



A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

Dental Student Newsletter

[www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org)

Fall 2021



## Why Choose WREB?

**We realize you have a choice when it comes to testing agencies. WREB wants to be your choice!**

**Multiple exam formats**

WREB offers the Dental exam in a variety of formats including patient and manikin. See *Examination Overview* section of this newsletter for more information.

**Extensive exam preparation**

WREB is the first, and only, dental testing agency to offer unlimited attempts at an exam preparation test for both the Dental and CTP Candidate Guides.

**Provisional Acceptance**

Our provisional acceptance process allows candidates to have Operative patients radiographically accepted by Grading Examiners prior to the exam at participating sites.

**\*Preliminary results available onsite**

Onsite electronic scoring improves the exam process and detailed results for any **graded** sections will be posted to candidate profiles on [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) at the end of each exam day.

**\*Onsite retake session available at every exam**

WREB is the only testing agency that offers complimentary onsite retakes (absent of a critical error) in Operative Simulation, Endodontics, Periodontal Treatment (patient or manikin), and Prosthodontics.

**Professional liability coverage**

WREB provides candidates with professional liability coverage with the limit amount of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 at no charge for the duration of the examination.

**Extensive licensure portability with conveniently located sites scheduled throughout the year**

WREB offers over 25 exams to choose from and is always expanding. We work closely with our sites to ensure a smooth exam experience.

**Simple online registration and payment**

Visit **WREB.org** to find site information and quickly register and pay both exam and host sites fees.

**Friendly and responsive staff**

Our WREB office and onsite staff are here to serve! We understand and quickly respond to student and faculty needs.

\*Pending COVID-19 protocols at individual exam locations.

**It's the little things that often make the biggest difference.**

## Examination Overviews

Below is a brief overview of the various examinations administered by WREB. The CTP, Endodontic, and Operative sections are required to successfully complete the WREB Exam.

You may also elect to complete the Prosthodontics and Periodontics sections if the state(s) to which you are applying for licensure requires them. Please note that results for all attempted sections, required or elective, will be reported to state boards.

### Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP)

CTP is a computer-based, examiner-graded section that requires candidates to review three patient cases and create treatment plans, construct responses to questions, and perform tasks (e.g., write prescriptions). CTP requires a broad understanding of diagnosis, prevention, restoration, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, oral surgery, radiology, pediatric dentistry, and patient-management procedures. Failure can result if a candidate commits a critical error, i.e., constructs a response that could result in life-threatening harm, e.g., administering more than the upper limit of a safe dose of local anesthetic to a pediatric patient.

### Operative Dentistry

#### *Dental Operative Exam – Patient-Based*

The patient format requires a Class II restoration to be completed. The restoration can be one (1) of the following:

- Direct Posterior Class II Composite Restoration (MO, DO, or MOD)
- Direct Posterior Class II Amalgam Restoration (MO, DO, or MOD)

A second procedure, if required, may be any of the following:

- Direct Posterior Class II Composite Restoration (MO, DO, or MOD)
- Direct Posterior Class II Amalgam Restoration (MO, DO, or MOD)
- A Direct Anterior Class III Composite Restoration (ML, DL, MF, DF)

#### *Dental Operative Exam – Manikin-Based*

The manikin format involves performing a Class II (composite or amalgam) and a Class III composite restoration on a posterior tooth and anterior tooth, respectively. The teeth for preparation have simulated caries, a DEJ, dentin, enamel, and a pulp chamber. The exam will involve limited radiographic interpretation and the depth of the simulated caries will require candidates to modify their preparations. As in the patient format, modifications will be initially reviewed by a Floor Examiner. Both preparation and restoration will be accomplished with full clinical simulation and with rubber-dam isolation.

### Endodontics Simulation

The Endodontics section is a performance-based, examiner-graded clinical simulation examination. Candidates must perform two endodontic procedures on simulated teeth mounted in a segmented arch within a manikin that is positioned to simulate working on a patient. The teeth, scanned from human teeth and produced via 3-D printing, replicate internal and external anatomy, including polymer hardness for enamel, dentin, and pulp tissue. The anterior tooth procedure requires treatment of a maxillary central incisor, including access, instrumentation and obturation. The posterior tooth procedure requires access of a mandibular first molar tooth. Access of the posterior tooth must enable grading examiners to identify all canal orifices. Candidates are also required to provide post-operative radiographic images for examiner grading.

### Prosthodontics Simulation

The Prosthodontics section is a performance-based, examiner-graded clinical simulation examination. Candidates complete two prosthodontic procedures (three preparations) on simulated teeth in a mounted articulator and manikin that is positioned to simulate working on a patient. Candidates are required to prepare an anterior tooth for a full-coverage crown and prepare two abutments to support a posterior three-unit fixed partial denture prosthesis (i.e., bridge). The three-unit bridge must have a path of insertion that allows full seating of the restoration.

