DENTAL ADMISSION TEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Obtain a DENTPIN® and Apply to Test

What is a DENTPIN®?

The DENTPIN® is a unique personal identifier for applicants and students involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs. The DAT, ADEA AADSAS and TMDSAS, plus ADEA PASS, ADEA CAAPID, the Dental Match and the National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examination programs all use the DENTPIN® for identification of students and test-takers. You must obtain or retrieve a DENTPIN® from www.ada.org before proceeding with your DAT application. You must also obtain a DENTPIN to apply for admission to a dental school.

I completed an electronic application, but did not receive a confirmation e-mail.

First, confirm with your credit card company that you were billed for the test. If so, please wait two business days for completion of processing, and then call the Department of Testing Services (DTS) at 800.232.2162 to verify that your application has been processed.

I am not in Prometric’s system, but my credit card has been charged.

The DTS processes applications on a daily basis. It can take up to 48 hours from the time your application is processed by the DTS for Prometric to upload your application into their system, thereby allowing you to schedule your testing appointment. If you are unable to schedule after two business days, you should call the DTS to verify that your application has been processed.

I was billed twice for my electronic application. How do I get a refund?

Fax a brief explanation and copy of your credit card statement to 312.587.4105. Please include your name (as it appears on your application) and daytime contact information. Address the fax to the attention of DAT Refund Request.

Corrections/Changes to My Application

I have not yet taken my test, can I update my address?

Fax the request for an address change (prior to your testing appointment) to 312.587.4105; address it to the attention of DAT Address Update Request.

My name is reversed or has changed. Can you correct it?

Fax the request for a name correction (prior to your testing appointment) to 312.587.4105 (with any appropriate documentation such as a marriage certificate or court documents); address it to the attention of DAT Name Change Request.
**General Information**

**Can you send me information about the test?**

The Dental Admission Testing Program *Guide* is available as a downloadable PDF document at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). Print copies are available by written request to the DTS, American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2637.

**What is on the test?**

The Dental Admission Test consists of multiple-choice items distributed across a battery of four tests: the Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Perceptual Ability Test, Reading Comprehension Test, and Quantitative Reasoning Test. The Test Specifications list the topic areas covered in each of the four tests and are located in the *Guide* at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

**How long does the test take?**

Please refer to the *DAT Guide* for detailed information on the administration of the test: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Admission Test</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional Tutorial</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceptual Ability Test</td>
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<td>Optional Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension Test</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Post Test Survey</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 hours</strong></td>
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**Where can I find study materials?**

The *DAT Guide* includes sample test items and test specifications. Tutorials, located at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) are designed to familiarize examinees with the format of the questions on the computerized tests. The DAT Program has released a complete DAT Sample Test. To order, complete the PDF form found at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) and submit the appropriate fee. Reference texts are cited at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

Examinees are cautioned that obtaining or sharing confidential, unreleased test content violates test regulations and carries significant penalties. Further, material obtained from sources such as Internet chat rooms, blogs or information-sharing sites may be inaccurate and/or out-dated and could mislead or disadvantage test-takers.
**Retesting**

**How long do I have to wait to retest?**

You must wait 90 days between testing attempts. Examinees who have tested three or more times must apply for special permission to take the test again. In particular, you must demonstrate that you are actively applying to dental school. Please refer to the *DAT Guide* for specific details on this additional eligibility requirement.

**Refunds**

**Are refunds available?**

Test fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

**Scheduling a Testing Appointment**

**When is the DAT offered?**

The DAT is a computer-delivered test administered through Prometric Test Centers in the United States and its territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands). Testing appointments are available year-round.

**How do I schedule a testing appointment with Prometric?**

You will receive an e-mail that contains instructions for scheduling your test date after your application has been processed. If you do not receive an e-mail, contact the DTS to verify that your application has been processed. Scheduling can be completed by contacting the Prometric Call Center at 800.688.5804 or online at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).

**I called the Prometric 800 number, but I cannot get through. What can I do?**

You can schedule electronically at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com). Otherwise, please call Prometric when call volume is low. Call volume is higher on Monday and Tuesday of each week and hold times are considerably less after Tuesday of each week. The Call Center is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

**Prometric says I am not in their system, what can I do?**

If your application has been approved and it has been more than 48 hours since your application has been processed, please contact Prometric’s Candidate Care hotline at 800.853.6769.

