

# California Dental Licensure Overview March 2008

## ***Graduate of a Non-Commission on Dental Accreditation – Accredited Dental School***

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| Complete a 2-year international dental program at a board-approved dental school. | Applicants will have already passed both parts of the National Board Dental Examination by Dec. 31, 2003 before taking and passing a restorative techniques exam by Dec. 31, 2008. |
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**LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION**

- Take and pass Parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination
- Take and pass the California Law and Ethics Examination
- Take and pass the state clinical licensure exam or take and pass the WREB exam.

California Licensure

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| <b><i>Graduate of a Commission on Dental Accreditation – accredited dental school</i></b> | <b><i>Graduate of a non-accredited, California Dental Board-approved school</i></b> | <b><i>Graduate of a Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada-accredited dental school</i></b> |
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**LICENSURE BY RESIDENCY**

- Effective January 1, 2007, complete one year of a CODA-accredited general practice residency or advanced programs in general dentistry. Applicant must have residency program director complete a core competency assessment form. This form and implementing regulations can be found at [www.dbc.ca.gov](http://www.dbc.ca.gov).
- Take and pass Parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination
- Take and pass the California Law and Ethics Examination
- Not have failed the California/WREB licensure exam within the last five years of application.

Or, some CODA-accredited residency programs not affiliated with a dental school, due to possible federal standards or their own policies, require residents to obtain a license either at the start of a residency program or sometime during the program. This policy has been identified in VA programs and residency programs in other states. Therefore, it is critical that students ask this question before applying to a residency program.

California Licensure

## ***Possess current license from another state that is not revoked, suspended or restricted***

**LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL**

- Have proof that he or she has been in clinical practice, or has been a full-time faculty member, in the U.S. for a minimum of 5,000 hours in the last five of seven years prior to application; a maximum of two of the five years of this requirement can come from a residency program approved by the Dental Board.
- Not have failed the California/WREB licensure exam within the last five years of application.
- Have 50 units of continuing education credit within the last two years of application, including mandatory CE required by the Dental Board.
- Information from the applicant's disciplinary actions and from the National Practitioners Data Bank and Drug Enforcement Administration are also considered by the Dental Board.

If the 5,000-hour requirement has not been met, an applicant can still obtain a license if documentation of any of the following contracts is submitted to the board:

- The applicant agrees to practice dentistry full time for two years in at least one primary care or hospital clinic (e.g., community clinics located in defined dental manpower shortage areas) as defined by the board; or
- The applicant agrees to teach or practice dentistry full time in at least one dental education program approved by the board.

California Licensure