



**WREB**

A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

2022

Dental Hygiene  
Objective Structured Clinical  
Examination (OSCE)

Candidate Guide





The Mission of WREB is to develop and administer competency assessments for state agencies that license dental professionals.

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## GENERAL EXAMINATION POLICIES

The following information and policies apply to all WREB exam types unless otherwise noted.

### Philosophy Statement

The WREB examination (exam) has been developed, administered, and reviewed in accordance with applicable guidelines from the American Dental Association, the American Association of Dental Boards, the American Psychological Association, the National Council on Measurement in Education and the American Educational Research Association. The exams were developed to provide a reliable clinical assessment for state dental licensing agencies' use in making valid licensing decisions.

WREB seeks educational diversity in the makeup of the exam review committees, including practitioners and educators from across the member states who evaluate test content and develop the scoring criteria.

### WREB Examination Security and Identification Verification

You **MUST** present acceptable and valid identification (ID), as described below, in order to be admitted to a WREB Local Anesthesia, Dental Hygiene or Restorative examination. If you have questions about the following identification requirements, contact the WREB Dental Hygiene Department **before** attending the exam.

During the exam registration process, you submit a personal photo. This becomes a component of your individual Candidate Profile at WREB and will be included on all score reports to schools and state licensing boards. Your profile photo is used to create an individual Candidate ID Badge for the exam. Your profile photo and identification verification document will be validated at the exam site by WREB personnel. Identification must be verified prior to admittance to any WREB Candidate Question and Answer (Q&A) Session and Written and Clinical examinations.

At the examination, you must appear in person and provide **two (2) original, valid, non-expired forms of identification; one of which must be primary, and one may be secondary.** All forms of identification must indicate the same name that was submitted to the WREB office during registration.

Primary IDs must display your name, photo and signature. Acceptable forms of valid primary ID are:

- Government-issued driver's license
- Passport
- Military ID
- Alien registration card
- Government-issued ID
- Employee ID
- School ID (must have either an expiration date and be current or have a current date of school year)

Secondary IDs must display your name and signature. Acceptable forms of valid secondary ID are:

- Social Security card
- Bank credit card
- Bank ATM card
- Library card

Admittance to the examination does not imply that the identification you presented was valid. If it is determined that your ID was fraudulent or otherwise invalid, WREB will report to the appropriate governing agencies or board any Candidate or other individual who has misreported information or altered documentation in order to fraudulently attempt an examination.

## **Examination Policies**

1. The WREB Candidate ID Badge, provided at the exam site, must be worn and remain visible during the examination. The badge cannot be worn outside the exam site and must be surrendered upon completion of your examination at each site. Official exam results will be withheld if the badge is not returned upon exam completion.

At any time during the examination, you may be asked and should be prepared to present your primary ID and WREB Candidate ID Badge to a School Coordinator, Site Coordinator or Chief Examiner.

2. Electronic devices are not to be activated or used by you during any aspect of the examination. This includes but is not limited to, smart phones, watches or devices that can photograph, record, or transmit a signal.
3. You may not wear earplugs or any type of listening device during any aspect of the Written examination.
4. WREB does not sponsor nor endorse examination preparation courses. You bear all risk for any misunderstanding resulting from the use of or reliance on unofficial information or material.

## **Testing Candidates with Disabilities**

The WREB examination is designed to provide an equal opportunity for all Candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and clinical abilities. The examination is administered to accurately reflect an individual's aptitude, or other skills measured by the examination, rather than an individual's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, except where those skills are the factors the examination purports to measure.

WREB makes every reasonable effort to accommodate persons with disabilities. If special accommodations or alternate arrangements are required, WREB will attempt to make the necessary provisions, unless providing such would fundamentally alter the measurement of skills and knowledge the examination is intended to test, would result in an undue burden, or would provide an unfair advantage to the Candidate with a disability.

The appropriate professional (physician, psychologist, etc.) must complete Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the *Special Accommodations Request Form* obtained on the *Policies & Procedures* page from the WREB website, specifying what special accommodation is requested and attesting to the need for the accommodation. This must be received in the WREB office no less than 45 days prior to the examination.

