

SB 855 HEALTH AGENCY REPORTING

Agency/Board Name: Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD)

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License or certificate types/brief requirements: We license dentists and dental hygienists. We certify dental assistants for certain procedures. The certifications involve no US residency requirements. Some of the pathways to certification involve completion of programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

679.065 Qualifications of applicants; rules. (1) An applicant for a dental license shall be entitled to take the examination to practice dentistry in Oregon if the applicant:

(a) Is 18 years of age or older; and

(b) Is a graduate of a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor agency, if any, which must have been approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

(2) Foreign trained graduates of dental programs may apply for the dental licensure examination, providing the applicant meets the board's requirements, by rule, as will reasonably assure that an applicant's training and education are sufficient for licensure. [1983 c.169 §5]

OAR 818-021-0010 Application for License to Practice Dentistry

(1) An applicant to practice general dentistry, in addition to the requirements set forth in ORS 679.060 and 679.065, shall submit to the Board satisfactory evidence of:

(a) Having graduated from a school of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or

(b) Having graduated from a dental school located outside the United States or Canada, completion of a predoctoral dental education program of not less than two years at a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, and proficiency in the English language; and

(c) Certification of having passed the dental examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations or Canadian National Dental Examining Board Examination.

(2) An applicant who has not met the educational requirements for licensure may apply for examination if the Dean of an accredited school certifies the applicant will graduate.

(3) An applicant must pass a Board examination consisting of a clinical portion administered by the Board, or any clinical Board examination administered by any state or regional testing agency and a jurisprudence portion administered by the Board. Clinical examination results will be recognized by the Board for five years.

(4) An applicant who passes the clinical portion but not the jurisprudence portion of the examination may retake the jurisprudence examination without limit on the number of times. The applicant must pass the jurisprudence portion within five years of passing the clinical portion or must retake the clinical examination.

(5) A person who fails any Board approved clinical examination three times must successfully complete the remedial training recommended by the testing agency. Such remedial training

must be conducted by a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 670 & 679

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 679.060, 679.065, 679.070 & 679.080

(1) The Oregon Board of Dentistry may grant a license without further examination to a dentist who holds a license to practice dentistry in another state or states if the dentist meets the requirements set forth in ORS 679.060 and 679.065 and submits to the Board satisfactory evidence of:

(a) Having graduated from a school of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or

(b) Having graduated from a dental school located outside the United States or Canada, completion of a predoctoral dental education program of not less than two years at a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or completion of a postdoctoral General Dentistry Residency program of not less than two years at a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, and proficiency in the English language; and

(c) Having passed the dental clinical examination conducted by a regional testing agency or by a state dental licensing authority; and

(d) Holding an active license to practice dentistry, without restrictions, in any state; including documentation from the state dental board(s) or equivalent authority, that the applicant was issued a license to practice dentistry, without restrictions, and whether or not the licensee is, or has been, the subject of any final or pending disciplinary action; and

(e) Having conducted licensed clinical practice in Oregon, other states or in the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States Public Health Service or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a minimum of 3,500 hours in the five years immediately preceding application. Licensed clinical practice could include hours devoted to teaching by dentists employed by a dental education program in a CODA accredited dental school, with verification from the dean or appropriate administration of the institution documenting the length and terms of employment, the applicant's duties and responsibilities, the actual hours involved in teaching clinical dentistry, and any adverse actions or restrictions; and

(f) Having completed 40 hours of continuing education in accordance with the Board's continuing education requirements contained in these rules within the two years immediately preceding application.

(2) Applicants must pass the Board's Jurisprudence Examination.

(3) A dental license granted under this rule will be the same as the license held in another state; i.e., if the dentist holds a general dentistry license, the Oregon Board will issue a general (unlimited) dentistry license. If the dentist holds a license limited to the practice of a specialty, the Oregon Board will issue a license limited to the practice of that specialty. If the dentist holds more than one license, the Oregon Board will issue a dental license which is least restrictive.

679.070 Examination; certain other examination results in lieu of examination. (1) The Oregon Board of Dentistry may administer written, laboratory or clinical examinations to test professional knowledge and skills.

(2) The examination shall be elementary and practical in character but sufficiently thorough to test the fitness of the applicant to practice dentistry. It shall include, written in the English language, questions on any subjects pertaining to dental science. The written examination may be supplemented by oral examination. Demonstrations of the applicant's skill in operative and prosthetic dentistry also may be required.

(3) The board may accept the results of national standardized examinations in satisfaction of the written examination as authorized by this section, and shall accept the results of regional testing agencies or of clinical board examinations administered by other states in satisfaction of the laboratory or clinical examination authorized under this section, provided:

(a) The test or examination was taken within five years of the date of application; and

(b) The applicant received a passing score on the test or examination as established by the board by rule.

