

Tennessee Board of Dentistry



Newsletter



Fall 2017

A regulatory agency of the state of Tennessee

Vol. 14, No. 1

665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board.html>

Local (615) 532-3202 Toll-Free 1-800-778-4123

Fax: (615) 770-7444

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except state holidays)




JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION WILL BECOME A REQUIREMENT IN 2018

The Board of Dentistry will begin administering an online jurisprudence examination beginning February 1, 2018. All initial applicants, reinstatement/reactivation applicants and renewal applicants will be required to pass the examination before approval of the application, including before licenses can renew their license.

The examination is an open book, no fail exam that new applicants and licensees must pass by answering 25 questions correctly. The exam will continuously display questions until 25 are answered correctly. The exam will cover the statutes and rules governing the Board of Dentistry. The statutes and rules are available online on the board website and can be used during the exam.

The examination is intended to ensure that new applicants and licensees are educated on what is allowed in the practice of their profession. Questions pertaining to the practice of dentistry will also include questions covering the supervision requirements of hygienists and dental assistants.


Applicants and licensees will be emailed the link, user name and password after the application for initial licensure/registration, reinstatement/reactivation or renewal is opened in our system. **It is very important that all licensees maintain current email addresses with the Board so the email will be received timely. Failure to update your email address will result in the delay of your license being issued and is the sole responsibility of the applicant/licensee.** A letter was sent to all licensees who did not have email addresses in our records asking them to add their email address. Licensees with email addresses on file need to verify we have their current email address and that it was entered correctly. Email addresses can be added or changed via the license renewal website. The link to that site is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/licensure.html>. 



PRESCRIBING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED FOR DENTISTS

All dentists who hold a current federal drug enforcement administration (DEA) license and who prescribe controlled substances shall be required to complete a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing biennially to count toward the licensees' mandatory continuing education.

The continuing education must include instruction in the department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol, and may include such other topics as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics as it pertains to dentistry.


The Board's Policy Statement on Controlled Substance Continuing Education Requirement is available on the board's website under Policies. Dentists who do not comply with this requirement may be subject to disciplinary action by the board. Please note that when audited for continuing education compliance, it is presumed that the licensee audited held a DEA license during the audit period. If the license did not hold a DEA license at that time, proof that a DEA license was not held would need to be submitted. 



REMINDER FOR ALL SEDATION/ANESTHESIA PERMIT HOLDERS



The current audit is for all permit holders for the years 2015 and 2016. The four hours of continuing education must have been taken in 2015 and/or 2016 to be accepted and licensees must show they had ACLS and/or PALS certification from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. Permit holders will be required to verify compliance with the sedation/anesthesia rules, the equipment and drug list, completion of the **four hours of continuing education in the subject of sedation/anesthesia** and ACLS and/or PALS certification for the years of audit. This may require submission of more than one ACLS/PALS certification card. If you do not have a copy of your ACLS/PALS certification card for that time period, you may obtain proof of completion from the organization who administered the course and submit that in lieu of the certification card.

Dentists who are issued a sedation or anesthesia permit during 2015 or 2016 are exempt from the requirement of four hours of continuing education in the subject of sedation/anesthesia but do have to submit proof of maintaining ACLS and/or PALS certification and compliance with the sedation/anesthesia rules and the equipment and drug list. 

APPLICANTS CAN NOW SUBMIT INITIAL APPLICATIONS ONLINE AND ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ADDED ONLINE IN 2018!



Applicants for initial license can complete and submit the initial application online and upload certain documents to the application before submission. Payment for the application can be by debit card, credit card or e-check. Once the application is submitted by the applicant, the application is immediately received by the Board office. To assist applicants in knowing what is required before they start the application, application instructions have been added to the website. The instruction document is above the link to the initial application log in page. It is recommended that applicants for initial licensure review the instructions before beginning the application to ensure they have all the needed documents they can upload available before beginning the application.

Beginning Spring of 2018, the online renewal system will transition to the same system as the online initial applications and applications to change addresses, change names and request duplicate certificates or wall licenses will also be available. In addition, the applications to apply for sedation or anesthesia permits for dentists and the application to apply for the dental assistant certifications will also be available online. The address change and name change applications will not require a fee to be paid but the other applications will and payment will be accepted by debit card, credit card or by e-check.

In the future, additional applications will be available online, such as reinstatement applications, reactivation applications and specialty applications. 🙌

STATUTORY CHANGES OF INTEREST



Below is a brief summary of several bills that are of interest to dental professionals in the state of Tennessee from 2016 and 2017. To review any of these public chapters in their entirety, please visit: <http://sos.tn.gov/division-publications/acts-and-resolutions>.

[Public Chapter 763](#)

Permits licensees whose licenses have expired due to non-payment to obtain reinstatement when payment of past due renewal fees, which are capped at twice the annual renewal fee, and unattained continuing education are completed. This replaces the current requirement of payment of all past due fees before reinstatement. This act took effect on July 1, 2016.

[Public Chapter 766](#)

This bill permits charitable clinics to contract with or employ dentists, physicians, psychologists, optometrists, and osteopathic physicians. It requires the contractual relationship between a healthcare provider and a charitable clinic to be in a written contract, job description, or documentation, containing language that does not restrict the healthcare provider from exercising independent professional judgment in diagnosing and treating patients. It does not authorize a charitable clinic to employ an anesthesiologist, an emergency department physician, a pathologist, or a radiologist, or an osteopathic physician who specializes in any such type of medicine. This bill took effect on April 19, 2016.

[Public Chapter 990](#)

This legislation requires an insurer to reimburse and provide coverage for telehealth services provided by a practitioner licensed in Tennessee, regardless of the patient's location. This act will take effect on January 1, 2017.