WREB reserves the right to authorize the use of any modifications in such a way as to maintain the integrity and security of the examination.

## **Remediation**

Candidates who have multiple unsuccessful examination attempts are required to obtain remediation in the areas of deficiency prior to receiving permission to re-attempt an exam. For more information, refer to the appropriate remediation policy available on the *Policies & Procedures* page of the WREB website.

WREB policy requires remediation after the following:

- Three (3) unsuccessful attempt(s) of the Interim Dental Hygiene Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and/or the standard Dental Hygiene Clinical Examination, if applicable.

Prior to beginning the remediation process, Candidates are encouraged to contact their state board or licensing agency for clarification regarding additional remediation requirements or acceptable programs.

## **Irregularities and Appeals**

The purpose of the WREB Exam is to provide dental licensing boards with information regarding the Candidate's competence in performing certain sampled skills that comprise part of the domain of skills needed to safely practice dentistry (dental hygiene) at an entry level. Accordingly, all Candidates are expected to pass the WREB Exam on their own merit without assistance.

An irregularity is a situation that raises a question regarding whether exam results are valid and accurately reflect the skills and abilities of a Candidate.

For example, such questions could arise when:

- unauthorized assistance occurs,
- there is evidence of the presence of an exam administration irregularity,
- there is disruption of exam administration, including by natural disasters and other emergencies, or
- there is any other information indicating that exam results might not be valid.

When an irregularity occurs, results for the Candidate(s) are withheld or voided. The Candidate is notified in writing and provided with information regarding WREB's Appeals Policy. Results remain withheld or voided pending WREB investigation of the irregularity or resolution of the corresponding appeal. If WREB determines that withholding or voiding results is not warranted, then results will be released. If an appeal is denied or no appeal is filed, then exam results for the involved Candidate(s) could remain withheld or voided and other remedies imposed.

WREB will void previously released exam results when there is a reasonable and good faith basis to do so and will notify the parties to whom the results have been released.

WREB attempts to conduct the investigation of any irregularity in a professional, fair, objective, and, insofar as possible, a confidential manner. However, WREB considers irregularities, other than natural disasters or emergencies beyond the control of the Candidate, to be a serious breach of the examination process that may have consequences beyond the withholding or voiding of results as, for example, may occur if information surfaces during investigation or is brought to the attention of school authorities or regulatory agencies by other sources.

A Candidate may elect to appeal their results upon failure of the examination. Prior to contacting the WREB office, visit the *Appeals Process* section of the *Policies & Procedures* page of the WREB website for information regarding the appellate process.

## **Dismissal for Improper Performance or Unethical Conduct**

Dismissal, failure of the examination or a reduction in an examination score may result from improper performance or unethical conduct (relative to procedural skills, professional judgment, or both as defined below).

**Improper Performance** includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure to adhere to examination site protocol for social distancing and infection prevention, if applicable.
- Failure to adhere to published WREB guidelines.
- Unprofessional, unkempt, or unclean appearance.
- Rude, abusive, uncooperative, or disruptive behavior.

**Unethical Conduct** includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying test information from another Candidate.
- Disseminating written test item information to other Candidates, individuals, or agencies.
- Receiving coaching from anyone during the examination.
- Using unauthorized aids or reference material(s) during the examination.
- Any conduct that compromises the standards of professional behavior or care.
- Falsification of an examination application.
- Discrepancy in identification or attempted falsification of identification.
- Dishonesty.

If a Candidate is found to have engaged in Improper Performance or Unethical Conduct prior to, during or after the examination, WREB reserves the right to take any reasonable action WREB deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, reporting the Candidate to (i) the various state licensing boards, (ii) the Candidate's school, (iii) other dental or dental hygiene testing organizations, or (iv) other professional organizations.

If a Candidate engages in improper performance or unethical conduct, the Candidate must obtain permission from the WREB Board of Directors before retaking the exam at a later date.

