

Qualifying Examination (QE) Overview

I. Introduction

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is the first of a two-part American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) certification process and is administered via computer at secured testing sites annually in May. The QE is administered **only** in the English language.

The Qualifying Examination is designed to provide evidence toward validation of the individual's advanced training in pediatric dentistry. The *Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Pediatric Dentistry** are used to define the content to be tested.

The Examinee is expected to have an in-depth knowledge of all topics. The QE must be successfully completed before the candidate can register for the Oral Clinical Examination.

*Commission on Dental Education, American Dental Association (CODA/ADA), 1998 (revised July 1, 2012). (<http://www.ada.org/~media/CODA/Files/ped.ashx>)

II. Eligibility for Application

A. Pediatric Dentists

Any pediatric dentist who has successfully completed an advanced education program/residency in pediatric dentistry accredited by CODA/ADA or Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada is eligible to apply for the QE.

B. Residents/Graduate Students

Individuals enrolled in a pediatric dentistry program accredited by CODA/ADA or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada are eligible to register for the QE administered during May of the year of their anticipated graduation.

III. Application for the QE

A. The application for the QE is available on the ABPD website July 1 annually.

B. Upon submission of a completed QE application and the \$700 examination fee, a pediatric dentist and resident/graduate student shall be designated as an Applicant.

C. Deadline for submission of an application is December 15 annually.

IV. Accommodations

Deadline for submission of the Examination Accommodation Request Form (available at www.abpd.org) and other required documentation is December 30 annually.

V. Cancellation Policy for the Qualifying Examination

See website for cancellation policy.

VI. Description of the Examination

The Qualifying Examination is composed of 200 objective, single-best answer, multiple choice items. Only one response is the **most** correct. The Examinee will have a single 4-hour session to complete the examination.

The QE is intended to assess the Examinee's understanding of the **scientific and biological principles** that support the practice of pediatric dentistry, as well as current literature relating to pediatric dentistry. The successful Examinee must demonstrate a well-rounded in-depth knowledge of pediatric dentistry. This examination is **not** intended to duplicate the clinical application of pediatric oral health care that will be tested during the second component of the certification process, the Oral Clinical Examination.

VII. Examination Blueprint

1. Microbiology (24 items)
 - a. Biological etiology of caries
 - b. Transmission of cariogenic bacteria
 - c. Periodontal disease
 - d. Normal and altered immunology
 - e. Critical appraisal of research and evidence
 - f. Infection control principles and regulations
2. Prevention and anticipatory guidance (30 items)
 - a. Risk assessment of oral and systemic disease
 - b. Diet and nutrition
 - c. Fluorides
 - d. Remineralization
 - e. Sealants
 - f. Mouthguards
 - g. Tobacco/substance abuse
3. Craniofacial growth and developing dentition and occlusion (24 items)
 - a. Anatomy and embryology
 - b. Craniofacial and somatic growth
 - c. Occlusal analysis
 - d. Cephalometric analyses
 - e. Oral habits
 - f. Space management
 - g. Embryological tooth development, dental development and tooth eruption
4. Restorative dentistry and oral rehabilitation (22 items)
 - a. Dental materials
 - b. Oral surgery
 - c. Prosthetics
 - d. Esthetic dentistry
 - e. Restorative techniques
5. Oral diagnosis/oral pathology/oral medicine (30 items)
 - a. Radiologic principles, radiologic diagnostics and radiation safety

- b. Dental anomalies
 - c. Oral/perioral lesions/anomalies
 - d. Epidemiology and treatment of oral diseases
 - e. Adjunctive diagnostic tests
 - f. Temporomandibular function and disorders
 - g. Recognition and management of medical emergencies
6. Special health care needs (18 items)
- a. Congenital syndromes/diseases/disorders
 - b. Acquired pediatric diseases/conditions
 - c. Oral manifestations of congenital and acquired pediatric medical conditions
 - d. Treatment approaches for the delivery of oral health care to patients with SHCN
7. Child development/behavior guidance (28 items)
- a. Physiological/psychological/social milestones or stages in child development
 - b. Principles of effective communication
 - c. Anxiolysis and analgesia
 - d. Non-pharmacological behavior guidance
 - e. Pharmacologic behavior guidance
8. Pulp therapy/orofacial trauma (24 items)
- a. Dentinal and pulpal tissue biology and pathology
 - b. Pulpal assessment, diagnosis and therapy
 - c. Evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of orofacial trauma
 - d. Evaluation, diagnosis, diagnosis and treatment of soft tissue injuries
 - e. Child abuse and neglect