[Public Chapter 968](#)

This act authorizes the commissioner of health to develop a comprehensive state oral health plan that may be used to direct skilled personnel and funding decisions in order to reduce the prevalence of oral disease. The commissioner may develop the plan in consultation with public and private agencies, partners, and stakeholders, including the state oral health coalition and members of the public health, dental, and medical communities. This became effective April 27, 2016.

[Public Chapter 40](#)

This sunset provision extends the board of dentistry until June 30, 2021.

[Public Chapter 404](#)

This legislation requires public water systems which have a monthly fluoride test confirmed by quarterly laboratory analysis to exceed 1.5 mg/L to have each monthly test analyzed by a laboratory until fluoride levels are below 1.5 mg/L for three consecutive months. The water system must also notify its customers that a water sample exceeded 1.5 mg/L. This act took effect on May 18, 2017.

[Public Chapter 350](#)

This will allow healthcare providers to satisfy one hour of continuing education requirements through the performance of one hour of voluntary provision of healthcare services. The maximum amount of annual hours of continuing education that a provider can receive through providing volunteer healthcare services is the lesser of 8 hours or 20% of the provider's annual continuing education requirement. The legislations allows for rulemaking by the division of health related boards in order to administer this section. This took effect on May 12, 2017.

[Public Chapter 215](#)

This will require state governmental entities that establish or adopt guides to practice to do so through the promulgation of rules, rather than policy. The rules so promulgated must specify all provisions included in and relating to the guide to practice. Any changes to guides to practice made after the guides are adopted must also be promulgated by rule in order to be effective. For purposes of this part, guides to

practice includes codes of ethics and other quality standards, but does not include tests, examinations, building codes, safety codes, or drug standards. This legislation took effect on April 28, 2017.

Public Chapter 240

This legislation was brought by the Department of Health and was designed to address a number of issues throughout all licensing boards, committees, and councils. This legislation will:

- Insure the integrity of licensure examinations by making examination questions, answer sheets, scoring keys, and other examination data confidential and closed to public inspection.
- Allow the issuance of limited licenses to applicants who have been out of clinical practice or inactive, or who are engaged in administrative practice. Limited licenses may be of restricted scope, restricted duration, and have additional conditions placed upon them in order to obtain full licensure.
- Clarify that other documents prepared by or on behalf of the Department with regard to an investigation are confidential until such time as formal disciplinary charges are filed against the provider.
- Eliminate the "locality rule" for administrative law.
- Require the chief administrative official for each health care facility to report within 60 days any disciplinary action taken against an employee for matters related to ethics, incompetence or negligence, moral turpitude, or substance abuse, to the employee's respective licensing board. All records pertaining to the disciplinary action shall be made available for examination to the licensing board.

This act became effective on May 2, 2017.

Public Chapter 481

This legislation creates a new violation of a healthcare practitioner's practice act if that practitioner refuses to submit to or tests positive for any drug the practitioner does not have a lawful prescription for or a valid medical reason for using the drug. It is the duty of the employer to report any violation to the Department of Health. If the practitioner fails a drug test, the practitioner has 3 business days to either produce the requisite prescription or medical reason, or report to their board approved peer assistance program. If the practitioner does not comply with any of these measures, it is the duty of the employer to report this violation of the practice act to the employee's licensing board for investigation and action. If the practitioner reports to the peer assistance program and obtains and maintains advocacy of the program, the employer is not required to notify the board.

As long as a practitioner obtains, maintains and complies with the terms of a peer assistance program, the board shall not take action on the licensee for the sole reason of a failed or refused drug test. If a practitioner fails to obtain or maintain advocacy from the peer assistance program, the program is required to report that information to the appropriate licensing board. The board SHALL suspend the license of a practitioner who fails to comply with the terms of the program. Employer drug testing must be compliant with the Drug-free Workplace requirements. This legislation allows a quality improvement committee to share information regarding substance abuse by a practitioner with other quality improvement committees. Additionally, this legislation specifies that the Department of Health is not required to obtain prior approval from the Attorney General in order to take any emergency action on a licensee. This legislation took effect on July 1, 2017.

Public Chapter 230

This legislation authorizes commissioners or supervising officials of departments to evaluate certain actions by a regulatory board to determine whether the action may constitute a potentially unreasonable restraint of trade. Supervising officials must ensure that the actions of regulatory boards that displace competition are consistent with a clearly articulated state policy. If a board action constitutes a potentially unreasonable restraint of free trade, the supervising official must conduct a further review of the action and either approve, remand or veto the action. The supervising official may not be licensed by, participate in, or have a financial interest in the occupation, business or trade regulated by the board who is subject to further review, nor be a voting or ex officio member of the board. The supervising official must provide written notice of any vetoed actions to the senate and house government operations committees.

Prior to filing a regulatory board's rule with the secretary of state, the commissioner or chief executive officer of the administrative department under which a regulatory board operates or to which a regulatory board is administratively attached, or a designee to the extent a conflict of interest may exist with respect to the commissioner or chief executive officer, must remand a rule that may constitute a potentially unreasonable restraint of trade to the regulatory board for additional information, further proceedings, or modification, if the rule is not consistent with a clearly articulated state policy or law established by the general assembly with respect to the regulatory board. This act took effect on April 24, 2017. 🗉



RULE CHANGES EFFECTIVE IN 2017



Rule 0460-05-.03 Schools, Programs and Courses for the Registered Dental Assistant is amended by deleting subparagraphs (1)(a) and (1)(b), including their parts, and substituting the following language, so that as amended, the new subparagraphs shall read:

(a) Approval and Re-approval of Program

1. The owner and/or director of a dental assistant program seeking board approval shall make application for approval to operate a program on forms provided by the Tennessee Board of Dentistry Administrative Office. The completed application along with program information required by this rule must be received by the Board office at least thirty days (30) days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting in order for the Board to review the application. The owner and/or director of the program will be notified in writing of the Board's action(s).
2. The program shall be subject to on-site inspections by representatives of the Board and/or required to complete paper surveys, as requested.

