

## The New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations' policy

Date last reviewed	5 December 2011
Scheduled review	
Approved by	Council

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the eligibility criteria for sitting the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations is clear and transparent.

### Scope

This policy applies to the following New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations:

- a) New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)
- b) New Zealand Dental Specialist Registration Examinations (NZDSREX)
- c) New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examination (NZDTechREX)
- d) New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)
- e) New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examination (NZDTREX)

**Note: In the event that this policy or associated policy changes:** the Dental Council will inform all New Zealand Dental Registration Examination applicants of the policy changes that would potentially impact on them and/or any implementation grace period(s) in the revised policy that will be applied to registered applicants.

### Policy for all examinations EXCLUDING Specialist Examinations (NZDSREX)

#### 1. The examination components and passing criteria.

The examination comprises two components:

- a) Written examination; and
- b) Clinical examination.

An applicant will only be deemed successful in passing a New Zealand Dental Registration Examination when he or she has passed the written examination and passed the clinical examination.

#### 2. Eligibility criteria for the written examination:

To be eligible for entry to the written examination, applicants must satisfy each of the following minimum criteria:

- a) Provide satisfactory evidence of successful completion of an appropriate dental qualification at a recognised tertiary academic institution:

Examination	Dental qualifications
New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)	Five-year undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution
New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examinations (NZDTechREX)	Three-year dental technology qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution. Applicants who have completed a two-year qualification with appropriate subsequent experience may be admitted to the examination.
New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)	Two-year dental hygiene qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or successful completion of an undergraduate dental degree at a recognised tertiary academic institution.
New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examinations (NZDTREX)	Two-year dental therapy qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or an undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution.

- b) Be registered in your specific scope of practice and provide a certified copy of the registration certificate, including Certificates of Good Standing from relevant Boards/Councils where registration is, or has been held in the last seven years<sup>1</sup>. Certificates of Good Standing must be no more than three months old;
- (a) Appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003 (“the Act”)<sup>2</sup> and set out in the current Policy on Registration as an Oral Health Practitioner in New Zealand;
- (b) Demonstrate the ability to communicate and comprehend English to a level sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public – see the current Policy on English Competence and English Tests listed on the Dental Council website; and
- (c) Have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts as stipulated in the Attempts section below.

### 3. Eligibility criteria for the clinical examination

To be eligible to gain entry to the clinical examination, applicants must satisfy each of the following criteria:

- (a) Hold a current pass in the written examination;
- (b) Meet the requirement of the current Policy on English Competence and English tests;

<sup>1</sup> Where the profession in which the applicant was engaged was not a registered profession in the jurisdiction in which the applicant qualified and/or subsequently worked, then a Statutory Declaration of professional good standing would be required from the applicant.

<sup>2</sup> Council will not permit applicants to enter the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations who may not be eligible for registration. If an applicant does not appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Act, he or she will be directed to submit an application for registration to the Dental Council.

- (c) Provide a valid Hepatitis B and C report (requirements for a valid report can be found on the Dental Council website); and
- (d) Have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts and stipulated in the Attempts section below.

#### **4. Clinical examination priority**

The clinical examination can accommodate a limited number of applicants. If more applicants apply, the Dental Council gives priority, in the following order, to applicants who:

- (a) are new and have been declined a place once, or have failed and subsequently been declined a place twice (other than priority g);
- (b) have passed the written examination, in the first attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks;
- (c) have been exempted from the written examination;
- (d) have passed the written examination, but required more than one attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks;
- (e) have failed the clinical examination and subsequently been declined a place once;
- (f) have failed the clinical examination and are making their first application to re-sit;
- (g) are unable to demonstrate recent clinical experience, being a minimum of six months after graduation, within the past three years;
- (h) have transferred from the Australian Dental Council preliminary examination process;
- (i) have failed and been advised of the desirability of retraining before resitting.

#### **5. Attempts**

Applicants have a maximum of three opportunities to pass **both** the written and clinical examinations collectively within three years from the date of first sitting the written examination.

- The above principle will also apply for any Australian Dental Registration Examination component failure(s) and will therefore be deemed as a failed attempt(s) of the respective examination components.

