



As the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston and San Antonio, and the Texas A&M College of Dentistry 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 316 dental school graduates in Texas 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 (ABDE) 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.
- 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, appearing to read 'Joy Nisnisan'.

Mary Jocelyn Elyse (Joy) M. Nisnisan  
Trustee, District 9 ASDA  
President, Texas-Houston ASDA  
DDS Candidate 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabian A. Mendoza'.

Fabian A. Mendoza  
President, Texas-San Antonio ASDA  
DDS Candidate 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Meckel'.

Erik Meckel  
President, Texas A&M ASDA  
DDS Candidate 2022