

NDEB Report to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan September 17, 2016

I am pleased to provide this report of the National Dental Examining Board to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan. I have enclosed the most current information provided to me to update you on some of the current issues and activities being undertaken at the NDEB. I have enclosed stats from the Written and OSCE exams from graduates of Canadian dental schools. Also, find enclosed results for the Assessment of Fundamental knowledge (AFK), Assessment of Clinical Skills Exam (ACS) and the Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ), which are all part of the Equivalency process. It continues to be very busy at the NDEB office due to a number of activities. Numbers are still high for those undertaking the equivalency process thus the NDEB continues to offer two sittings of the ACJ and ACS examinations (June and December). This alone doubles the work load on staff at the NDEB as well as the examiners and facilitators. Another project that is adding to the work load is the development of an electronic version of the Written and OSCE, called the virtual OSCE, which is to be implemented in March 2020. This is a very exciting project that streamlines this exam process, and also keeps it up to date, relevant and more secure.

Also of note, Dr. Jack Gerrow, after 23 years of involvement with the NDEB, has announced his retirement as Register and Executive Director. Dr. Gerrow will remain in his current capacity while the NDEB Board identifies a successor. Dr. Gerrow will continue to help with the transition, that is expected to conclude by December 2017.

I would like to apologize for my absence at the AGM. I would be happy to answer any questions that anyone may have about my report and can be contacted at densue@sasktel.net.

In closing, I would like to thank the CDS of S for their support over the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis G Fuchs D.M.D.

Examinations and Assessments

Certification Process

The most recent Written Examination and OSCE were administered in three locations (UBC, McGill and U of T) in May 2016. Registration for the November examinations is currently open until September 30, 2016 and the number of candidates registered is expected to be similar to past years. The pass rate over the past three years remains within the same range (Table 1).

Overall Pass Rates				
	Written		OSCE	
	# of candidates	% pass	# of candidates	% pass
2014	1126	89	1073	99
2015	1209	88	1165	95
2016*	1004	89	980	94

** March and May administrations only*

Table 1

GRADUATES OF
NON-ACCREDITED
DENTAL PROGRAMS

Overview

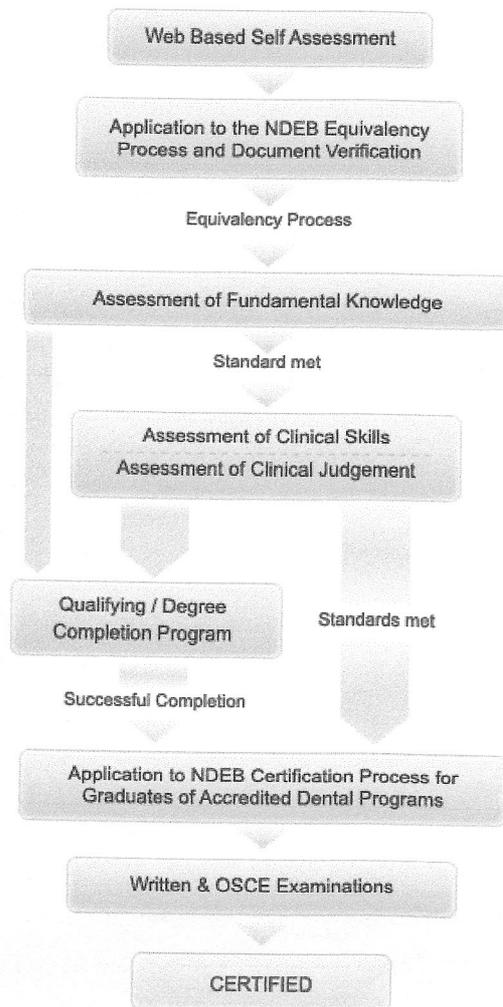
Graduates of non-accredited dental programs must successfully complete an accredited [Qualifying or Degree Completion Program \(/nonaccredited/qualifying-programs/\)](#) OR the NDEB Equivalency Process prior to being eligible to take the NDEB Written and OSCE Examinations.

Please be aware that NDEB certification does not guarantee licensure. The provincial regulatory authorities may require additional documents and/or language proficiency testing for the purpose of licensure. Please contact the provincial dental regulator authority for further information. Contact information is available [here \(http://www.ndeb.ca/links\)](http://www.ndeb.ca/links).

NDEB Equivalency Process

The Equivalency Process provides an alternate route to certification as a dentist in Canada for graduates of non-accredited dental programs and is also integrated with the admission process for the Qualifying and Degree Completion Programs. The Equivalency Process is comprised of three Assessments. Successful completion of the Assessments allows individuals to apply to take the NDEB Written and OSCE Examinations. Canadian Faculties of Dentistry will also use results of select Assessments in the admission process for Qualifying and Degree Completion Programs.