**Scoring/Score Reports**

**How is the test scored?**

DAT scores are based on the number of correct responses, and reported as standard scores, not raw scores. Standard scores allow the comparison of one examinee's performance with the performance of other DAT examinees. Standard scores range from 1 to 30; a score of 17 typically signifies the average national performance. There are no
passing or failing scores. Percentile equivalents are shown for each standard score on the examinee’s score report. Please refer to the Guide at www.ada.org for detailed scoring information.

Is the DAT scored on a curve?

DAT performance is based on an ability-referenced system and reported in standard scores. The test is not scored on a curve. Standard scores provide normative information about examinee knowledge and problem-solving skills, allowing a direct comparison of an examinee’s ability with other examinee’s abilities.

When will I receive my score report?

Unofficial score reports, generated at the test center, are provided for the examinee upon completion of the test.

When will my scores be reported to the dental schools?

Official scores will be transmitted to the dental schools requested on the DAT application. If the schools you requested participate in a standardized application service, e.g., the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) or the Texas Medical and Dental Schools application Service (TMDSAS), the scores will be available to the schools directly and through the application service. Schools selected at the time of application are included in the DAT fee regardless of the number of schools selected. Scores will be reported to the standardized application services approximately two to three weeks after your testing appointment. The application service will require additional time to post the scores.

How do I send a score report to myself or an alternate institution?

To send an official score report to yourself or alternate institution after you have submitted a DAT application, the fee is $25 per report.

If I take the DAT and do not do as well as I would like, can I get my scores voided?

Once you have tested, the resulting scores become a part of your permanent record and cannot be voided.

How can I check to see which schools I requested to receive my scores?

When completing your DAT application or score report request, please print a copy of your confirmation page to ensure that you have a record of which schools you requested to receive score reports. There is no other method or opportunity available to confirm and/or review this information.

I have not tested yet; can I change the schools that I have requested on my DAT application?
Once you have submitted your application, changes to the schools listed to receive score reports on your application to test must be submitted in writing with your signature (via facsimile to 312.587.4105) to the DAT Program and received prior to your testing appointment.

I have tested more than once; can I choose which scores are sent out?

You cannot choose to send any one particular set of scores. The scoring system reports the four most recent sets of scores.

How do I submit an electronic request for additional score reports?

You may use the electronic score request. Visit www.ada.org. Score reports may also be requested by U. S. mail using the PDF form located at the same Web address; payable by money order.

Test Center Procedures

What constitutes proper identification for the test?

You are required to present two forms of ID; one must be a government issued ID, with a signature and photo, and the other must have your signature. Both must be current; expired IDs will not be accepted. The name on your application must match the name on your IDs exactly, or you will be denied testing.

What can I bring with me into the test center?

No personal belongings are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in a locker provided by the testing center.

Items prohibited from the secure testing area include, but are not limited to:

a. Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, tissues, or markers not provided by the testing center.
b. Dental instruments, models or materials.
c. Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, rulers or other measuring devices (a calculator will be provided on the computer screen during the Quantitative Reasoning Test).
d. Electronic devices, such as telephones, pagers, recording devices, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), radios or stereos with headsets; personal earplugs or headphones.
e. Tote bags; purses, wallets, backpacks, briefcases.
f. Highlighters, pens, erasers, mechanical pencils, dictionaries, and translators.
g. Food, candy, gum, water or other beverages.
h. Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, or head coverings (except for religious purposes).
i. Good luck charms, statues, religious or superstitious talismans.
j. Medicinal items (except as approved under testing accommodations).
k. Watches (digital or analog) or timing devices (a timer is provided on the computer screen during testing).

Violations may result in the voiding of your test scores and waiting up to two years to retest. Please refer to the DAT Guide for more specific information.

Testing Accommodations

I require accommodations for testing, what do I need to do to receive accommodations?

When completing your test application, indicate that you will require testing accommodations (check the box on the electronic application). Once you submit the application, to verify the disability, you must submit a complete written evaluation by a licensed professional appropriately qualified for evaluating the disability. You must also submit a completed and signed Testing Accommodation Request form. Please refer to the DAT Guide for specific details.