### Periodontics

#### ***Periodontics Exam – Patient-Based***

The patient format involves scaling and root planning on a patient with a minimum of eight (8) surfaces of readily demonstrable subgingival calculus.

#### ***Periodontics Exam – Manikin-Based***

The simulation format will not involve qualifying a patient but will involve the removal of subgingival calculus on teeth in an assigned quadrant mounted in a manikin to simulate performing the procedure on a patient. WREB has worked to develop a realistically colored calculus for the simulation. Grading criteria and scoring for the removal of calculus are as published for performance of the same task on a patient.

## Exam Preparation

Getting ready to take the WREB dental competency exam is an exciting and stressful time in the life of a dental candidate. WREB recognizes the importance of the exam to candidates and goes to great lengths to help candidates prepare for the exam.

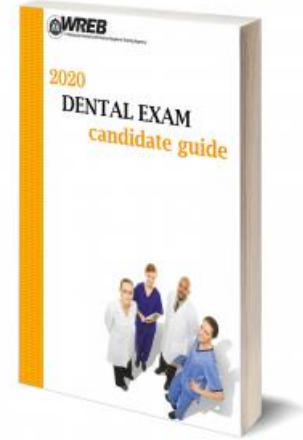
**Candidate guides:** All the necessary information about WREB policies, criteria, and procedures for the exams.

**Multiple Online Tutorials:** Valuable insight into the clinical examination process, used in conjunction with the respective candidate guides.

**Candidate guide prep test:** WREB is the first, and only, dental testing agency to offer an exam preparation test on the Dental Exam and CTP candidate guides. The Test Run platform is available to any registered dental candidate and offers unlimited attempts to take the prep tests.

**Pre-Exam Webinars:** WREB conducts pre-exam webinars to review exam protocols and procedures and includes a Q&A session with a Chief Examiner to address any last-minute concerns prior to the exam.

**Clinic tour:** Conducted by a representative of the host school, allows candidates to familiarize themselves with equipment, supplies, etc. prior to exam day.



## Save Time with Provisional Acceptance

The provisional acceptance process allows candidates to have Operative patients radiographically accepted by Grading Examiners prior to the exam. Shorter patient lines, peace of mind, and time savings are all benefits of the process. Candidates at participating sites submitted their operative preparations almost 30 minutes earlier, on average, than at sites without provisional acceptance.

Some important reminders about the process:

- ✓ Candidates should be aware of the provisional acceptance window for their site and ensure submission during the window. Once the window closes, additional submissions are not allowed. A listing of participating sites and their windows can be found at [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) under *Exam Preparation*.
- ✓ Patients rejected during provisional acceptance can be resubmitted at the exam for the same diagnosis. If resubmitted at the site, these patients will go through the traditional acceptance process that requires two (2) Examiners to reject. They will therefore be subject to the rejection penalty if not accepted.
- ✓ If you use a different patient other than one that was provisionally accepted, there is no penalty for a new patient at the exam site. If you are submitting a new patient in the place of a provisionally accepted patient, please note this on the worksheet as instructed.
- ✓ Starting at 7:30 a.m., Floor Examiners will be available to review Patient Medical History forms and approve provisionally accepted patients who meet clinical acceptance criteria.

**Special COVID-19 Considerations for 2022:** WREB will only offer provisional acceptance at exams with over 30 enrollments on live patients. In addition, please check with the school ahead of time regarding the acceptance of patient-based exams.

## Onsite Provisional Results and Retakes

### **Onsite Provisional Results**

Provisional results for any **graded** sections will be posted at the end of each exam day. At most sites, results are posted by 6:00pm. It is important that you save your login and password as they are needed to access your results. Detailed results for any completed sections will be posted to candidate portals online. These results will allow you to make decisions for how best to use your remaining exam days.

### **Onsite Retakes**

Candidates with a failing result in Operative Simulation, Endodontics, Prosthodontics, or Periodontal Treatment (patient or manikin) may have an opportunity to retake the failed section onsite at the same exam at no additional fee. Onsite retakes are scheduled for the last day of the exam. Onsite retakes for Periodontal Treatment (patient format) are not pre-scheduled and can be completed any time during open clinic following receipt of provisional results.

Candidates that have certain validated critical errors are not eligible for onsite retake. **No onsite retakes are available for the Operative Patient format.**

## Official Exam Results

### **After the Exam - Official Exam Results**

Once the exam is over and exam materials are received at the WREB office, (usually two days following the last clinic day), WREB staff reviews exam information and double-checks all results. Various quality assurance measures are taken to ensure results are thoroughly verified and accurately reported. Like preliminary results, official results are also posted to your profile at wreb.org. These final exam results are also posted to our State Board portal for authorized state board personnel to access.