3. The Board shall be notified immediately of any changes made in the operation of the program, such as changes of location, directorship, and/or instructors.
 4. Approval granted by the Board of Dentistry is only valid for two (2) years from the date the approval is granted (ratified) by the Board.
 5. Should approval be removed by the Board or not renewed after the expiration of the two (2) year time period, the program shall cease using the language 'board approved' on all materials and advertisements.
 6. Resumes must be submitted on each instructor.
 7. The application must also include a detailed curriculum which lists the outline of the subjects covered in the program and the learning objectives for each subject.
 8. The program must inform the Board if the program will be taught in person or online. If any portion of the program is taught online, the subjects and number of hours taught online must be included with the application.
 9. In order to obtain and/or retain Board approval, the program shall maintain compliance with all minimum standards for admissions, facilities, instructor(s), equipment, and curriculum that are in effect upon application or re-application for approval.
- (b) Minimum Standards for Admissions, Facilities, Instructor(s), Equipment and Curriculum.
1. The curriculum must be structured on the basis of a minimum of 116 hours instructional hours and must include at least 14 hours in the subject of dental radiology.
 2. Instructional hours should include didactic and laboratory instruction.
 3. Students should generally be at least 18 years old before admittance to the program; however students must be 18 years old before any exposure to x-rays begins. Students must have high school diploma or equivalent.
 4. The program must demonstrate that student enrollment numbers are proportionate to the number of faculty, and to the availability of appropriate classroom, laboratory, and clinical facilities, equipment, instruments, and supplies. Student to instructor ratio should not exceed 10/1.
 5. A program must have access to dental operatories, sterilization equipment, x-ray machines (processing and/or digital equipment), and dental laboratory equipment.
 6. The students must be provided a program syllabus at the beginning of each program. The syllabus must include a program outline, learning objectives for each topic and the amount of time to be spent on each topic. A sample dental assistant registration applicant form must be included when applying for board approval.
 7. Program grading policies must be included in the information provided to each student.
 8. Skills assessments where needed must be performed.
 9. Students need to be informed that any conviction must be explained to the Board of Dentistry with their application for registration and that all court documents regarding any conviction must be submitted. The Board of Dentistry reviews all court documents required to be submitted with the application for registration and they may deny registration or require an appearance before the Board before deciding to issue or deny the registration.
 10. Suggested materials to be utilized in the course include but are not limited to, the most recent editions of the following:
 - (i) Modern Dental Assisting; Doni L. Bird, CDA, RDA, RDH, MA and Debbie S. Robinson, CDA, MS
 - (ii) Tennessee Dental Practice Act - available at <http://tn.gov/health/article/Dentistrystatutes>;
 - (iii) Review of Dental Assisting; Betty Ladley Finkbeiner CDA Emeritus RDA BS MS
 - (iv) The Dental Assisting Workbook; Doni L. Bird, CDA, RDA, ROH, MA and Debbie S. Robinson, CDA, MS
 11. The minimum of 14 hours in the subject of dental radiology required to be covered in the curriculum for the dental assistant registration must include, at a minimum, the same subjects as required for the dental radiology certification courses. (see Rule 0460-05-.03(7)(d)4.)
 12. The program syllabus must be approved by the Board and shall include instruction in all of the following subject matters:
 - (i) The dental health team;
 - (ii) The dental office, including a review of equipment commonly found in treatment areas;
 - (iii) Ethics and jurisprudence;
 - (iv) Applied psychology and communication skills;
 - (v) A review of the teeth and supporting tissues;
 - (vi) Assisting with soft tissue oral examination;
 - (vii) Dental charting;
 - (viii) Microbiology and oral pathology;
 - (ix) Dental materials;
 - (x) Preventive dentistry;
 - (xi) Disease transmission and infection control;

-
- (xii) Special and disabled patients;
 - (xiii) Medical emergencies;
 - (xiv) Pharmacology and pain control;
 - (xv) Dental instruments;
 - (xvi) Delivering dental care and moisture control;
 - (xvii) The dental dam;
 - (xviii) Oral diagnosis and treatment planning;
 - (xix) General dentistry and restorations;
 - (xx) Pediatric dentistry;
 - (xxi) Orthodontics;
 - (xxii) Periodontics;
 - (xxiii) Endodontics;
 - (xxiv) Fixed prosthodontics;
 - (xxv) Removable prosthodontics; and
 - (xxvi) Oral surgery.

13. The curriculum content must include instruction in the following dental assisting skills and functions:

- (i) Maintaining patient treatment records;
- (ii) Reviewing and recording medical and dental histories;
- (iii) Taking and recording vital signs;
- (iv) Seating and dismissing patients;
- (v) Preparing tray set-ups for operative procedures;
- (vi) Managing infection and hazard control protocols consistent with current guidelines;
- (vii) Operating oral evacuation systems and air/water syringes;
- (viii) Maintaining a clear field of vision including various isolation techniques;
- (ix) Performing a variety of instrument transfers;
- (x) Utilizing appropriate chairside assistant ergonomics;
- (xi) Providing patient preventive education and oral hygiene instruction;
- (xii) Identifying and responding to medical and dental emergencies;
- (xiii) Providing pre and post-operative instructions prescribed by a dentist;
- (xiv) Applying topical anesthetic and desensitizing agents;
- (xv) Placing and removing a rubber dental dam;
- (xvi) Applying fluoride agents;
- (xvii) Applying bases, liners, and bonding agents;
- (xviii) Fabricating, placing and removing provisional restorations;
- (xix) Placing and selecting matrix retainers, matrix bands, and wedges;
- (xx) Removing of excess cement;
- (xxi) Fabricating bleaching trays, mouth guards, and custom trays;
- (xxii) Taking preliminary impressions (alginate impressions);
- (xxiii) Placing and removing retraction materials;
- (xxiv) Removing sutures;
- (xxv) Performing pulp vitality tests;
- (xxvi) Placing and removing periodontal dressing; and
- (xxvii) Performing orthodontic functions as stated in Rule 0460-04-.08.