### **WREB Contact Information**

The WREB office is the only official source for examination information. Questions regarding WREB procedures and policies should be addressed to the WREB office and not to schools, state boards, state board members, or Examiners.

WREB Dental Hygiene Department

Phone: 623-209-5400, Option 2

Fax: 602-371-8131

E-mail: [hygieneinfo@wreb.org](mailto:hygieneinfo@wreb.org)

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

### **Licensing Information**

To determine if a state accepts the Interim WREB Dental Hygiene Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), please contact the individual state board directly. Visit the *About Us* page of the WREB website for state board contact information.

# PREPARING FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE OSCE EXAMINATION

## General Information

The Interim WREB Dental Hygiene Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), is a multiple-choice written examination that assesses the multi-faceted components of dental hygiene care. This is a comprehensive overview of dental hygiene knowledge that a clinician should possess to safely treat a Patient in a clinical setting.

Multiple choice items are discipline based. Each item has only one correct response. Approximately 5% of test questions are field-test questions that will not be scored.

Multiple test forms are used to ensure the integrity and security of the examination. To address any possible variation in difficulty level among the various examination forms, equating procedures are used to ensure that Candidates of comparable competency will be equally likely to pass the examination.

**Examination Schedules.** Approximately three-weeks prior to the exam you will receive your individual test session schedule.

## Examination Content

Categories	Percentage
Medical History	13%
Risk Assessment	12%
Extraoral and Intraoral Examination	6%
Periodontal Assessment	30%
Dental Hygiene Treatment and Care Plan	20%
Instrumentation	19%

### Medical History

Medical history interpretation, recognition of systemic conditions (i.e. diabetes, autoimmune diseases) blood pressure guidelines, HbA1c values, and chief complaint.

### Risk Assessment

Prevention, recognition and management of possible complications, and risk factors (smoking, caries). ASA Classification of Disease.

### Extraoral and Intraoral Assessment

Rationale for completing an assessment, recognition of normal and atypical conditions; including proper recording and documentation. Candidates will assess intraoral findings utilizing images and test items.

### Periodontal Assessment

Application of 2017 AAP guidelines for Staging and Grading, periodontal and peri-implant diseases, and conditions (modifying and non-modifying). Identification and classification of furcation and mobility, generalized and localized conditions, clinical attachment, and utilization of local anesthesia during non-surgical periodontal therapy.

Assessment of periodontal probe measurements utilizing intraoral images. Candidates must be familiar with the University of North Carolina (UNC) 1-12 mm periodontal probe.

### Dentition Evaluation

Recognition of factors contributing to occlusal trauma. Etiologies of abscesses.



### **Radiographic Interpretation**

Identifying severity and types of interproximal radiographic bone loss. Candidates will assess radiographic findings utilizing images.

### **Dental Hygiene Treatment and Care Plan**

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis and rationale, recommendation, and implementation of treatment (dental hygiene care plan, non-surgical periodontal therapy, surgical phase). Recommendation of interdental aids, desensitizing agents, fluoride, and tooth whitening. Assessment and documentation of outcomes and proper referral.

### **Instrumentation**

Basic instrumentation and ultrasonic technique (correct adaptation, activation). Correct power settings, cavitation of power units. Implementation and rationale for implant scalers (types) air and rubber cup polishing.

Self-assessment and management of tissue during dental hygiene treatment.

### **Sample Test Items**

#### **Intraoral**

1. Identify the condition located on the gingiva apical to #30.

- A. Localized trauma
- B. Aphthous ulcer
- C. Oral Herpetic lesion
- D. Fistula

Answer: D

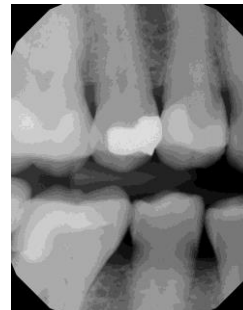


#### **Radiographic Interpretation**

1. Evaluate the upper right premolars.  
What type of interproximal bone loss is present?

- A. No bone loss
- B. Horizontal
- C. Vertical
- D. Horizontal and Vertical

Answer: B



#### **Dental Hygiene Care Plan**

1. What is the goal of non-surgical periodontal therapy?
  - A. Control of biofilm, mechanical irritants
  - B. Comprehensive assessment of the periodontium
  - C. Mechanical removal of biofilm and calculus
  - D. Improve tissue health and use of interdental aid

