

Current Dental Licensure Pathways 2026

Presented by the Licensing and Examination Unit (LEU)



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Overview of Licensure Pathways

Licensure by
American Board of
Dental Examiners
(ADEX)

Licensure by
Residency

Licensure by
Credential



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Licensure by ADEX



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Application requirements:

- Proof of graduation from:
 - Dental school approved by the Board or CODA.
 - For non-Board or Non-CODA approved graduates, they must complete a two-academic year international studies program at a Board-approved dental college and submit evidence of receiving a degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine or Doctor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent.
- Successful passing of the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) exam within five (5) years preceding the application date.
- Successful passing of the National Board Examination (NBDE)
- Successful passing of the Law and Ethics Examination



Licensure by Residency



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Application requirements:

- Proof of graduation from:
 - Dental school approved by the Board or CODA.
 - For non-Board or Non-CODA approved graduates, they must complete a two-academic year international studies program at a Board-approved dental college and submit evidence of receiving a degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine or Doctor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent.
- Proof of completing a one-year AEGD or GPR program accredited by CODA or another Board approved national accrediting body.
- Successful passing of the National Board Examination (NBDE)
- Successful passing of the Law and Ethics Examination



Licensure by Credential Pathways

Clinical Practice
(Unrestricted)

Clinical Practice
with Residency
Completion
(Unrestricted)

Pending Clinical
Practice Contract
(Restricted)

Pending Faculty
Practice Contract
(Restricted)

Non-Clinical
Practice
(Unrestricted)



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Application Requirements for All Licensure by Credential Pathways

- Does not require proof of graduation from a dental school approved by the Board or CODA.
- Proof of an active and unrestricted license issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States to practice dentistry that is not subject to any current or pending disciplinary action such as revocation, suspension, or probation.
- Proof that the applicant has not failed a state, regional, or national examination for licensure to practice dentistry within five years prior to the date of the application.
- Proof of completion of 50 continuing education (CE) courses that are patient-centered related care.
 - 10 Mandatory Course CE Units
 - 40 Non-Mandatory Course CE Units



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Clinical Practice (Unrestricted License)

Proof that the applicant has either been in active clinical practice in another state, district, or territory of the United States, has been engaged in full-time nonclinical practice requiring an active dentist's license for federal, state, or local public health programs in another state, district, or territory of the United States for at least five years immediately preceding the application, or has been a full-time faculty member in an accredited dental education program and in active clinical practice for a total of at least 5,000 hours within the past five years immediately preceding the date of the application.



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Clinical Practice with Residency Completion (Unrestricted License)

Complete a CODA-approved residency program and submit the residency certificate to the Board

The applicant may receive:

- Credit 1,000 hours per residency year, up to 2,000 hours, towards the 5,000-hour clinical practice requirement.
- All clinical hours must be completed within five (5) years preceding the application date.
- Clinical hours are verified through the employer completed Verification of Clinical Practice of Dentistry form.



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Pending Clinical Practice Contract (Restricted License)

Requires a signed, full-time (minimum of 32 hours per week), 2-year contract to practice dentistry in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

After confirmation of two years of completed service, the restriction is removed.



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Pending Faculty Practice Contract (Restricted License)

Requires a signed, full-time (minimum average of 40 hours per week), 2-year contract to teach or practice dentistry in at least one accredited dental education program approved by the Board.

After confirmation of two years of completed service, the restriction is removed.



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Non-Clinical Practice (Unrestricted License)

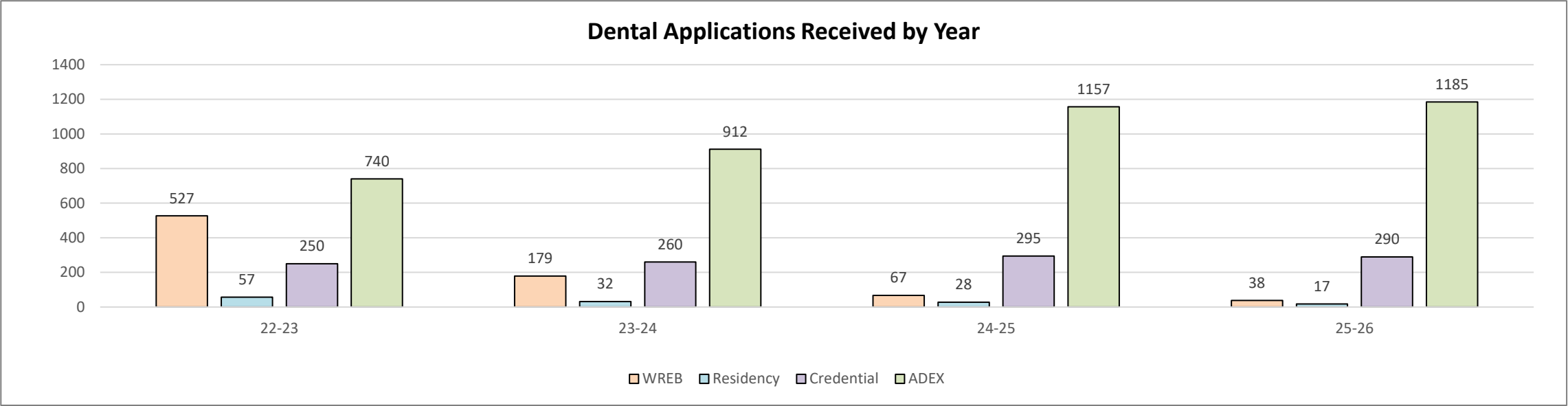
Requires certification of the applicant being engaged in full-time nonclinical practice that requires an active dental license for a federal, state, or local public health programs in another state, district, or territory of the United States for at least five years immediately preceding the application.



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Dental Applications Received by Year					
	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Yearly Totals
WREB	527	179	67	38	811
Residency	57	32	28	17	134
Credential	250	260	295	290	1095
ADEX	740	912	1157	1185	3994
Total	1574	1383	1547	1530	6034



For additional
questions please visit
our [Contact Us](#) page.



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