14. Time and attendance records must be kept on each student. The student must make up any missed hours. Usually, each program has extra hours added to the 116 total hours to facilitate makeup lessons.

15. Each program must have at least two (2) examinations during the program; one mid-term examination and a final examination.
16. Examinations must have a passing score of at least 75%.
17. Within thirty (30) days of program completion, the program director must certify in writing to the Board office that the student has completed all program requirements, including the requirements for the dental radiology certification.
18. Within thirty (30) days of program completion, a list of students must be submitted to the Board office along with the program completion letter for each student. 🦷



POLICY STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD

The Board of Dentistry approved the following policy statements in 2016 and 2017. All policy statements currently effective are available on the board's website until Policies.

PRACTITIONER PROFILE POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Dentistry recognizes that ownership and practice location may change during the course of a dentist's practice. The board staff has included a question on the application for licensure that seeks information on the ownership of the practice where the dentist intends to work, if known at the time of application.

To address deficiencies in practitioner profiles, board staff, utilizing the department's e-notify, will remind licensees periodically of the requirement to maintain up to date profile information, and will include a statement reminding licensees that discipline can occur for failure to comply with state law.

Board staff is authorized to utilize agreed citations with a monetary penalty as a vehicle to address practitioners who refuse to update their profile within thirty days of being prompted by staff to do so.

As such, the Board has adopted the following monetary penalty for failure to update the practitioner profile within 30 days of a change:

The Board will present to the licensee, an Agreed Citation which specifies payment of a fine in the amount of \$100 per month for every month the practitioner profile has not been updated in excess of thirty (30) days from notification from the board that there is a profile deficiency.

The licensee shall be notified that all Agreed Citations prepared in accordance with this policy shall be reportable on the Department of Health's website, its disciplinary action report issued in the month the action is taken and to all appropriate federal databanks including the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

If the licensee refuses to execute the Agreed Citation and/or remit the civil penalty described therein within sixty (60) days of the date the Agreed Citation is sent to the licensee, or if the licensee failed to update the practitioner profile for six (6) months or longer, the licensee shall be referred to the Office of Investigations and Office of General Counsel for formal disciplinary action. Upon a proven violation, the minimum disciplinary action for this violation shall be:

- A formal and reportable Reprimand on the license;
- Assessment of civil penalties in an amount to exceed \$300 per month for every month in which the practitioner did not update the profile in excess of thirty (30) days from notification from the board of the deficiency;
- Assessment of costs associated with investigating and prosecuting the matter; and
- Any and all other remedies the Board deems appropriate.

Ratified by the Board of Dentistry on October 13, 2016

POLICY STATEMENT ON DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAMS MAINTAINING BOARD APPROVAL

Pursuant to Rule 0460-05-.03 (a) (9), in order to obtain and/or retain Board approval, the program **shall** maintain compliance with all minimum standards for admissions, facilities, instructor(s), equipment, and curriculum that are in effect upon application or re-application for approval.

It is the position of the Board that if a program is found to be noncompliant with any of the minimum standards for admissions, facilities, instructor(s), equipment and curriculum, the board consultant may withdraw the program's board approval.

Adopted by the Board of Dentistry on April 27, 2017

POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING A LIMITED OR COMPREHENSIVE CONSCIOUS SEDATION OR DEEP SEDATION/GENERAL ANESTHESIA PERMIT

Pursuant to Rule 0460-02-.07, in order to maintain a limited or comprehensive conscious sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia permit a dentist **must** maintain the following:

- Equipment and drugs on a list available from the Board and currently indicated for the treatment of the above listed emergency conditions must be present and readily available for use. A policy statement listing the required equipment and drugs is available on the Board's website.
- Proof of current certification in ACLS (a pediatric dentist may substitute PALS)
- Obtain a minimum of four (4) hours of continuing education in the subject of anesthesia and/or sedation as part of the required forty (40) hours of continuing education for dental licensure.

It is the position of the Board that a dentist **must** maintain these items even if you no longer provide sedation in your office and that **any** deficiency of these requirements will result in the dentist being turned over to the Office of Investigations and Office of General Counsel for formal disciplinary action and civil penalties.

A dentist may retire his/her sedation permit in lieu of formal disciplinary action by submitting a request in writing to the board office.

Adopted by the Board of Dentistry on April 27, 2017 🦷

The Board's Web Address

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board.html>



Department of Revenue's Web Address

<https://www.tn.gov/revenue/taxes0/professional-privilege-tax.html>

DENTISTS: PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE TAX



Licensing boards are provided a list monthly of licensees who are delinquent 90 days or more and the licensure boards may not process licensure renewal. Any dentist who has not paid the tax timely will not be allowed to renew until notification is received from the Department of Revenue that the tax has been paid.

