern University - Chicago  
Class of 2022  
ASDA Chapter President