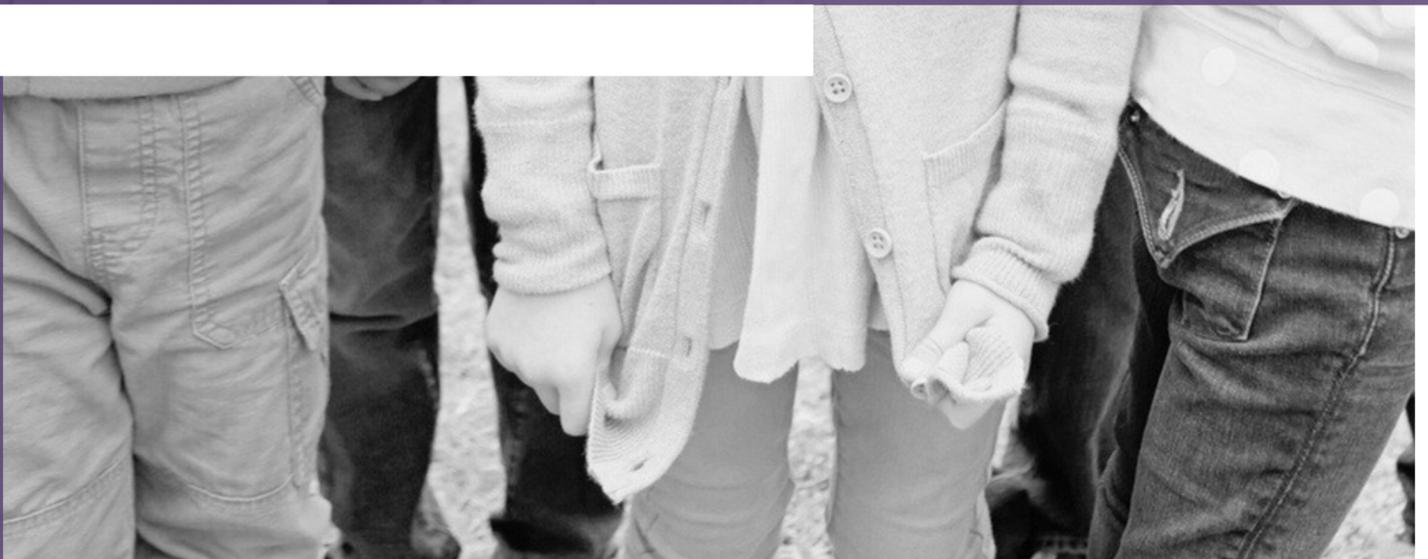




AMERICAN BOARD OF  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

*A Guide To The*  
**Qualifying  
Examination (QE)**



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# Introduction to ABPD

The American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) was founded in 1940 by the American Society of Dentistry for Children (ASDC) to address the need for specialization in pediatric dentistry. At that time, there were dentists who focused on children's dentistry, but there was no formal training or certification process.

ABPD's founders envisioned a board that would ensure dentists seeking to specialize in treating children had the necessary qualifications and skills.

## Who We Are

The American Board of Pediatric Dentistry is the credentialing body for the specialty of pediatric dentistry. Our organization is responsible for creating and administering the certification exams required for the credential.

## What We Do

We create the policies and procedures for certification. Together with a dedicated group of volunteer pediatric dentists, we create the content for the Qualifying Examination, Oral Clinical Examination and the Renewal of Certification Examination and Continuous Quality Improvement Modules.



# Pathway to Certification

## Steps to Board Certification

### Board Candidacy Application

Must provide evidence of an active license with expiration date, a faculty permit, a faculty limited license, or an international dental license to engage in the practice and/or teaching of pediatric dentistry, and a copy of the certification of completion of the training program.

- Board Candidacy must be completed before you may apply for the OCE.



### Board Certified

Congratulations on completing your initial certification journey!

### Qualifying Examination

The examination is designed to generate evidence toward validation of the individual's advanced training in pediatric dentistry.