Avoid the possibility of not being allowed to renew your privilege to practice dentistry in Tennessee by remitting your tax payment to the Department of Revenue in a timely fashion. 🦷

2016 CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT REPORT

The board's administrative office is randomly auditing dental professionals each month. Non-compliant dental professionals are subject to board discipline which includes a fine of \$600 for dentists, \$300 for dental hygienists and \$150 for registered dental assistants and a requirement to make up the delinquent hours and/or CPR. The statistics for 2016 are as follows:

Dentists Audited: 102	72	Number Compliant	Percent Compliant	71%
	30	Number Non-Compliant	Percent Non-Compliant	29%
Dental Hygienists Audited: 120	91	Number Compliant	Percent Compliant	76%
	29	Number Non-Compliant	Percent Non-Compliant	24%
Dental Assistants Audited: 184	105	Number Compliant	Percent Compliant	57%
	79	Number Non-Compliant	Percent Non-Compliant	43%

You can view the continuing education rules on the Board's website. 🦷

2016 SEDATION/ANESTHESIA CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT REPORT

The board's administrative office is auditing all dentists who hold sedation or anesthesia permits. The statistics for 2016 are as follows:

Dentists with Permits Audited: 327	241	Number Compliant	Percent Compliant	74%
	64	Number Non-Compliant	Percent Non-Compliant	19%
	22	Number who relinquished permit	Percent Relinquished	7%

CE AUDIT TIPS

When you are audited, you need to submit the CPR and/or ACLS/PALS card for the entire audit period. Example: If you are audited for 2015/2016, you will need to submit the card or cards that cover from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016, do not just submit your current card.

Licensees are required to retain documentation of training for a period of three (3) years from the end of the calendar year in which the training is received. Online CPR and ACLS/PALS is not acceptable.

Dental hygienists cannot obtain more than 50% of the required continuing education online or web-based. 🦷



REMINDER REGARDING CERTIFICATIONS AND PERMITS

When licensees complete the training required for any certification or permit, the certification or permit must be added to their license before they can perform the procedures.

Some applicants for local anesthesia certification or sealant certification must complete an externship before the certification can be added to their license. A temporary permit is issued for the licensee to perform that procedure during the externship. If the temporary permit is not issued, they cannot perform that procedure. Once the temporary permit expires, they cannot perform that procedure until the certification is added to the license. 🦷

2016 Statistics of the Board of Dentistry

	<u>Dentists</u>	<u>Hygienists</u>	<u>Assistants</u>
New Applications Received	225	318	1194
Total New Licenses Issued (includes reinstatements)	226	339	1152
Total Certifications/Permits Issued *	103	130	2239
Total Number of Renewals Processed (includes online)	1729	2123	3518
Total Number of On-Line Renewals	973	1317	2162
Percent who Renew On-Line	56%	62%	61%
Total Number who Expired	71	120	961
Total Number of Retired Licenses	116	62	94

Total number of active licensees is as of:

December 31, 2016:

Dentists **3,866**

Hygienists **4,804**

Assistants **9,478**

Total 18,148

December 31, 2015:

Dentists **3,830**

Hygienists **4,663**

Assistants **9,412**

Total 17,905

December 31, 2007:

Dentists **3,432**

Hygienists **3,708**

Assistants **5,392**

Total 12,532

December 31, 2003:

Dentists **3,255**

Hygienists **3,156**

Assistants **4,146**

Total 10,557

FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS:

Email and/or fax number for the Board of Dentistry:

dental.health@tn.gov

Fax: 615-770-7444

I have an address and/or name change, how do I report it? Currently, you can change your address online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/licensure.html> and click on Licensure Renewal. Name changes must be reported in writing and you must submit a copy of your marriage certificate or divorce decree. Name changes with supporting documents can be emailed or faxed.

I want to retire my license, what do I need to do? The Affidavit of Retirement is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. After completing, it must be mailed to the Board's address. This form cannot be faxed or emailed.

When does my license expire? Licenses expire on the last day of the month in which you were born. The year it expires if determined by if you were born in an even or odd year. If born in an even year, your license will always expire in an even year and if born in an odd year, it will always expire in an odd year. Example: You were born November 12, 1989. Your license will always expire November 30, of an odd year.

Why does "Susie's" license expire a year (or months) after mine and we were licensed at the same time? See "When does my license expire" above. Unless you and "Susie" were born in the same month, your licenses will expire in different months and if "Susie" was born in an odd year and you in an even year, then they will expire in different years.

My check cleared the bank but I have not received by renewal certificate. It will take 10-14 days to process renewals submitted by mail. The check is processed before the board office receives the renewal application. The fastest way to renew is to renew online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/licensure.html> and click on Licensure Renewal. If anything is missing or you are a dentist who has not paid your professional privilege tax, then it will take longer than 14 days.

I mailed/submitted my application in but I have not received my license yet? Once an application is received, all documents submitted are reviewed and if additional documents are needed, you will be notified. Until all documents are received and the application file is reviewed and approved by the board consultant, the license will not be issued. If the consultant refers the application to the board, then it will not be reviewed until the next regularly scheduled board meeting. You need to allow 4 – 8 weeks for processing and the initial review by the consultant. This process can be shorter or longer depending on how long it takes for all documents to be received.

I mailed my application in but I have not received my renewal certificate yet? It takes at least 10-14 days to process renewal submitted by mail. If you did not sign the renewal or indicated a name change but did not include supporting documents for your name change, it may take longer than 10-14 days. Please notify us of your name change at least 2 weeks before you try to renew. The fastest way to renew is to renew

online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/licensure.html> and click on Licensure Renewal. If anything is missing or you are a dentist who has not paid your professional privilege tax, then it will take longer than 14 days.

I need to renew my license and I lost/did not receive my renewal application. You can renew online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/licensure.html> and click on Licensure Renewal. You do not need a paper renewal application to renew online.

I have not received my renewal certificate. To request a duplicate, you can complete the Application for Duplicate License which is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. There is a fee for a duplicate since they are re-printed.

I lost my certificate/wall license, what do I need to do to get another one? To request a duplicate, you can complete the Application for Duplicate License which is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. There is a fee for a duplicate since they are re-printed.

