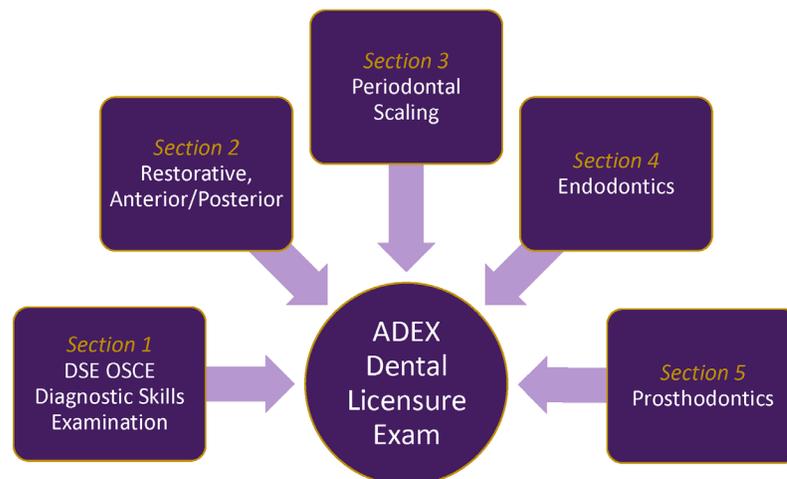




# ADEX Computer-based Examination: The Diagnostic Skills Examination OSCE

## A. DSE OSCE Overview

The computer-based Diagnostic Skills Examination Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DSE OSCE) is one of five parts that when combined, comprise the ADEX Dental Licensure Exam.



The DSE OSCE is administered at a Computer Testing Center upon authorization by the CDCA. Candidates register for the DSE OSCE through their online candidate profiles, and they may attempt the DSE OSCE either before or after the manikin or patient-based examination sections. The test is administered on one day and is approximately four (4) hours in length. As with all sections of the ADEX Dental Examination Series, the 18-month rule and the 3-time failure rule apply to the DSE OSCE.

The DSE OSCE is divided into two sections with a 15-minute break between sections. The two exam sections will cover three areas of study. The exam progressively assesses more complex levels of diagnosis and treatment planning knowledge, skills, and abilities. Pilot questions may be added but are not included in, nor do they affect the candidate's final score. Additional time is provided for pilot questions, but they are not identified. In general, the three areas of study the DSE OSCE focuses on are as follows:

1. Patient Evaluation (PE): designed to assess the candidate’s abilities to recognize critical clinical conditions or situations encountered regularly in the general practice of dentistry (30 items).

2. Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP): designed to assess the candidate’s abilities to recognize critical clinical conditions or situations regularly encountered in the general practice of dentistry, and also to identify the appropriate treatment options required for the clinical condition or situation depicted in simulations (90 items).

3. Cross-Cutting Clinical Judgments: designed to assess the candidate’s abilities to recognize critical clinical conditions or situations regularly encountered in the general practice of dentistry and to formulate appropriate treatment options as well as evaluation of treatment outcomes (60 items).

**B. DSE OSCE Content**

The Dental Examination Committee develops the DSE OSCE content. The committee has considerable content expertise and also relies on practice surveys, current curricula, standards of competency and guidance for clinical licensure examinations in dentistry from the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) to ensure that the content and protocol of the examination are current and relevant. The examination content and evaluation methodologies are reviewed annually and periodically change to reflect current best practices. Because of the broad-based approach to test development, no single textbook or publication can be used as a reference. The examination is based on concepts taught and accepted by educational institutions accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or Canadian Commission on Dental Accreditation (CCODA). Any current textbook relevant to the subject matter of the examination utilized in such institutions is suitable as a study reference.

<b>DSE OSCE CONTENT</b>	
<b>Patient Evaluation</b>	<b>20%</b>
Pathology	10%
Physical Evaluation	10%
Anatomy Identification of Systemic Conditions Radiology Lab Diagnostics Therapeutics	
<b>Comprehensive Treatment Planning</b>	<b>60%</b>
Systemic Diseases/Medical Emergencies/ Special Care and Oral Medicine	20%
Periodontal Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	10%
Restorative Dentistry	18%
Specialties	12%
Endodontics Orthodontics Oral Surgery Pediatric Dentistry	
<b>Cross-Cutting Clinical Judgments</b>	<b>20%</b>
Medical Emergencies	
Infection Control	
Prosthodontics	

Patient simulation is achieved with photographs, radiographs, images of study and working models, laboratory data, and other clinical digitized reproductions. The items in the DSE OSCE will include multiple-choice (traditional/single response), multiple choice (multiple response), extended match, drop down, fill in the blank, hot spot, and drag & drop questions.

In each subsection, candidates may skip or mark items for more consideration. Once a subsection is completed, the candidate will not be able to return to that subsection again. The time indicated on the computer screen is the amount of time per subsection. There is no time limitation for each item. The chart below details the content of the DSE OSCE and the weight of each area of study. The CDCA does NOT offer any study material for the DSE OSCE examination.

### C. DSE OSCE Scoring

There are 150 score points available on the DSE OSCE. Fifty points are derived from case-based questions. Candidates will also face 15 additional, unscored pilot questions. The final score for the DSE OSCE is based on the percentage of items answered correctly and scaled to equate scores from year to year. Out of 150 possible points, a score of 75% or higher is required to pass.