

Bulletin
Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensing Laws

As a result of legislation enacted during the 2012 Maryland legislative session, a number of changes were made to the licensing laws affecting dentists and dental hygienists. The following is a brief overview of the criteria that must presently be met by dentists and dental hygienists who seek a general license in Maryland by either examination or by meeting the appropriate experience requirements by virtue of licensure in another state. It is a guide. It is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is it a substitute for the actual laws and regulations. To determine eligibility, the Board will rely upon the actual laws and regulations. Please refer to the applicable licensing sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Title 4, Subtitle 3, and the Code of Maryland Regulations, (COMAR) 10.44.05, 10.44.09, and 10.44.15.

For those dentists who hold dental degrees from a country other than the United States or Canada, please review the material at the end of this Bulletin. Please refer to the applicable licensing sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Title 4, Subtitle 3, and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.02

Dentists - Licensure by Examination

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and

- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and

- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and

- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

Dentists – Licensure for Dentists Licensed in Another State

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

OR

- Hold an active dental license in another state; and
- Pass an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; and
- Have been actively practicing dentistry in another state for at least 5 years and during the 5 year period preceding the application, have been actively practicing dentistry for at least 850 hours on average per year for a total of at least 4,250 hours; and
- Pass a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association; and
- Provide adequate evidence that you are not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, do not have charges pending against your license in another state, and have not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or have been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act which would be grounds for disciplinary action under Maryland's dental laws.

Dental Hygienists - Licensure by Examination

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

Dental Hygienists – Licensure for Dental Hygienists Licensed in Another State

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

OR

- Hold an active dental hygiene license in another state; and
- Pass an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; and
- Have been actively practicing dental hygiene in another state for at least 3 years and during the 3 year period preceding the application, have been actively practicing dental hygiene for at least 150 hours on average per year for a total of at least 450 hours; and

- Pass a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association; and
- Provide adequate evidence that you are not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, do not have charges pending against your license in another state, and have not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or have been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act which would be grounds for disciplinary action under Maryland's dental laws.

Dentists – Holding a Dental Degree In a Country Other Than the United States or Canada (Internationally Trained)

Dentists who hold a dental degree from a country other than the United States or Canada may receive a limited license or a teacher's license to practice dentistry. Under very narrow circumstances they may receive a general license as explained below.

Limited License (Internationally Trained)

For a limited license the dentist must meet specific licensure requirements. Amongst other requirements the applicant must submit evidence satisfactory to the Board that they have completed at least 24 months of formal general clinical training in a United States or Canadian institution. In addition, the license is limited to a specific hospital, sanitarium, dental school, or public health program.

Teacher's License (Internationally Trained)

For a teacher's license the dentist must meet specific licensure requirements. Amongst other requirements the applicant must submit proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has at least 5 years of clinical dental experience. In addition, the applicant must be appointed to either a full-time or part-time position at the University of Maryland Dental School.

General License (Internationally Trained)

Under narrow circumstances a dentist who holds a dental degree from a country other than the United States or Canada may receive a general license to practice dentistry. The applicant must meet certain licensure requirements. Amongst those requirements the applicant must submit the following credentials to the Board:

- (1) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has successfully completed at least a 2-year pediatric dental residency program at a dental school or a hospital authorized by any state and which is recognized by the Board;
- (2) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School; and
- (3) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has successfully completed a contractual obligation to provide pediatric dental services for at least 2 years in a public health dental clinic operated by the State or a county or municipality of the State, a Federally qualified health center, or a Maryland qualified health center.

In addition:

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.
- Provide adequate evidence to the Board that you are not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, do not have charges pending against your license in another state, and have not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or have been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act which would be grounds for disciplinary action under Maryland's dental laws.

Those interested in the pediatric dental fellowship program at the University of Maryland Dental School should contact the dental school directly.

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