I need a verification sent to another state, how do I request and is there a fee? You need to request the verification in writing and there is no fee. The written request must include your name, profession, license number and where the verification is to be mailed. The request can be emailed or faxed to the board office.

I need a copy of the rules and/or statutes? The statutes and rules are available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/statutes-and-rules.html>.

How do I reinstate an expired license or reactive a retired license? Please complete and submit a reinstatement application along with the required fee payment and supporting documentation. The Reinstatement/Reactivation application is available on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.

How do I obtain a criminal background check? For instructions to obtain a criminal background check, please go to: <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-professionals/criminal-background-check/cbc-instructions.html>.

For applicants living out of state, please note that results are typically received quicker if fingerprints are electronically scanned; therefore, if you are going to be in Tennessee anytime during the application process or live close to the Tennessee border, it may be to your benefit to schedule a fingerprint scan rather than submitting a fingerprint card.

How do I verify the status of a license? You may verify the license of any health care practitioner or facility in Tennessee via our website at: Individual: <https://apps.health.tn.gov/Licensure/> Facility: <https://apps.health.tn.gov/facilityListings/>

How many continuing education hours must I complete? You must obtain continuing education each two year cycle. The cycles begin on January 1, of an odd year and end December 31 of an even year.

Dentists: For every two-year period, two (2) hours of the forty (40) required hours must pertain to prescribing of controlled substances, which included the TN Chronic Pain Guidelines.

Dentists with Sedation or Anesthesia permits: In addition to the above requirements, dentists with sedation or anesthesia permits are also required to obtain four (4) hours each cycle in the subject of sedation or anesthesia. Permit holders must also verify they have all the equipment and drugs required for the permit during the audit.

Dental Hygienists: For every two-year period, two (2) hours of the thirty (30) required hours must pertain to the subject of chemical dependency.

Dental Assistants: For every two-year period, two (2) hours of the twenty-four (24) required hours must pertain to the subject of chemical dependency.

How many continuing education hours may I get online each year? There is no limit for dentists and dental assistants but dental hygienists can have no more than 50% online or web-based.

Where do I send my continuing education certificates? A random audit of continuing education hours is conducted each month. You do not submit the documentation unless and until requested to do so during an audit. You must retain documentation of attendance and completion of all continuing education courses and CPR, ACLS and/or PALS certification for a period of three (3) years from the end of the calendar year in which the course is completed.

Dentist Questions:

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dentist by exam? This is applicable to any dentist who has successfully completed one of the following examinations: Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA), Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) [formally Northeast Regional Board (NERB)], Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS), Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) or Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA). Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.01(1) & (2) and the Board's policy on the ADEX examination for more information. The ADEX examination is accepted. Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) and Council of Interstate Testing Agency (CITA) examinations are accepted if it was the ADEX examination that was administered.

-
- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
 - The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dentist by criteria? This allows a dentist who is licensed in another state and has actively practiced or taught for at least five (5) years to be considered for licensure without taking a regional examination. Applicants who have practiced or taught for at least two (2) years BUT less than five (5) years must request the examination scores, a copy of the candidate handbook for the exam taken and any additional information requested by the Board be submitted directly from the examination agency. Any accepted regional examination must never have been failed without subsequently retaking and passing to qualify by criteria approval. Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.01(1) & (3) for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dentist by dual degree? This is applicable to a dentist who is licensed in Tennessee as a Medical Doctor and who possesses an active dental license which is in good standing in at least one (1) other state. You may use the *Application for Licensure as a Dentist* as the Dual Degree Licensure application. **However**, the supporting documentation is different and you must apply for your specialty certification at the same time you apply for your dual degree license. Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.02 for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dentist with a limited license? This is applicable to a dentist who graduated from a non-ADA accredited program with a degree substantially equivalent to either a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree and has successfully completed a graduate training program in a recognized specialty branch of dentistry from an advanced specialty program accredited by the ADA. This type of license limits the practice location to ADA accredited institutions, dental education programs or in federally-designated health professional shortage areas. Proof of employment to practice in any of these locations is required upon initial application and subsequent renewal of this license. This type of licensure requires a special type of application. Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.03(1) & (2) for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dentist with an educational limited license? This is applicable to a dentist licensed in another state and who will be teaching in a dental educational institute. This type of license limits the practice location to programs offered by the educational institution. Upon termination of faculty appointment, the license is void. This type of licensure requires a special type of application. Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.03 (1) & (3) for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

How do I apply for a Special Volunteer or Inactive Pro Bono license? Please refer to Rule 0460-02-.13. The applications for both of these types of licenses is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.

What exams are accepted or required? Currently the SRTA, WREB, CRDTS, CDCA (ADEX) and CITA (ADEX) clinical exams are accepted for licensure by examination.

- Applicants for licensure by exam, criteria and for limited licenses must also have successfully completed the National Board examination.
- Applicants for educational limited licensure or dual degree licensure are not required to have completed either the National Board of any of the clinical examinations.

- Applicants for licensure by criteria, limited, limited educational or dual degree must have passed any of the national board and/or clinical examinations they attempted even if that examination is not required for licensure.

Is a Jurisprudence exam required? Currently, there is no jurisprudence examination required to become licensed. In 2018, a Jurisprudence exam will be starting and required for all applicants for initial registration, reinstatement, reactivation and renewal.

What is the status of my application? You will be sent a deficiency letter by mail or email after your application is reviewed. Please allow us 10 to 14 days to review the application and send you the deficiency letter. Please do not contact the board office five days after you mailed the application since we may not have reviewed it yet. We are working on getting the deficiencies added to be viewed in the main screen within the online application system. That should be functioning in 2018 so applicants can check the status online.