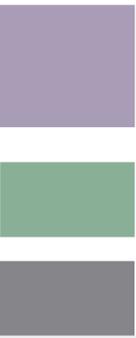
- Written/Computerized
- Offered at Testing Centers
- Offered Annually in May

### Oral Clinical Examination

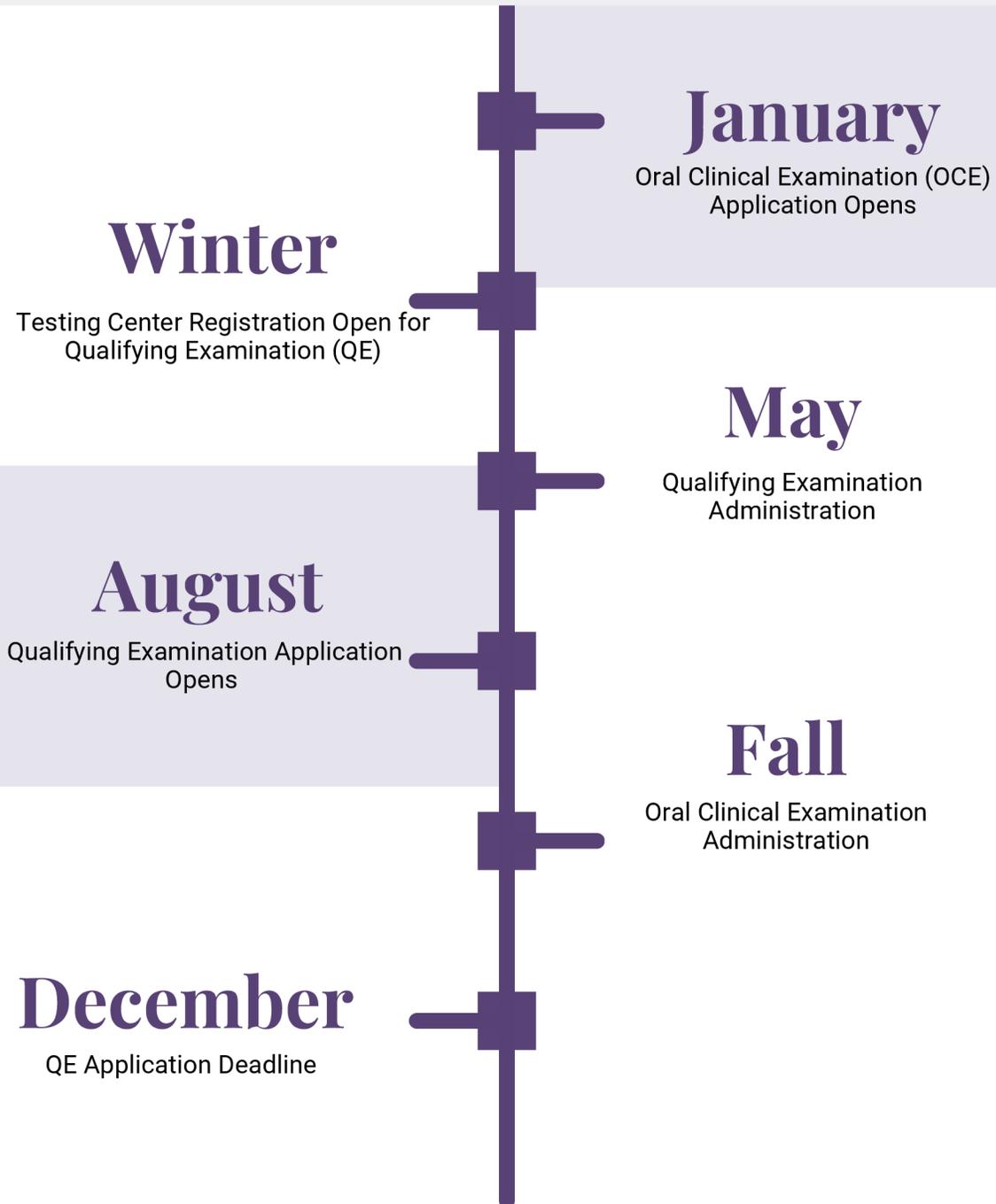
The exam enables the candidate to demonstrate proficiency in diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical care.