(4) The board shall accept the results of regional testing agencies or of clinical board examinations administered by other states in satisfaction of the examinations authorized under this section for applicants who have engaged in the active practice of dentistry in other states, in Oregon or in the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States Public Health Service or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for at least 3,500 hours in the five years immediately preceding application and who meet all other requirements for licensure. [Amended by 1965 c.122 §4; 1983 c.169 §7; 1999 c.489 §1; 2001 c.193 §1; 2003 c.83 §3; 2005 c.229 §1]

679.090 Issuance of license. The Oregon Board of Dentistry shall, upon the applicant's satisfactory completion of the educational requirements and written, laboratory and clinical examinations authorized under this chapter and upon receipt of the requisite fees, issue or renew the appropriate dental license. [Amended by 1963 c.284 §6; 1971 c.34 §1; 1983 c.169 §9]

680.040 Qualifications of applicants for dental hygiene licensure examination. (1) An applicant for a dental hygiene license shall be entitled to take the examination to practice dental hygiene in Oregon if the applicant:

(a) Is 18 years of age or older; and

(b) Is a graduate of a dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor agency, if any, which must have been approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

(2) Foreign trained graduates of dental hygiene programs may apply for the dental hygiene licensure examination, providing the applicant meets the board's requirements, by rule, as will reasonably assure that an applicant's training and education are sufficient for licensure. [Amended by 1963 c.266 §4; 1973 c.122 §1; 1975 c.323 §2; 1979 c.526 §1; 1983 c.169 §20]

680.050 Application for examination; fees; grounds for refusal to issue or renew license. (1) Any person desiring to practice dental hygiene in this state shall file an application with the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

(2) At the time of making application, the applicant shall:

(a) Pay to the board the required application and examination fee.

(b) Furnish the board with evidence satisfactory to the board of details of any convictions recorded in any police records. Such details are subject to the findings required by ORS 670.280.

(c) Present to the board a diploma or evidence satisfactory to the board of having graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program approved by the board.

(3) If an applicant has been in practice in another state or states the applicant shall furnish an affidavit from the board of dental examiners or similar body of such state or states that the applicant has been engaged in the legal practice of dental hygiene in such state or states for a period of time prescribed by the rules of the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

(4) The board may refuse to issue a license to or renew a license of an applicant who has been convicted of a violation of law if the board makes the findings required by ORS 670.280. A certified copy of the record of conviction is conclusive evidence of conviction.

(5) The board may refuse to issue a license to or renew a license of an applicant who has been disciplined by a state licensing or regulatory agency of this or another state regarding any health care profession when, in the judgment of the board, the acts or conduct resulting in the disciplinary action bears a demonstrable relationship to the ability of the licensee or applicant to practice dental hygiene in accordance with the provisions of ORS 680.010 to 680.205. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action is conclusive evidence of the disciplinary action.

(6) The board may refuse to issue a license to or renew a license of an applicant who has falsified a license application, or any person for any cause described under ORS 679.140 or 679.170.

(7) Fees paid are not refundable. [Amended by 1963 c.266 §5; 1967 c.90 §1; 1973 c.122 §2; 1983 c.169 §21; 1985 c.323 §16; 1995 c.199 §5; 2003 c.83 §9]

680.060 Examination; scope and conduct; results of national standardized examination, regional testing agencies or clinical board examinations administered in other states in lieu of examination. (1) The Oregon Board of Dentistry may administer written, laboratory or clinical examinations to test professional knowledge and skills.

(2) The examination shall be sufficiently thorough to test the fitness of the applicant to practice dental hygiene. It shall include, written in the English language, questions on any subjects pertaining to dental hygiene. The written examination may be supplemented by oral examination. Demonstrations of the applicant's skill in clinical dental hygiene also may be required.

(3) The board may accept the results of national standardized examinations in satisfaction of the written examination as authorized by this section, and shall accept the results of regional testing agencies or of clinical board examinations administered by other states in satisfaction of the clinical examination authorized under this section, provided:

(a) The test or examination was taken within five years of the date of application; and

(b) The applicant received a passing score on the test or examination as established by the board by rule.

(4) The board shall accept the results of regional testing agencies or of clinical board examinations administered by other states in satisfaction of the examinations authorized under this section for applicants who have engaged in the active practice of dental hygiene in Oregon, other states, the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States Public Health Service or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a period of at least 3,500 hours in the five years immediately preceding application and who meet all other requirements for licensure. [Amended by 1963 c.266 §6; 1983 c.169 §22; 2001 c.193 §2; 2003 c.83 §10; 2005 c.229 §2; 2009 c.582 §2]

680.070 Additional requirements for certain applicants; rules. The Oregon Board of Dentistry may adopt rules requiring additional education and examination of applicants who have failed the licensing examination three times. [Amended by 1963 c.266 §7; 1967 c.90 §2; 1971 c.34 §3; 1977 c.444 §4; 1979 c.526 §2; 1981 c.232 §3; 1983 c.169 §23; 2003 c.83 §11]

680.072 Issuing license. The Oregon Board of Dentistry shall, upon the applicant's satisfactory completion of the educational requirements and written, laboratory and clinical examinations authorized under ORS 680.060 and upon receipt of the requisite fees, issue or renew the appropriate dental hygiene license. [1983 c.169 §26]

Current limits to licensure/certification for immigrants/refugees:

Subject to meeting licensure requirements set by statute and rule.

Board proposals to remove limits to licensure/certification:

SB 824 (2019) should theoretically reduce barriers to becoming licensed in Oregon, by making the OBD accept additional testing bodies' exams for licensure.

Other considerations to removing limits to licensure/certification:

Throughout the US, all states are independent to set their own standards and criteria for licensure.

Current President of OBD: Dr. Amy B. Fine