The diagram below illustrates the integrated pathways to certification as a dentist in Canada.



Equivalency Process

The next Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK) will be held on August 13, 2016 at multiple centres across Canada as well as in New Zealand and Hong Kong. A total of 685 participants are confirmed to take the assessment. Current Equivalency Process statistics can be found in Table 2.

The Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ) was held at 6 locations and the Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS) was held at 7 locations in June. Thanks to the exceptional preparation by all those involved, the assessments ran smoothly.

The NDEB hosted 110 evaluators for the ACS Evaluation Session on June 17-19, 2016 in Ottawa. During the Evaluation Session, evaluators and facilitators spent two and a half days grading the typodonts and records of procedures from the June ACS. Representatives from BrightLink Technologies were onsite to assist with any technical difficulties; however, as in previous years, the technical performance was flawless.

The December ACJ and ACS are expected to be administered in 8 locations across Canada. Registration for the December ACS and ACJ is open until October 5, 2016. As of July 21, there are 82 participants registered for the ACJ and 392 participants registered for the ACS.

Equivalency Process Statistics						
	AFK		ACS		ACJ	
	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass
2014	1277	48	709	39	652	70
2015	1498	50	718	36	899	60
2016	647*	48				

* February assessment only

Table 2

Program Services

Equivalency Process applications and credential verification

Table 4 below shows the number of applications for the Equivalency Process by year. The numbers of applications remain relatively steady throughout the years.

Equivalency Process applicants by year	
2010	1378
2011	1289
2012	1223
2013	1116
2014	1018
2015	1086
2016*	611

** January to July*

Table 4

16 September 2016

College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS)
1202 The Tower at Midtown
201-1st Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1J5

**Re: Update from the Curriculum Review Steering Committee, College of Dentistry,
University of Saskatchewan**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to you today to provide an update on the work of the Curriculum Review Steering Committee (CRSC), within the College of Dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan.

As you may be aware, the College (as directed by the Executive Committee's motion to "alter the path of curriculum renewal") has embarked on a renewed process to review and revise its curriculum so that the graduates of the College can meet the future demands and expectations of the profession. As an integral partner of the College, we want to keep you informed as we move forward on this important project.

An essential part of this renewed process is to ensure that all key stakeholders are fully represented at every stage of the project. To that end, the membership of the CRSC (as established by the College's Undergraduate Education Committee, UEC, at their June, 2016 meeting) has been purposefully designed to represent: full-time faculty, part-time faculty, students, and the profession itself. The CRSC will consider all options in the development of a new curriculum that is: evidence-based, innovative, and is not the "status quo".

The CRSC has been meeting weekly throughout August and September. In this initial phase of the Committee's work, a draft "Guiding Principles" document has been developed, to be presented at the September 26th meeting of the UEC. This document will, in turn, be considered by the College's Faculty Council at its September 30th meeting.

The document itself is comprised of three parts: (1) overview of the *CRSC Process* for curriculum and program renewal; (2) the *Goals* of a new curriculum and program, as defined by the Committee; and, finally, (3) the *Guiding Principles* of curriculum and program renewal at this point, as put forth by the CRSC.

Given the relatively short timeframe between the UEC meeting and the Faculty Council meeting, the draft document has been circulated to all faculty (full-time and part-time) and student council members, to ensure adequate time for review and consideration. Further, CRSC invites feedback on any matters covered by the mandate of the Committee at *any time* throughout the various phases of the process. A feedback email address has been established (dentcurriculum_feedback@usask.ca) and will be monitored by Janice Cruise (Project Manager, College of Dentistry Curriculum Review Project), who will compile and ensure distribution to all members of the CRSC.

We look forward to presenting the “Guiding Principles” document at the September 26th UEC meeting. Beyond this next step in the process, we also want to encourage your input at *any time* as our renewal project moves forward (again, via the designated email address).

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative at the College of Dentistry, and we look forward to receiving your input.

Dr. Dean Kolbinson

Chairperson
Curriculum Review Steering Committee (CRSC)
College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan

CRSC Membership:

Dr. Dean Kolbinson (Chair; Full-time Faculty representative)
Dr. Ken Sutherland (Associate Dean – Academic)
Dr. Reg Anholt (Assistant Dean – Clinics)
Ms. Kelly Mulligan (Director – Academic & Student Affairs)
Dr. Devon Anholt (Full-time Faculty representative)
Dr. Dennis Lanigan (Part-time Faculty representative)
Dr. Blayne Thibodeau (Part-time Faculty representative)
Ms. Mary Tait (Student representative)
Dr. Bernie White (College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan representative)

Non-voting Attendees:

Janice Cruise (project manager & program design specialist, College of Dentistry)
Susan Bens (consultant, Gwenna Moss Centre)