- Oral Format
- Offered at one Testing Center
- May not be taken in the same year as the QE
- Must successfully complete the QE to be eligible
- If board certification is not achieved in the 7-year period after residency, a pediatric dentist can apply for the QE as a Registrant.

For a full list of certification policies, [visit our Policies and Resources page.](#)



# Examinations



# Pathway to Certification

## Eligibility Requirements

1

Completion of, or in the final year of an advanced education in pediatric dentistry which is accredited by Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

2

Completion of, or in the final year of an advanced placement program in pediatric dentistry which is accredited by Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

Note: A pediatric dentist MUST provide evidence of an active license with expiration date, a faculty permit, a faculty limited license, or an international dental license to engage in the practice and/or teaching of pediatric dentistry and a copy of the certification of completion of the training program.

Supporting documentation (copy of program certificate and current active dental license) must be included with the board candidacy application.

**Board Candidacy application must be complete before a candidate may apply for the OCE.**

**[Please review ABPD Examination Policies here.](#)**

# Examinations

## Qualifying Examination

QE

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is designed to assess the use of specialized knowledge and skills, clinical reasoning, communication, and professionalism required of entry-level pediatric dentists for safe and effective care.

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.

The QE is composed of 240 objective, single-best answer, multiple choice items. 200 of the items are scored items and 40 items are pretest items and will not be scored. The examinee will have a single 4-hour session to complete the examination. The QE is administered only in the English language.

## Before the Test:

### Eligibility Requirements

**To be eligible, a pediatric dentist must provide evidence of one of the following two:**

- i. Completion of, or in the final year of an advanced education in pediatric dentistry residency program which is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).
- ii. Completion of or in the final year of an advanced placement program in pediatric dentistry which is approved by Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

**In order to become a candidate for certification the following documentation is required:**

- i. Active dental license with an expiration date, or a faculty permit, or a faculty limited license, or an international license.
- ii. Certificate or diploma from an advanced education in pediatric dentistry program.

### Application Process

The application for the QE is available on the ABPD website annually in August. The deadline for the application is December 15th.

# Examination Blueprint

## Qualifying Examination

The examination blueprint for the QE reflects the subject matter within the specialty of pediatric dentistry and provides the framework for the assessment of knowledge. The blueprint below is a resource in preparation for the examination. ABPD performs a job/task practice analysis to ensure that the QE reflects the practice of pediatric dentistry. The data from the job/task analysis is used to support any future test plan modifications and also strengthen examination validity. ABPD will notify applicants of any changes to the blueprint prior to the examination application open date.

Domain	Skill			Task
	Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/Evaluate	
Behavior Guidance			X	Assess a patient's physical, psychological, and social development
			X	Evaluate pharmacologic options based on indications
		X		Administer nitrous oxide analgesia, monitor, and manage adverse events
		X		Provide care for patients under moderate or deep sedation (general anesthesia), monitor, and manage/follow protocol for adverse events
			X	Prevent, assess, and manage patient plan
	X			Recognize the influence of genetics, anatomy, and embryology on the growth and development of the head, neck and dentition
Growth & Development		X		Identify dentofacial growth patterns
		X		Determine the presence of a dental, skeletal, or functional abnormality
			X	Determine the need for and interpret the findings from a panoramic radiograph to assess growth and development

# Examination Blueprint

Domain	Skill			Task
	Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/ Evaluate	
Growth & Development		X		Determine the need for and provide appliance for space maintenance
		X		Identify the indications and mechanisms of interceptive appliances
		X		Determine the need for and interpret the findings from a cephalometric analysis
	X			Recognize the indication for cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT)
Oral Facial Injury, Emergency Care & Oral Surgery			X	Assess and evaluate oral facial injuries, dental pain, and infections.
			X	Evaluate, diagnose, and manage/treat dentoalveolar trauma including maxillary and mandible jaw fractures
			X	Evaluate, diagnose and manage/treat the pulpal, periodontal and associated soft tissues following traumatic injury
		X		Recognize and manage a soft tissue lesion
		X		Manage a supernumerary tooth
		X		Recognize indications for and manage decoronation of tooth
		X		Management of third molars
			X	Manage adverse events and medical emergencies