VIII. Recommendations for preparation

The QE is not based upon a single resource. Examinees should focus their attention on the **scientific and biologic** basis for pediatric dentistry, not clinical practices. Potential resources for study include textbooks on pediatric dentistry, pediatric medicine, craniofacial growth and development, dental trauma, and pulp therapy. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's *Reference Manual* and *Handbook on Pediatric Dentistry* should be considered valuable resources.

Because this examination is reviewed and revised annually, Examinees are strongly encouraged to follow current dental and medical literature. Pediatric dentistry journals and periodicals such as the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, *Journal of Dental Research*, *Dental Traumatology*, and *Pediatrics* can be expected to serve as sources of test items on contemporary topics. Literature reviews can be accomplished through many venues, including formal continuing education courses, study clubs, or self-study. The American Board of Pediatric Dentistry neither sponsors nor endorses a "board review" course. While a comprehensive pediatric dentistry review course might provide a valuable overview, especially for Examinees a few years removed from their training programs, it cannot be expected to serve as the only resource for preparation.

IX. Testing Sites

The Qualifying Examination is delivered via computer at PearsonVue testing sites. All North American centers are located in facilities with ample parking and access to major freeways and public transportation.

The centers are designed to be quiet and free of distractions and are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The test will be administered in a 4-hour session.

Although many seats are allocated by the testing agency for the QE, **the number of seats available during the testing window will vary by site.** Examinees may be required to travel and encumber an overnight stay in another city. Specific information and instructions will be sent to Examinees upon registering with the testing vendor.

X. The Examination Session

The examination is conducted using only the English language. The examination will be of the objective type, containing only multiple-choice questions. Examinees are responsible for recording their answers by using the mouse to select the button next to the letter of the chosen response. Examinees will be permitted to progress through the examination at their own pace. Examinees may elect to take breaks as needed, but the time will count against the total time allocated for the examination.

A tutorial and practice examination are available to become familiar with the operations of an examination at www.pearsonvue.com/abpd.

No support materials or electronic devices will be allowed at the examination. No communication between Examinees will be allowed during the examination. Failure to comply may invalidate the results and prompt referral to the Board's Ethics Committee.

XI. Grading

Examination performance is reported on a Pass/Fail basis – one score for the entire examination. Results can be released to **Candidates only**.

XII. Application for Board Candidacy

Only educationally-qualified pediatric dentists are eligible to apply for Board Candidacy. While residents/graduate students may sit for the QE in the year of their anticipated graduation, they cannot apply for Board Candidacy until they have successfully completed their specialty studies.

As part of the application process, a pediatric dentist must submit:

- the Application for Board Candidacy form, including Attestation and Credentials (available at <http://www.abpd.org/Content/Applications/Board-Candidacy.aspx>)
- a notarized copy of a current dental license with expiration date
- a notarized copy of diploma/certificate from accredited pediatric dentistry program

Results can only be released to Candidates; therefore, the Applicant will have until November 30th annually to submit the required documents. Upon ABPD's verification of the application and supporting materials, the pediatric dentist becomes a Candidate and their results will automatically be released.

XIII. Re-examination Policy

Board Candidates who fail the QE may retake the examination annually within years 1-4 of their eligibility period.

XIV. Verification of Board Status



Applicants seeking licensure in a state with specialty examinations and needing assistance from the Board with QE outcomes need to contact Headquarters.

When verifications are requested by a third party (e.g., hospital administrators regarding medical staff privileges), Applicants **are not** considered to be in the certification process.

Direct questions to:

American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

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Nashville, TN 37027

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