Answer: A

## Instrumentation

1. Cementum can be altered by which of the following?
  - A. Interproximal over angulation of the probe
  - B. Clinical migration of the epithelial attachment
  - C. Incorrect adaptation of scaling instruments

Answer: C

2. Evaluate #19 Facial.  
What is the correct probe measurement?

- A. 2mm
- B. 3mm
- C. 4mm

Answer: B



## Examination Results

Examination results are scaled so that 100 points is the maximum possible score. A final score of 75.00 or higher is required to pass the examination.

It is WREB policy to notify Candidates via email once official examination results are available, generally within 72 hours of exam completion. However, the timing for receiving results may be delayed in the earliest part of the examination season. A sufficient quantity of data must be collected to confirm the adequacy of equating, which ensures fairness across multiple test forms. Once equated, official results will be provided via email.

**Examination Retakes.** Eligible Candidates may apply online for a retake examination via the WREB website.

## Social Distancing and Infection Prevention Protocol

Preventing infection by COVID-19 that may arise from airborne transmission or contact with potentially virulent surfaces is critical to ensuring the safety of candidates, school personnel, examiners, and agency personnel during examination and examination-related activities. Protocols must be followed to ensure that a) individuals participating in the examination are sufficiently distant from each other at all times, b) individuals use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, and c) materials and surfaces remain clean and disinfected.

The exam site host (school) provides expendable materials for Candidate use during the examination i.e. masks, hand sanitizer, necessary barriers, etc. The school is responsible for any deviation from this list. Materials provided are the brands used by the school. If you wish to use a specific brand, you must bring it with you.

## Day of the Exam

### Exam Procedures

Arrive onsite and be prepared thirty (30) minutes prior to your scheduled test session to accommodate check-in procedures. Time extensions are not permitted; arrive early.

You **MUST** present acceptable and valid identification (ID), as described, in order to be admitted to the examination. You will be provided with your Candidate ID Badge prior to entrance, assigned an iPad and be directed to your test area.

- Prior to entry, you will be required to raise your pants legs above your ankles, empty and turn all pockets inside-out, and raise shirt sleeves above your wrists. Eyewear, hair accessories and ties are subject to inspection. Violation of security protocol may result in the confiscation of prohibited devices and termination of your exam.
- No personal items are permitted in the testing room. Personal items include cellular phones, cameras, hand-held computers, PDAs or other electronic devices, pagers, watches, wallets, purses, hats, bags, coats, books, and notes.
- Breaks are not permitted, under any circumstances, during the examination. If you leave the testing room prior to completion, your examination will end immediately.
- A WREB representative will assign you to a workstation and log you on to the computer which starts the exam.
- **Countdown Clock.** On screen clock displays time remaining for each section.
  - **Introduction.** You have up to two (2) minutes to review the introduction.

- **Terms and Conditions.** You have up to three (3) minutes to review and accept the non-disclosure terms and conditions. Refusal to accept the terms and conditions within the allotted time will result in **forfeiture of your exam attempt and fees.**
- **Timed Exam.** You will have up to 2-hours to complete the exam.
- **Exam Items.** Multiple choice items are discipline based. Some items utilize images. All items have only one correct response.
- **Exam Security.** The testing area is monitored continuously by WREB representatives. Notify them immediately for assistance with any computer-related issues. They cannot answer questions related to exam content.

### **Completion of Examination**

After completion of the exam, return your Candidate ID Badge to the designated area. Official examination results will be withheld if not returned.

## References



University of North Carolina (UNC) 1-12 MM Probe

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Mayhew, D., Mendonca, V., Murthy B.V.S. (March 2019). A Review of Physical Status-historical perspectives and modern developments. *Anesthesia*, 74:373-379.

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**Copyright © 2022 WREB**

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