

## **NDEB Report to the CDSS Spring Council Meeting**

### **April 27,28 2017**

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to present this update of the National Dental Examining Board. I have enclosed the most current information with regards to the Written and OSCE. I have also enclosed the most current stats for the Equivalency process and the DSCKE. I have also included some information on the NDEB and all the functions it serves, for those who are new to Council.

The NDEB office continues to keep quite busy. The number of applicants to the equivalency process is a large part of the activity as the number of applicants to the process are still sufficient to require the June and December dates for the Assessment of Clinical Skills(ACS) and the Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ). Maintenance of the existing Written and OSCE ,as well as its administration, also require many resources.

The development of the Virtual OSCE is well underway with expected implementation in 2020 . Those of you who were not at Fall Council, the Virtual OSCE is a single electronically delivered examination to replace the current Written and OSCE examinations. This exam will completely computer or tablet based with no physical models.

I look forward to any discussion of the above enclosed Information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis G Fuchs D.M.D.

# Who are we?

Established by an Act of Parliament in 1952, The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) is the organization responsible for establishing and maintaining a standard of competence for dentists in Canada.

## Mission

To serve the Canadian public, dental regulatory authorities, and dental education institutions by providing a valid and reliable evaluation of competence for dentists in Canada.

## Vision

To be the leader and respected authority in reliable and valid certification processes for general dentists.

## Values

Integrity, objectivity, reliability, validity, fairness, ethicality, proactivity, transparency, and innovation

## Strategic Priorities

In 2015, the NDEB adopted a new three-year strategic plan. The plan focuses on strategies in the areas of governance, communications, examinations/assessments, accreditation standards and reciprocal agreements, and credential verification.

### Governance

- Provide financial stewardship.
- Monitor the implementation of strategic initiatives, and revise implementation plan as required.
- Maintain human resources processes consistent with legislative requirements and industry standards.

### Communications

- Improve communications with Board members, chief examiners, and staff.
- Improve communications with dental profession.
- Develop strategy to communicate with federal and provincial governments.
- Represent the NDEB at the international level.
- Implement appropriate and effective public relations strategy.
- Improve communications with applicants, participants and candidates.
- Strengthen relationships with CDRAF, DRAs, ACFD, CDAC, FCDSA, and RCDC.
- Enhance a productive working relationship with CDA.

## Examinations/Assessments

- Continue to promote validity, reliability and fairness of all examinations/assessments.
- Provide increased security for all examinations/assessments processes (development, administration, scores).
- Improve efficiency of examination and assessment processes.
- Develop and implement the new comprehensive integrated examination as a replacement for the Written Examination & OSCE.
- Develop and implement electronic delivery for AFK and ACJ.
- Review ACS appeals process.
- Review ACS requirements.

## Accreditation standards and reciprocal agreements

- Support CDAC efforts to review and revise the dental accreditation process in Canada.
- Review the equivalence of accreditation processes recognized through reciprocal agreements.

## Credential verification and examination/assessment services

- Continue implementing the best practices in credential verification.
- Facilitate access to examinations and assessments.

## **NDEB Board**

The NDEB Board is composed of 12 members. Each Provincial Dental Regulatory Authority (DRA) appoints one member and two members are appointed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). In 2002, it was identified that there was a need for public representation on the Board. Due to existing legislation, the Public Representative is a non-voting member of the Board.