### **FAQs about Score Requests**

#### **How do I get my scores after the exam?**

*Candidates are sent an email from WREB to the candidate email address provided at the time of application. It is important to notify WREB of any email changes. The email will provide notification to log into your profile to review your results. It is suggested that you print a copy of your official results for your records.*

#### **What does my state board want me to send them?**

*This is a question for the state board where you plan to apply for licensure. Since every state board has their own set of criteria, it is best for you to check with them before ordering scores from WREB.*

**How do I request that my scores be sent to a state board?**

Using Google Chrome as your browser –navigate to [wreb.org](http://wreb.org) (home page) and click on the “Request Scores” button in the middle of the page. Complete the information requested and choose the report required by your state board. Next, enter the information where you would like the score report sent. You may request the report be sent directly to you or to a state board. Please note: some states accept emails directly from WREB, so they will receive your scores the same day they are processed. For state boards that only accept hard copies, you can select expedited shipping for quicker, trackable mailings.

**How much does it cost to get a copy of my scores?**

Prices for reports vary. Information is available on [wreb.org](http://wreb.org) and click on the “Request Scores.”

**What forms of payment do you accept for score requests?**

WREB accepts Discover, Visa, or Master Card credit and debit cards. Requests must be submitted online. Payments cannot be processed over the phone.

**What is an Individual Performance Report?**

The Individual Performance Report is the most detailed information we can provide. It provides your detailed scores per section taken.

**How long does it take to process my request for scores?**

Once our office receives your request, it is date stamped and processed in the order it was received. The turn-around time for requests can be up to ten (10) days depending on the volume of the requests received. Once your request has been processed, it is sent to the destination you specify by USPS or expedited shipping, if requested, or emailed to those state boards that accept emails from WREB.



## Examination Integrity

by Sharon Osborn Popp, Ph.D., WREB Testing Specialist/Psychometrician

The line between appropriate and inappropriate test preparation practices seems to have gotten blurrier in recent years. The best test preparation approach is to have a strong command of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to be successful on the examination and enter professional practice. Unfortunately, the pressures associated with high-stakes tests can lead some people to be tempted by short-cut preparation approaches that they may not even realize are unethical or unlawful, including memorizing or sharing confidential, unreleased test questions. Here are a few reasons why you should avoid inappropriate test preparation practices:

### Reason #1: Examination Outcome

If the examining agency obtains evidence that a Candidate may have engaged in unethical test preparation activity, it can invalidate that Candidate's score and prohibit the Candidate from taking the examination again. All WREB Candidates must agree to not disclose test questions or other examination-related materials. Any evidence that suggests a violation of this agreement can lead to score invalidation.

### Reason #2: The Profession

Evidence of unethical test preparation can lead to review by the licensing entity in the state(s) in which a Candidate hopes to practice. Professional licensing entities protect the public and the profession by determining that individuals are qualified and ready to enter practice. Unethical test preparation undermines the validity of the examination and the licensure process.

### Reason #3: The Law

Sharing or using unreleased questions and asking others to share unreleased questions is against federal copyright law, which protects examinations and related intellectual property. If someone tries to sell or share "real" test questions with you, they have either obtained them illegally or they may not actually have "real" questions. If the questions are authentic, you risk becoming a party to criminal activity. If the questions are not authentic, you may be wasting time and money reviewing test preparation materials of dubious quality. If someone asks you to share information from an examination, you should not agree to reveal the specific content or context of confidential test questions.

You may share whether you felt the exam was challenging or not, whether you felt prepared or not, or how you felt about general topic areas from the exam.

Engaging in inappropriate test preparation can jeopardize your test results, your professional status, and your legal status. Test preparation that focuses on knowing the test content, not memorizing specific test questions, is always the best way to prepare.

## Should Someone Else Choose Your Patient?

Not only is finding a patient the most important part of your exam, it can also be the most frustrating. Patient selection is one of the most troubling aspects of any clinical examination. Start reviewing your patient needs early, making sure you have diagnostically clear radiographs that accurately detail the lesions you plan on submitting for treatment. Lesions should be to and/or through the DEJ. Do not submit if you have a question. Remember, if you would not normally diagnose this lesion for treatment, you should not submit it for the examination.