Specialty Certification: The statutes state that “No licensed dentist shall claim to the public to be a specialist, or be specially qualified in any particular branch of dentistry or to be giving special attention to any branch of dentistry, or claim to limit the dentist’s practice to any branch of dentistry, until that dentist has complied with the additional requirements established by the board and has been issued a certificate by the board authorizing that dentist so to do.” The specialties listed in the statutes are:

- (1) Dental public health;
- (2) Endodontics
- (3) Oral and maxillofacial pathology;
- (4) Oral and maxillofacial surgery;
- (5) Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics;
- (6) Pediatric dentistry;
- (7) Periodontics;
- (8) Prosthodontics;
- (9) Oral and maxillofacial radiology; and
- (10) Any other branch of dentistry hereafter recognized as a specialty by the American Dental Association and approved by the board.

The statutes also state that oral and maxillofacial surgeons are held to the same standard of care as medical doctors and osteopathic physicians. The application to apply for specialty certification is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.

Sedation/Anesthesia Permits: Dentistry must obtain a permit from the Board of Dentistry to administer conscious sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia.

- **All antianxiety premedications and all sedation techniques (except nitrous oxide and oxygen) used for children age thirteen (13) and under require a comprehensive conscious sedation permit.**
- All dentists who apply for and hold a sedation or anesthesia permit must provide proof of ACLS certification or PALS certification. The certification must be maintained as long as the permit is active.
- All dentists who hold a sedation or anesthesia permit must obtain four (4) hours of continuing education is the subject of sedation/anesthesia each continuing education cycle.

The permit applications are available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.

Why do I have to pay the Professional Privilege Tax? If you hold an active license in Tennessee, even if you are not practicing in Tennessee, then you are required to pay this tax each year. This tax is not collected or paid to the Board of Dentistry but is collected and paid to the Department of Revenue. If you have not paid the tax yearly, you will not be able to renew your Tennessee dental license until it is paid.

Can I administer Botox and/or derma fillers? see April 24, 2014 Attorney General Opinion at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/ops/2014/op14-051.pdf>.

I no longer live or practice in Tennessee. Why do I owe the professional privilege tax? The professional privilege tax is levied solely on the privilege of holding an active Tennessee professional license in any of the [professions subject to the tax](#). Because the tax is levied on the privilege of holding the license, there is no distinction in the law between those licensed professionals who live and work in Tennessee and those who do not. If the professional license is active on June 1 of any given year, the tax return and tax payment are due. The professional privilege tax rate is \$400 annually. Filing and payment of this tax to the Department of Revenue is required to be done electronically on or before June 1st of each year. You must retire the license prior to June 1st to avoid being assessed the professional privilege tax. The “Affidavit of Retirement” form is available online at: <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-professionals/criminal-background-check/cbc-instructions.html>.

Dental Hygiene Questions:

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dental hygienist by exam? This is applicable to any dental hygienist who has successfully completed one of the following examinations: Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA), Commission on Dental Competency Assessments

(CDCA) [formally Northeast Regional Board (NERB)], Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS), Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) or Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA). Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.01 and the Board's policy on the ADEX examination for more information. Council of Interstate Testing Agency (CITA) examination is accepted if it was the ADEX examination that was administered. Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.01 for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dental hygienist by criteria? This allows a dental hygienist who is licensed in another state and has actively practiced for three (3) of the preceding five (5) years to be considered for licensure without taking a regional examination. Any accepted regional examination must never have been failed to qualify by criteria approval. Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.02 for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What do I need to do to apply for licensure as a dental hygienist with an educational limited license? This is applicable to a dental hygienist licensed in another state and who will be teaching in a dental hygiene educational institute. This type of license limits the practice location to programs offered by the educational institution. **Upon termination of faculty appointment the license is void.** This type of licensure requires a special type of application. Please request this application from our office. Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.03 for more information.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

How do I apply for a Special Volunteer license? Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.11. The application for this type of license is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.

What exams are accepted or required? Currently the SRTA, WREB, CRDTS, CDCA (ADEX) and CITA (ADEX) clinical exams are accepted for licensure by examination.

Is a Jurisprudence exam required? Currently, there is no jurisprudence examination required to become licensed. In 2018, a Jurisprudence exam will be starting and required for all applicants for initial registration, reinstatement, reactivation and renewal.

What is the status of my application? You will be sent a deficiency letter by mail or email after your application is reviewed. Please allow us 10 to 14 days to review the application and send you the deficiency letter. Please do not contact the board office five days after you mailed the application since we may not have reviewed it yet. We are working on getting the deficiencies added to be viewed in the main screen within the online application system. That should be functioning in 2018 so applicants can check the status online.

What procedures can I perform? The scope of practice for dental hygienist is in Rule 0460-03-.09. The scope of practice also lists procedures that require an additional certification from the board and the prohibited procedures. The rules are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/statutes-and-rules.html>.

How can I practice under general supervision and/or written protocols? Please refer to T.C.A. 63-5-108(c) and T.C.A 63-5-115(b) and (d). The application to practice under written protocol is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. There is no application to practice under general supervision if you meet the requirements of the statute. Please be aware that some procedures cannot be performed under general supervision and/or written protocol.

Local Anesthesia Certification: This certification must be added to your dental hygiene license prior to administering local anesthesia.

- If you took a local anesthesia course in another state and it was not within your CODA accredited dental hygiene program, then the course must be equivalent to the course required in Tennessee. A letter of completion indicating the course was taught to clinical competency, the number of hours in the course and the curriculum for the course must be submitted directly to the board office from the course for review by the board.
 - If your course is not equivalent, you will be required to complete a Tennessee board approved course and be issued a temporary permit to administer the required injections.
- If you completed the course within your CODA accredited dental hygiene program, then the program must submit a letter of completion indicating the course was taught to clinical competency. The letter must be submitted directly to the board office from the program.
- If you complete a Tennessee board approved course, once your application and the course completion letter are received, you will be issued a temporary permit to administer the required injections. Once the required injections are completed, you will need to submit the

injection form and it will be reviewed by the consultant before the local anesthesia certification is added to your license. The board approved courses are listed online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/educational-programs.html>.

