

Report to the General Assembly
H.F. 2387: An Act requiring the Dental Board to offer an alternative examination for licensure.
Submitted jointly by the Dental Board and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry

OVERVIEW

H.F. 2387 requires the Dental Board to jointly conduct a study with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry to develop a joint strategy for alternative and improved testing methods involving the use of live patients.

FINDINGS

Improved Testing Method: On June 1, 2016 representatives from the Dental Board and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry traveled to the University of Boston to observe a regional clinical licensure exam known as the “Buffalo model”. All parties agreed during this visit that the modifications within this model represent an improvement to the current testing method. On September 9, 2016 representatives from the Dental Board, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) and other stakeholders met to discuss the possible implementation of this model in Iowa, which is being called the Alternate Curriculum Integrated Format. The following provisions were agreed upon:

- Two additional CRDTS exam dates will be scheduled in 2017 at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. This will allow more opportunities for students to pass the exam, without having to travel out of state.
- If a patient does not show up for the exam, students can reschedule that portion of the exam on one of the remaining dates without it counting as a failure, and without paying an additional fee.
- Faculty representatives will be allowed to participate in the CRDTS calibration exercise.
- A faculty member will be permitted to observe all failures during the exam.

Alternate Testing Method: Representatives from the Dental Board and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry have studied the California Portfolio Exam, developed by the California Dental Board. The California Portfolio Exam allows a candidate to build a portfolio of completed clinical experiences and clinical competency examinations in six subject areas over the normal course of clinical training in dental school. Both clinical experiences and clinical competency examinations are performed on patients of record within the normal course of treatment during a regular clinic day at the University.

Each candidate prepares and submits a portfolio of documentation that would provide proof of completion of competency evaluations in six subject matter areas. The Board would review the portfolio and verify that it met the minimum competencies required. Upon verification of successful completion of the portfolio exam, a University of Iowa graduate could apply for licensure by portfolio in lieu of a regional clinical examination.

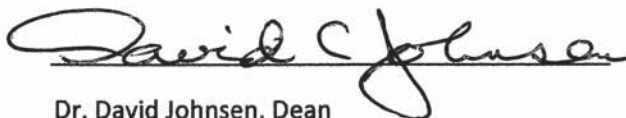
JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the joint recommendation of the Dental Board and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry to implement the Alternate Curriculum Integrated Format through CRDTS. All modifications will be fully implemented in academic year 16-17.

It is the joint recommendation of the Dental Board and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry to implement the California Portfolio Exam. On July 21, 2016 the Board voted in open session to initiate rulemaking in 2017, which will permit licensure through this pathway. The motion to approve this exam included a provision which noted concerns with the exclusive use of University faculty as examiners. The Board and University administration have discussed possible alternatives to this provision, such as having Board members or Board designees be part of the scoring process. This will need to be discussed further, during the rulemaking process.

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Dr. Steven Bradley, Board Chair
Iowa Dental Board

Handwritten signature of David C. Johnson in cursive.

Dr. David Johnson, Dean
University of Iowa College of Dentistry

12-6-16