



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 22, 2024
TO	Tracy Montez, Ph.D., Executive Officer
FROM	Rikki Parks, Dental Assisting Program Manager Dental Board of California
SUBJECT	Update on Dental Assisting Examination Statistics

Background

The following table provides the examination statistics for candidates who attempted dental assisting examinations this current fiscal year from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and the past three fiscal years (FYs).

License Type		RDA	OA	DSA	RDAEF		
		Written	Written	Written	Clinical	Practical	Written
FY 2023/24	Total 1st Time Candidates Tested	1,278	68	4	N/A	N/A	113
	1st Time Candidates Pass	1,012	46	3	N/A	N/A	86
	1st Time Candidates Pass %	79%	68%	75%	N/A	N/A	76%
	1st Time Candidates Fail	266	22	1	N/A	N/A	27
	1st Time Candidates Fail %	21%	32%	25%	N/A	N/A	24%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	538	65	1	N/A	N/A	52
	Repeat Candidates Pass	242	23	1	N/A	N/A	25
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	45%	35%	100%	N/A	N/A	48%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	296	42	N/A	N/A	N/A	27
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	55%	65%	N/A	N/A	N/A	52%
	Total Candidates Tested	1,816	133	5	N/A	N/A	165
	Total Candidates Passed	1,254	69	4	N/A	N/A	111
	Total Candidates Pass %	69%	52%	80%	N/A	N/A	67%
	Total Candidates Failed	562	64	1	N/A	N/A	54
Total Candidates Failed %	31%	48%	20%	N/A	N/A	33%	
FY 2022/23	Total 1st Time Candidates Tested	2,107	255	8	N/A	N/A	194
	1st Time Candidates Pass	1,644	189	7	N/A	N/A	155
	1st Time Candidates Pass %	78%	74%	88%	N/A	N/A	80%
	1st Time Candidates Fail	463	66	1	N/A	N/A	39
	1st Time Candidates Fail %	22%	26%	12%	N/A	N/A	20%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	814	100	3	N/A	N/A	130
	Repeat Candidates Pass	361	54	3	N/A	N/A	52
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	44%	54%	100%	N/A	N/A	40%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	453	46	0	N/A	N/A	78
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	56%	46%	N/A	N/A	N/A	60%
	Total Candidates Tested	2,881	2,921	355	10	11	324

	Total Candidates Passed	1986 2,005	243	9 10	N/A	N/A	207
	Total Candidates Pass %	69%	68%	90% 91%	N/A	N/A	64%
	Total Candidates Failed	895 916	112	1	N/A	N/A	117
	Total Candidates Fail %	31%	32%	10% 9%	N/A	N/A	36%
FY 2021/22	Total 1 st Time Candidates Tested	1,556	137	5	54	58	160
	1 st Time Candidates Pass	1,077	102	4	37	46	111
	1 st Time Candidates Pass %	69%	74%	80%	69%	79%	69%
	1 st Time Candidates Fail	479	35	1	17	12	49
	1 st Time Candidates Fail %	31%	26%	20%	31%	21%	31%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	1,001	130	1	14	19	108
	Repeat Candidates Pass	411	66	1	9	12	43
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	41%	51%	100%	64%	63%	40%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	590	64	N/A	5	7	65
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	59%	49%	N/A	36%	37%	60%
	Total Candidates Tested	2,557	267	6	68	77	268
	Total Candidates Passed	1,488	168	5	46	58	154
	Total Candidates Pass %	58%	63%	80%	68%	75%	57%
	Total Candidates Failed	1,069	99	1	22	19	114
	Total Candidates Fail %	42%	37%	20%	32%	25%	43%
FY 2020/21	Total 1 st Time Candidates Tested	1,665	162	3	N/A	N/A	156
	1 st Time Candidates Pass	1,285	82	2	N/A	N/A	133
	1 st Time Candidates Pass %	77%	51%	67%	N/A	N/A	85%
	1 st Time Candidates Fail	380	80	1	N/A	N/A	23
	1 st Time Candidates Fail %	23%	49%	33%	N/A	N/A	15%
	Total Repeat Candidates Tested	854	184	2	N/A	N/A	28
	Repeat Candidates Pass	368	51	1	N/A	N/A	20
	Repeat Candidates Pass %	43%	28%	50%	N/A	N/A	71%
	Repeat Candidates Fail	486	133	1	N/A	N/A	8
	Repeat Candidates Fail %	57%	72%	50%	N/A	N/A	29%
	Total Candidates Tested	2,519	346	5	N/A	N/A	184
	Total Candidates Passed	1,653	133	3	N/A	N/A	153
	Total Candidates Pass %	66%	38%	60%	N/A	N/A	83%
	Total Candidates Failed	866	213	2	N/A	N/A	31
	Total Candidates Fail %	34%	62%	40%	N/A	N/A	17%

Please Note: Staff determined there was an error in the statistics reported in FY 2022/23 for the RDA General Written and Law and Ethics examination and the Dental Sedation Assistant examination. The incorrect information has been struck out and the corrected information has been listed next to it.

The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) monitors the passing rates for the dental assistant examinations. OPES works with subject matter experts (i.e., actively practicing licensees who are in good standing) to build a bank of quality questions that adhere to professional guidelines and technical standards for use on occupational licensing examinations.

Additional information regarding written examination is available on the Board's website located here: https://dbc.ca.gov/applicants/rda_written_exam_stats_2021.shtml.