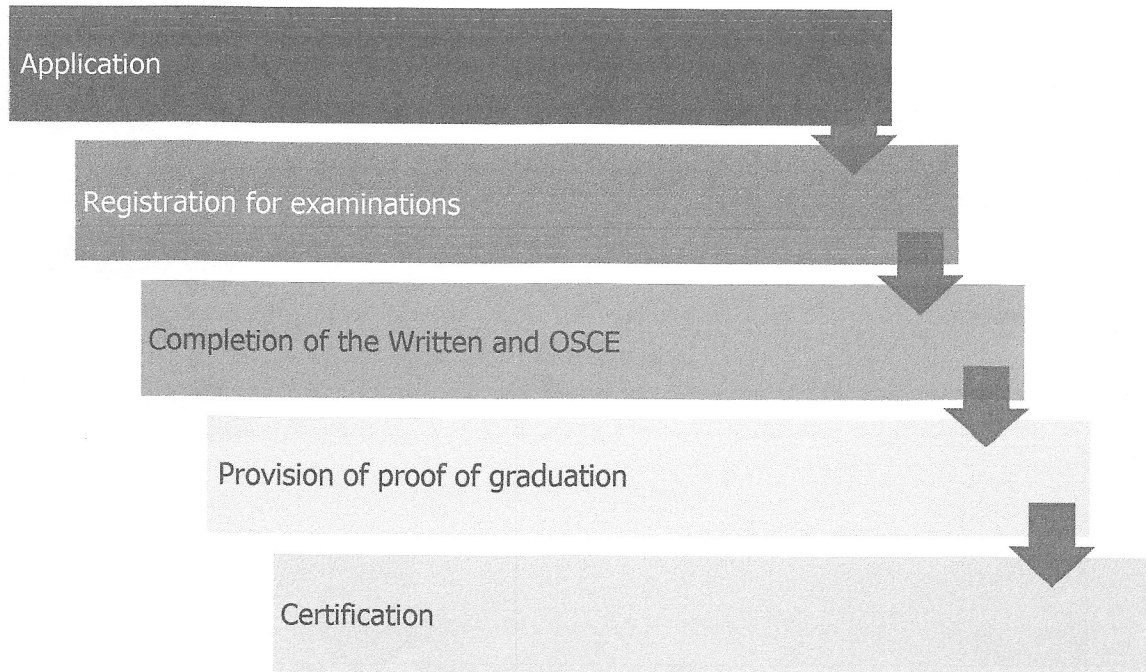
The Board meets two times a year in Ottawa.

# What we do

## Certification Process

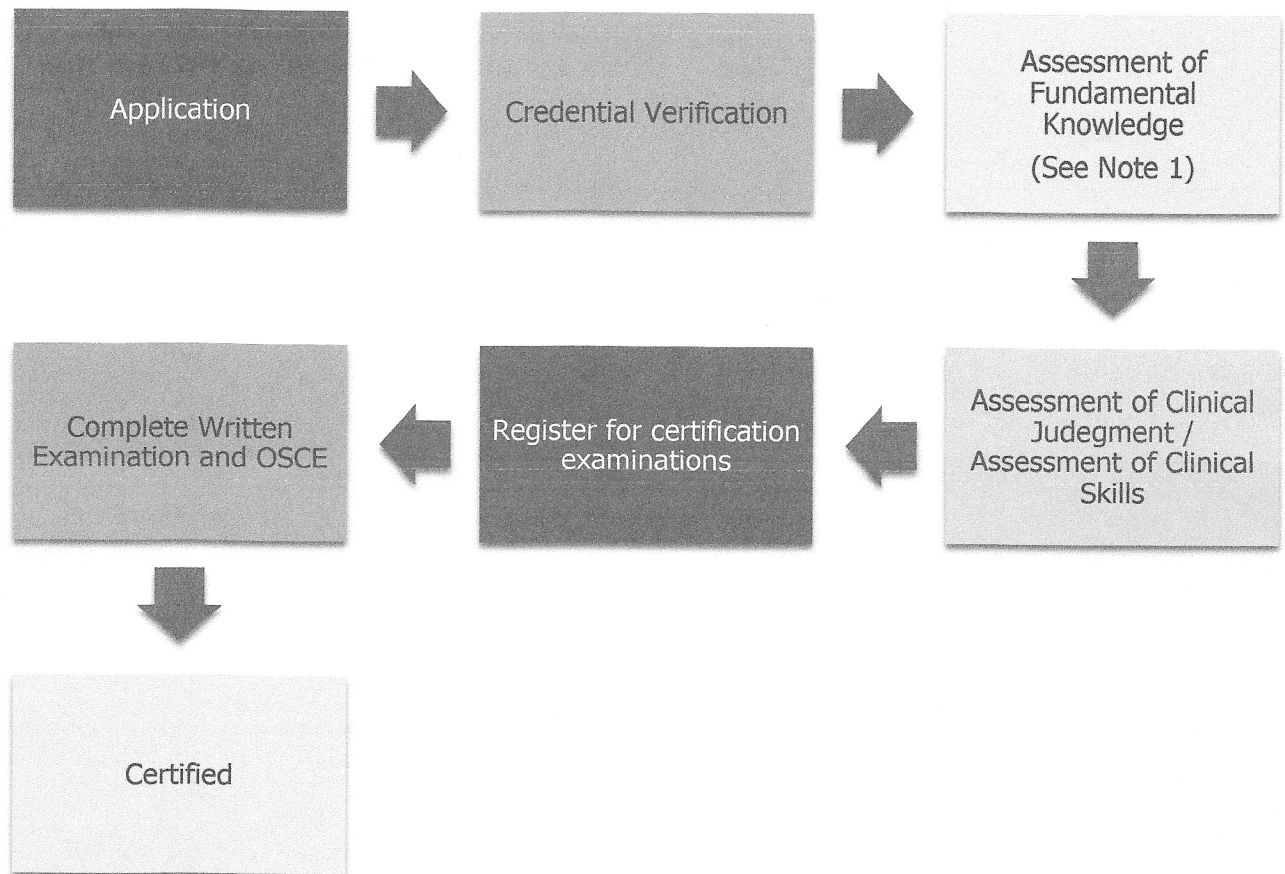
To become a licensed dentist in Canada, graduates of accredited dental programs must successfully complete the National Dental Examining Board of Canada's (NDEB) Certification Process. The Certification Process comprises two examinations; the Written Examination and the OSCE. The examinations are based on the competencies expected of a beginning dental practitioner in Canada. Detailed descriptions of both the Written Examination and OSCE can be found on the NDEB website under [Accredited Programs](#).