# Examination Blueprint

## Domain

## Skill

## Task

Remember

Understand  
/Apply

Analyze/  
Evaluate

Diagnosis,  
Oral  
Pathology,  
Oral  
Radiology,  
and Oral  
Medicine

Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/Evaluate	Task
	X		Identify systemic conditions contributing to oral conditions
		X	Diagnose, manage, and explain the common pediatric oral/facial anomalies
		X	Diagnose, manage, and explain the common pediatric oral/facial pathological conditions
	X		Select radiographic techniques and materials, and capture images following radiation hygiene practices
	X		Identify the need for antibiotic therapy and prescribe antibiotics
	X		Identify risk factors for, diagnose, and classify gingival and periodontal disease
	X		Evaluate patient medical history
		X	Evaluate risk for caries, periodontal disease, and trauma
	X		Provide diet counseling
		X	Recommend fluoride type and treatment modality
	X		Establish recall/recare visits based on patient needs
	X		Identify and classify enamel erosion and determine the etiology

Prevention &  
Health  
Promotion

# Examination Blueprint



## Domain

## Skill

## Task

### Dental Caries Diagnosis, Non- Restorative Caries Management & Restorative Treatment

Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/ Evaluate	Task
	X		Recognize indications for and apply sealants for primary and permanent teeth
	X		Manage minimally invasive restorative treatment for primary and permanent teeth and prescribe follow-up reassessment plan
	X		Manage enamel erosion with preventive and restorative techniques for primary and permanent teeth
	X		Manage hypoplastic and hypomineralized teeth in primary and permanent dentition
	X		Restore primary and permanent teeth with amalgam
	X		Restore primary and permanent teeth with composite
	X		Restore primary and permanent teeth with glass ionomer
	X		Restore primary and permanent teeth with stainless steel crown
	X		Restore primary and permanent incisors with composite crown
	X		Restore primary incisors, canines, and molars with zirconia crown
	X		Identify the indications for prosthetic therapy in the primary and permanent dentition

# Examination Blueprint



Domain	Skill			Task
	Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/ Evaluate	
Special Health Care Needs			X	Recognize special health care needs (congenital or acquired) in patients and the challenges of providing dental care for individuals with these needs)
		X		Identify and manage common oral manifestations often associated with special healthcare needs
		X		Maintain social and cultural awareness during patient care
Advocacy & Education		X		Advocate for patients to receive needed care, and refer patients and guardians to social support resources, including community-based oral health programs and care opportunities
		X		Participate at the local, state, and/or national levels in organized dentistry in its advocacy for public health policy, legislation, and regulations to protect and promote the oral health needs of children
		X		Employ principles and mechanisms of infection control and safety practices to ensure a safe patient care environment (by following professional organization guidelines and complying with local, state, and national standards/regulations)
Elements of Pediatric Dental Practice		X		Develop and follow protocols for clinical practice including safety, technology, privacy, licensing, malpractice, billing and security
		X		Maintain privacy of protected health information according to HIPAA
			X	Continually evaluate the practice for adherence to professional standards (e.g. evidence-based dentistry, practice, policies)

# Examination Blueprint



Domain	Skill			Task
	Remember	Understand /Apply	Analyze/Evaluate	
Elements of Pediatric Dental Practice			X	Evaluate research articles for application to clinical practice
		X		Manage adverse events and medical emergencies

### Who is involved in content development?



ABPD utilizes subject matter experts (SME) to develop examination items.

### How is the content initially developed?

All items are supported by scientific resources or accepted protocols and go through multiple reviews by SMEs and psychometricians to ensure correctness.

### How is ABPD improving exam content?



ABPD reviews item performance to identify items that require refinement and editing by an SME.

Items target mid-range difficulty levels to distribute examinee scores as a means to recognize examinee variability in performance. In effect, items separate examinees of varying ability levels and yield meaningful discrimination. In addition, ABPD reviews item performance for item effectiveness. Such analyses help identify items that do not discriminate well, and which may require refinement and editing by an SME.



## Textbooks

Textbooks on pediatric dentistry, pediatric medicine, craniofacial growth and development, dental trauma, and pulp therapy are recommended to prepare you for the exam.