Administering and Monitoring of Nitrous Oxide Certification: This certification must be added to your dental hygiene license prior to administering and/or monitoring nitrous oxide.

- If you took a administering and monitoring nitrous oxide course in another state or a course within your CODA accredited dental hygiene program, then the course must be equivalent to the course required in Tennessee. A letter of completion, the number of hours in the course and the curriculum for the course must be submitted directly to the board office from the course for review by the board.
 - If your course is not equivalent, you will be required to take a Tennessee board approved course.
- If you completed the course within your CODA accredited dental hygiene program and it was also approved by the Tennessee Board of Dentistry to provide the course, then the program must submit a letter of course completion directly to the board office.
- If you complete a Tennessee board approved course, the course provider will submit a letter of completion to the board office. Once the letter is received and reviewed by the consultant the certification will be added to your license. There is no application for administering and monitoring of nitrous oxide. The board approved courses are listed online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/educational-programs.html>.

Restorative or Prosthetic Certification: Both of these certification require that the dental hygienist have a minimum of two (2) years continuous full-time employment within the past three (3) years in a dental practice as a licensed dental hygienist before admission to a board-approved course in restorative and/or prosthetic functions. The restorative course is 96 hours in length and the prosthetic course is 64 hours in length.

- Restorative is defined in the statute as inserting, packing, carving and finishing amalgam and intracoronal nonmetallic restorations.
- Prosthetic is defined in the statute as taking final impressions for fixed and removable prosthetic appliances.

Once you complete the board approved course, the course provider will notify the board office that you successfully completed the course and the certification will be added to your license. If you completed a comparable course in another state, the information regarding the content of the course, including the number of hours in the course and proof of completion must be sent directly for the course provider to the board office. It will then be reviewed for equivalency. If it is not equivalent, you will be required to take the board approved course before the certification is added to your license. Please refer to Rule 0460-03-.10 for more information, including the prohibited procedures. The board approved courses are listed online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/educational-programs.html>.

Dental Assistant Questions:

What do I need to do to apply for registration as a dental assistant? You just need to apply for the registration. No education other than graduation from high school or a GED is required to apply to be registered.

- The instructions are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>.
- The application is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application is an online application that you can attach certain documents to before submitting. You can pay the required application fees online by credit card, debit card or e-check.

What certifications are available to add to my registration? The applications to apply for the certifications are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application to apply sealants is a separate application. Dental assistants can add the following certifications to their registration:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Dental Radiology (to expose radiographs) | • Sealant Application |
| • Nitrous Oxide Monitoring | • Expanded Restorative Functions |
| • Coronal Polishing | • Expanded Prosthetic Functions |

I need an application for dental radiology certification or sealant certification, etc. The certification applications are online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/applications.html>. The application must be completed and submitted to the Board's Administrative Office along with the \$15.00 certification fee for each certification that you are applying for. The course provider will send proof of course completion directly to the Board's office if you have completed a course that is located in Tennessee. Most applicants for sealant application certification must complete an externship before the certification will be added. If you completed a course in another state for any of the certifications that you want the board to consider acceptance of, then documentation, including the curriculum from the course must be submitted from the course provider.


What exams are accepted or required? Currently, there is no examination required to become registered. In 2018, a Jurisprudence exam will be starting and required for all applicants for initial registration, reinstatement, reactivation and renewal.

What is the status of my application? You will be sent a deficiency letter by mail or email after your application is reviewed. Please allow us 10 to 14 days to review the application and send you the deficiency letter. Please do not contact the board office five days after you mailed the application since we may not have reviewed it yet. We are working on getting the deficiencies added to be viewed in the main screen within the online application system. That should be functioning in 2018 so applicants can check the status online.

What is the fee for registration? The total fee is \$40.00 and an additional \$15.00 for each certification.

Where are the schools/programs in my area? A list of accredited and board approved dental assisting program is online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/educational-programs.html>. A list of the board approved certification course providers is also listed at that site.


Can I do _____ procedure? The scope of practice for dental assistants (practical and registered) is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/statutes-and-rules.html> in rule 0460-04-.08. The scope of practice also lists the procedures that require additional certifications and procedures that are prohibited.

Can dental assistants practice without the dentist present in the office? No, the statute prohibits dental assistants (practical and registered) from practicing without the dentist present in the office. Dental assistants can only practice under direct supervision. Direct supervision is defined in T.C.A. 63-5-115 which is available online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/statutes-and-rules.html>.



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Department of Health publishes the Monthly Disciplinary Actions report. All actions taken by the board are listed in this report.

Additional information for licensees disciplined can be obtained online under Adverse Licensure Actions in the Licensure Verification section. 

Renew faster by renewing online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board/dentistry-board/statutes-and-rules.html>

Report all address changes in writing within 30 days of the address change.

Tennessee Board of Dentistry Board Members as of November 30, 2017

Nadim Jubran D.D.S.
President
Maryville

Mary R. Warner, R.D.H.
Vice-President
Chapmansboro

Katherine N. Hall, D.D.S.
Secretary/Treasurer
Nashville

Donald D. Henson, D.D.S.
Knoxville

David B. Travis, D.D.S.
Paris

Thomas C. Williams, D.D.S.
Brentwood

Richard E. Bateman D.D.S.
Kingsport

Randall Prince, D.D.S.
Dyersburg

Airica B. Puckett, R.D.H.
Livingston

Bettye Lynn Richert
Springfield
Consumer Member

Naomi Martin, R.D.A.
Clarksville