After two failed attempts Council strongly advises an applicant to undertake a course of re-training prior to commencing the third attempt.

#### **6. Withdrawals – a fee will apply**

If an applicant decides to withdraw from any of the components, a withdrawal fee will apply. These fees will be published on the Dental Council website.

#### **7. Australian Dental Council (ADC) transfers**

Applicants are allowed to transfer from the ADC registration process. Those applicants will have to comply fully with all sections of the current New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations' policy(ies)

## 8. Time limits on applications

Who	What
All applicants	Have three years from the date of first sitting the written examination to pass both components.  If the applicant fails to pass the written and clinical examination components within the three-year period they will not be eligible for registration in New Zealand through the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations Pathway.
Applicants for assessment of eligibility for enrolment in the written examination	Applications are valid for the next available examination session only.  If an applicant does not sit the first available written examination, or fails to pass the examination, they will be required to submit a new application for assessment of eligibility in order to enrol for and sit the next available written examination session.
Applicants for assessment of eligibility for enrolment in the clinical examination	Applications are valid only for the next available examination session when the applicant has been granted a place in that session.  If an applicant is declined a place in the next available session, or fails to pass the examination, they will be required to submit a new application for assessment of eligibility in order to enrol for and sit the next available clinical examination session.

## 9. An English test pass will be valid for two or three years

A pass in a Dental Council approved English test is valid for two years for new applications or three years for those repeat registration examination candidates who can demonstrate, if required, that they have continuously lived and worked in a country where English is the first language.

### Policy for Specialist Examinations (NZDSREX) ONLY

#### 1. The examination components and passing criteria

The Specialist Registration Examination consists of five sections:

- (a) Written Examination which establishes whether a candidate has an adequate understanding of the scientific basis of a specialty and can apply that knowledge to clinical situations;
- (b) Case presentations where applicants are required to submit documentation of a number of specific cases relating to their specialty;
- (c) Clinical examination;
- (d) Oral examination; and
- (e) Evaluation of the candidates research skills.

All sections of the exam must be passed to pass the NZSDREX examination. No partial passes are awarded.

## 2. Attempts

Candidates will be permitted one attempt at the specialist examination.

## 3. Eligibility criteria for the NZDSREX

- (a) A three-year postgraduate dental qualification in the specialty from a recognised tertiary academic institution. Applicants who have completed a two year qualification with appropriate subsequent experience may be admitted to the examination. Council also requires applicants to possess an appropriate level of knowledge and skills of general dental practice. Council will be satisfied on this account where an applicant:
- i) possess a prescribed qualification for registration in the general dental scope of practice (which includes a pass in the NZDREX general dental practice examination) or are registered in the general scope of dental practice; or
  - ii) has met any general examination or assessment requirements set by Council such as sitting and passing all or part of the NZDREX general dental examination or any other Council approved examination or assessment.
- (b) An applicant should provide evidence of his/her competence to practise in the specialist scope by providing proof that he/she has:
- i) practised in the specialty to the required level in the last three years; and
  - ii) has undertaken appropriate Continuing Professional Development within the last three years.
- (c) Evidence of research undertaken by the applicant is required and may be assessed either as part of the admission to the specialist examination or as part of the examination process.
- (d) Appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of Act3 and set out in Council's Policy on the Registration as an Oral Health Practitioner in New Zealand.
- (e) Demonstrate the ability to communicate and comprehend English to a level sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public i.e. Meet the requirement(s) as stipulated in the current Policy on English Competence and English Tests listed on the Dental Council website.
- (f) Provide a valid Hepatitis B and C report (requirements for a valid report can be found on the Dental Council website).

## References

1. Policy on Registration and an Oral Health Practitioner in New Zealand.
2. Policy on English Language Competence and Tests.
3. Dental Council website [www.dcnz.org.nz](http://www.dcnz.org.nz) for information on Hepatitis B and C reports, current examination fees etc.

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<sup>3</sup> Council will not permit applicants to enter the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations who may not be eligible for registration. If an applicant does not appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Act, he or she will be directed to submit an application for registration to the Dental Council.