## Journals

Pediatric dentistry journals and periodicals, such as the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, and *Journal of Dental Research*, *Dental Traumatology*, and *Pediatrics* can be expected to serve as sources of test items on contemporary topics.



## Continuing Education

The American Board of Pediatric Dentistry does not sponsor or endorse any specific courses or programs for board examination preparation.

## Study Clubs

Literature reviews can be accomplished through many venues, including formal continuing education courses, study clubs, or self-study.



# Examinations

# QE

## Need to Know Info

### Location

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

Testing center registration will open approximately three months prior to examination administration. Examinees will receive detailed information regarding scheduling with the testing center.

Examinees may be required to travel and incur an overnight stay in another city. Specific information and instructions will be sent to examinees upon registering with the testing vendor. 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.

### Format

The test will be administered in a four hour session. 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.

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.

### Integrity

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 ABPD's Ethics Committee.

### Setting

The centers are designed to be quiet, free of distractions, and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For examination accommodation policies and information on how to request an accommodation, please visit our Policy Page [here](#).

### Language

The examination is conducted using only the English language.

### Additional Info

A tutorial and practice exams are available to become familiar with the operations of an examination at [www.pearsonvue.com/abpd](http://www.pearsonvue.com/abpd).

Please refer to PearsonVUE Professional & Regulatory Candidate Rules Agreement for information regarding check-in process and requirements, personnel, security, test material and equipment, and exam administration.

## Examination Results

**Examination results are available within 8 weeks of the exam administration.** Examination performance is reported on a Pass/Fail basis. Candidate scores are intended to compare performance against a criterion standard, and using the scores for other intentions would be a misuse of the test score.

**All applicants must complete board candidacy and will have until December 30 annually to complete.** An applicant will not be able to participate in the Oral Clinical Examination until they have successfully completed the QE and their board candidacy application has been approved. Upon ABPD's verification of the application and supporting materials, the pediatric dentist becomes a candidate.

**ABPD provides outcome reports to CODA and CDAC advanced education in pediatric dentistry programs.** The report includes an unidentifiable scaled score for those who have completed their training programs. The outcome report should only be used to evaluate the program's performance.

## Assessment Score Verification

ABPD offers score verification service to candidates that wish to have the accuracy of their reported scores verified. Verification of a candidate's QE score is limited to verifying that the responses recorded were correctly scored as correct or incorrect and their total score was correctly transformed into a scaled score.

Score assessment requests must be submitted within 30 days of receiving results.

**The score verification service is not a review of the content, a review of the correct answers, the acceptability of testing site conditions, or a reconsideration of the passing standard.** ABPD employs extensive and rigorous quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the assessment results reported to our candidates, and have no record of a discrepancy being detected.

**Candidates that wish to request the exam score verification service should contact ABPD staff.** The fee for the score verification service is \$250. We will communicate the exam score verification outcome within six weeks of receiving the request.

## Re-Examination Policy

**An applicant or registrant who fails the QE may retake the examination annually during their eligibility period.** All examination scores will be forfeited if board certification is not achieved during the eligibility period.

## *Understanding Scoring*

1

**A key validation is performed** to make sure items were keyed correctly, and that no major irregularities in examinees' response patterns were observed.

2

**Once the key validation is complete, examinations are scored.** Passing and failing outcomes are based on examinee scores for the entire examination.

3

**The minimum passing score is derived using a modified Angoff procedure.** In this standard-setting procedure, a panel of experts in the industry and a psychometrician review each item's content and judge its difficulty. The difficulty judgments are compiled to determine the minimum passing score. This method produces a passing standard based on the performance of examinees in relation to a defined criterion standard, and not on how examinees perform in relation to their cohort. Items are weighted equally, and a candidate's score (i.e. proportion correct) is their number of correct responses divided by the total number of items scored.

4

**To ensure examinees testing in different years are measured against the criterion standard, the Rasch measurement model is used to calibrate candidate ability and item difficulty onto the same linear scale (Wright & Stone, 1979).** Exams are calibrated to same scale of measurement, thus ensuring item difficulty is accounted for in candidate ability measures before applying the criterion standard to determine pass/fail outcomes.



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