### Pathway to certification – Graduates of Accredited Dental Programs



## Equivalency Process

Graduates of non-accredited dental programs who want to be certified as general dentists in Canada must successfully complete the NDEB Equivalency Process or an accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program prior to being eligible for participation in the Certification Process. The Equivalency Process includes three assessments. Details of each of the assessments can be found on the NDEB website under [Non-Accredited Programs](#).



Note 1: The Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK) is an admission requirement for accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Programs. Individuals who complete an accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program enter the Certification Process as a graduate of an accredited program.

In 2014, the NDEB signed an agreement with the Dental Council – New Zealand to administer the Equivalency Process for graduates of non-accredited dental programs seeking licensure as general dentists in New Zealand. Beginning in 2015, the Equivalency Process assessments could be administered in New Zealand should the minimum number of registrations be received. Canadian Faculties of Dentistry also use the results of select assessments in the Equivalency Process as part of the admission process for the two year Qualifying/Degree Completion Programs. To facilitate this process, the NDEB sends the results of each assessment to faculties of dentistry that offer a Qualifying/Degree Completion Program.

## Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination

Graduates of non-accredited dental specialty programs who are interested in becoming licensed specialists in Canada may apply to take the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE). The DSCKE is a tool used by accredited specialty programs to evaluate individuals for admission to the Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Programs.

In order to participate in the DSCKE, applicants must show that they have graduated from a dental specialty program in a university that is sanctioned by the government of the country in which it is located to award such degrees. The dental specialty must be one of the nine dental specialty programs recognized in Canada.

The DSCKE is administered twice a year in Ottawa. Detailed information regarding the format and content of the DSCKE can be found on the NDEB website under [Non-Accredited Specialty Programs](#).

## Assessments and Examinations

### Certification Process

In 2016, the NDEB administered the Written Examination and OSCE three times in various locations across Canada, the United States, Australia, and Ireland. Registration for the 2017 examinations opened in the fall of 2016. Registration is expected to decrease for the March administrations, as the University of Minnesota no longer requires its final year students to take the examinations. The pass rate over the past year remains within the normal range (Table 1). In 2016, the NDEB certified 1010 dentists.

Certification Process Pass Rate - 2016		
Examination	# of candidates	% pass
Written	1262	87
OSCE	1229	93

Table 1

### Equivalency Process

In 2016, 1093 individuals applied to participate in the NDEB Equivalency Process. The number of applications to the Equivalency Process has remained relatively consistent over the past four years (Figure 1)

The Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK), Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS), and Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ) were administered twice in 2016 in multiple centres across Canada, in New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Hong Kong. The pass rates for the assessments are shown in Table 2.