One related issue is the presence of patient procurement agencies. These hire-for-profit organizations claim to have patients pre-screened and acceptable for board exams. They hawk their wares at exam sites



for those who are frantically searching for a patient. They may imply that they have a relationship with WREB or special knowledge of WREB requirements. They do not. WREB does not endorse these companies, nor does it want them on the premises during any of our board exams. They will charge you a premium price for a patient who may not even be acceptable. They don't issue refunds. Each year there are candidates who encounter serious issues with "procured" patients who make unreasonable financial or other demands. WREB criteria are designed so that students should be able to use patients of record that they

would see in a normal treatment sequence. It is generally not necessary to search outside your own patient pool. If you are taking an exam in another city, it may be necessary to obtain an outside patient. If so, candidates have been finding patients through friends, school clinics, homeless shelters, and occasionally, an employee at a school! Work in groups to secure patients - it may be the answer to providing secondary patients, if needed.

The key is that you are the one to screen the patient after thoroughly studying the WREB Dental candidate guide. *You* are the best person to choose the best patient. Do not relinquish your clinical judgment to someone who has no stake in passing the exam. It is your future, so make these critical decisions for yourself.



## Advice from Past WREB Candidates

### Dental Clinical Exam

- Use the resources available on wreb.org to help prepare for the exam including the videos, tutorials and candidate guide practice tests.
- Read the Candidate Guide thoroughly and have a printed guide with you during the exam for reference.
- Practice on simulated Acidental teeth ahead of time to get a feel for them.
- Make sure you select patients that meet ALL acceptance criteria – not only the “ideal” lesion but medical history, opposing dentition, patient reliability, etc.
- Become familiar with the exam site, including what shrouds they use, handpieces, etc.
- Take advantage of the School Tour if offered.
- Have a good understanding of the modification request process for the Operative exam.
- Don’t be afraid to ask the Floor Examiners questions.
- Practice good time management – keep calm and breath!

### CTP Exam

- Use the resources available on wreb.org to help prepare for the exam including the videos, tutorials and candidate guide practice tests.
- Practice writing treatment plans and prescriptions.
- Prometric sites fill up fast – book your exam early!
- Ensure you have the appropriate eyewear to see images and radiographs clearly.
- Practice good time management and if needed, mark a question for review to look at later.

## Advice from WREB Staff

- Contact the State Dental Board where you will be seeking licensure to determine what exam procedures are required.
- Take advantage of all the Exam Preparation materials available on wreb.org.
- Direct all exam questions, requests and changes to [dentalinfo@wreb.org](mailto:dentalinfo@wreb.org).
- Exam schedules will be available in your online portal on wreb.org approximately four weeks prior to the exam.



**Prometric Testing Centers**

The CTP section of the WREB Dental exam is computer-based and is administered at Prometric Testing Centers throughout the country. Prometric enforces stringent inspections of questionable items and accessories, such as eyeglasses and jewelry. This preventative measure seeks to eliminate the potential for devices that could capture exam content in compromising the integrity of the examination.

Candidates are encouraged to leave any questionable items at home or in a secure locker onsite to avoid entry delays or risk forfeiture of their WREB CTP examination attempt.



The following items will be inspected more thoroughly prior to admission and re-entry into the secure testing area:

Items subject to close visual inspection:	Items to LEAVE at Home or in Locker provided:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyeglasses (removed for inspection)</li> <li>• Wedding and engagement rings</li> <li>• Earrings</li> <li>• Facial piercing jewelry (i.e. labret studs)</li> <li>• Hair accessories (i.e. clips, barrettes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunglasses</li> <li>• Ornate hair accessories (i.e. clips, combs, barrettes, headbands)</li> <li>• Watch or wearable technology</li> <li>• Cell phone</li> </ul>

If a candidate is caught with a camera or other capture device in their possession...

- Prior to entering the testing room, the item will be confiscated, and the test attempt forfeited.
- While in the testing room, the item will be confiscated, and the exam terminated.

Prometric strives to provide all test takers the "opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities" by ensuring "a fair and professional testing environment." Refer to the Prometric website for more information, Frequently Asked Questions and COVID-19 testing center updates.

**WREB Dental Department****WREB staff wants you to succeed, and we are here to help!**

It's always helpful to put a face to a name. When you receive correspondence from WREB, there's a real person behind it. Toni Jones oversees all dental exam operations. Exams are assigned to one of the dental coordinators who expertly prepare all exam materials and correspond with Schools, Examiners, and Candidates.



**Toni Jones**  
Director of Dental Operations



**Joan Diercks**  
Sr. Dental Coordinator



**Elizabeth Deer**  
Dental Assistant Coordinator



**Evonne LaVigne**  
Dental Exam Coordinator



**Cheri Watson**  
Dental Exam Coordinator

**2022 Exam Schedule**

Registration for select 2022 exams has begun! Please visit our website or click on this link: <https://wreb.org/dental-candidates/dental-exam-schedule/> to view the most current schedule complete with Exam Locations, Dates, Registration Dates and Deadlines.