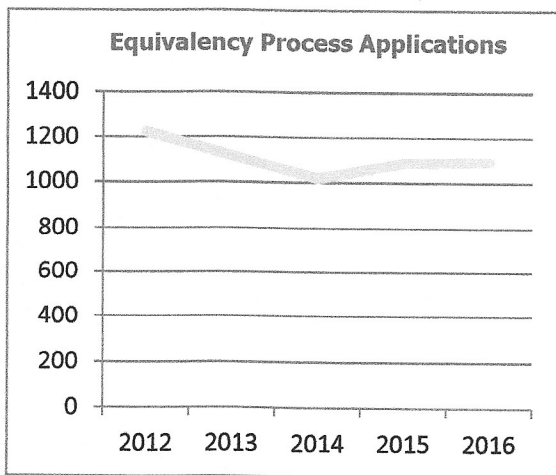


Figure 1

Equivalency Process Pass Rate - 2016		
Assessment	# of participants	% pass
AFK	1238	51
ACS*	373	39
ACJ*	358	76

\* June assessments only

Table 2

## DSCKE

Prior to 2016, the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE) was administered once a year. In 2016, the NDEB began administering the DSCKE twice a year at the NDEB office. This past year, participation in the DSCKE was slightly higher than in the past five years (Table 4). Combined, the February and September administrations had 25 participants. As in the past, the majority of the DSCKE participants specialize in orthodontics.

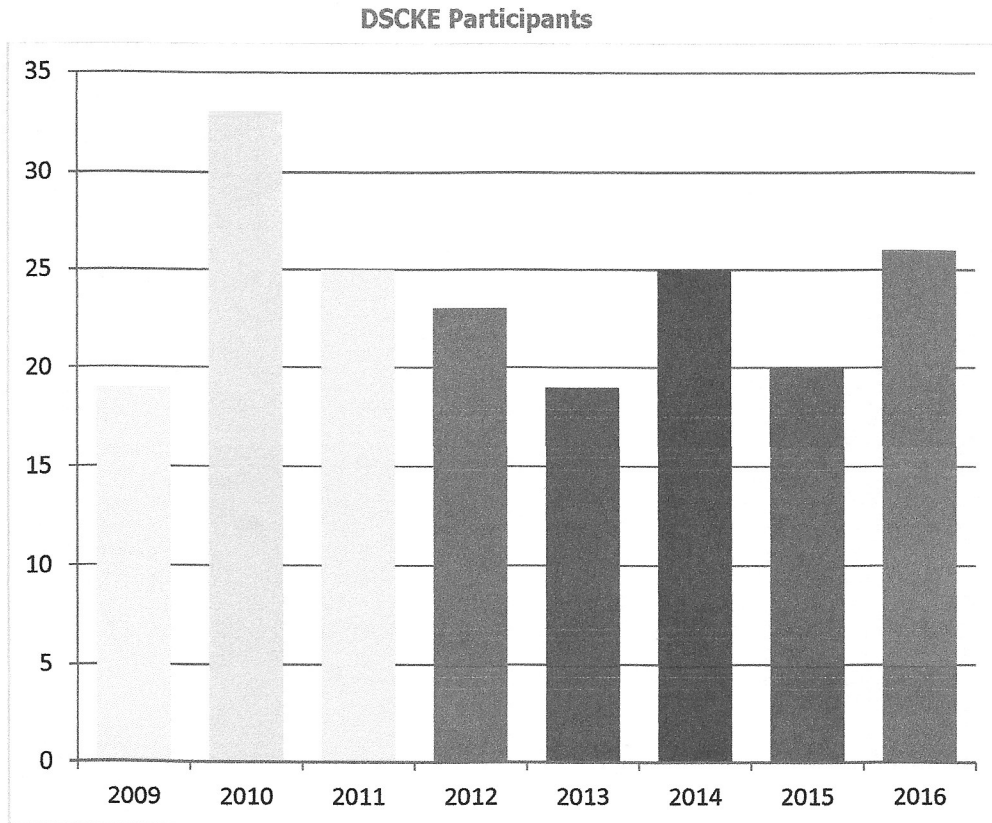


Table 4

<b>DSCKE Stats 2015 – 2016</b>		
<b>Administration</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
September 2015	65 – 86	73.5
February 2016	52 – 91	78.85
September 2016	64 – 95	80.5

Table 5