Which Exam Should I Take?

Many graduating seniors struggle with this question because there are several board exams to choose from. Since the content of all the licensing exams offered is designed to test the competency of an entry-level practitioner, the actual administration of the exam can make the experience between exams quite different. WREB prides itself on candidate-friendliness, consistency in the candidate experience from site to site, and providing an easily understood set of preparation materials for your success.

There are no "secrets" to successfully completing the WREB exam. If you carefully review printed materials, view the tutorial on line, and attend the candidate orientation at the exam site, you will be well prepared to take the exam. Questions that arise about the examination prior to your examination date can be answered by courteous and professional dental staff at the WREB office. If you find yourself with questions, or concerns at the exam you will be able to work with an experienced floor examiner. They are very approachable, patient, and specifically trained to attend to candidate concerns and unforeseen problems that may occur. Clinical examinations can be stressful. Floor examiners can make this experience less daunting. They are assigned to your exam site specifically to help you answer any questions or resolve any unusual circumstances which may arise with a procedure or a patient.

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, the WREB exam is organized somewhat differently than other exams. Essentially, you have 2½ days to complete your WREB examination. With the exception of an assigned time to complete your endodontic section, the remainder of the examination is yours to manage as you deem appropriate. This leaves two full days available for you to schedule and complete one periodontal and two operative procedures at your discretion. Clinical procedures can be scheduled in a sequence that best suits you and your patient's availability. There are no narrow treatment times for patient treatment. Also, WREB does not require typodont crown preparations in our examination content. Two clinical days are provided by WREB to give you the advantage of sufficient stress-free flexibility to manage any unforeseen circumstances that you will certainly encounter in your practice. These include delayed patient commitments for their appointments and extended treatment time required with procedures. WREB understands that, like the actual practice of dentistry, exams don't always go according to plan.

Consider these important points when you make your decision. It's the little things that often make the biggest differences.

WREB Really Listens!

Getting ready to take the WREB dental competency exam is an exciting and somewhat stressful time in the life of a dental candidate. Advice from a recent candidate: "Relax, do your best, and roll with it."

After each exam, candidates and patients are asked to share their opinions by completing questionnaires. The anonymous responses are read and analyzed by the chief examiner and other designated WREB staff.

WREB Listens...continued

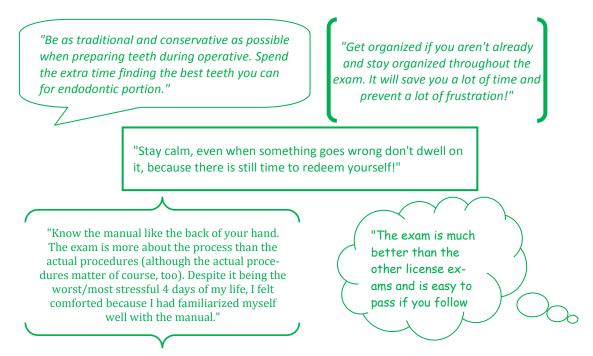
Feedback from these questionnaires has provided valuable suggestions for future exams. Dr. Bruce Horn, Director of Dental Exam Administration, can attest to this, stating, "Many of the changes made to the exam, including the candidate orientation presentation and open question session, are a direct result of candidate input on the questionnaires." This is a great opportunity to gather information directly from those participating in the WREB dental exam.

WREB is constantly striving to provide helpful, accurate information to candidates through our published materials. One publication that is by far the most recommended by candidates who have taken the exam is the Dental Candidate Guide. When asked whether the Candidate Guide explained the exam procedures adequately, 97.5% of candidates this year said yes. One candidate said, "I thought the guide was concise and to the point. Reading over the guide several times provided ample preparation for the exam."

Another helpful tool is the online Candidate Preparation Tutorial. Over 90% of exam takers said it was helpful. Be sure to check out our new CTP Candidate Tutorial too!

For helpful information closer to your exam date, don't forget to attend Candidate Orientation. Nearly 96% of candidates surveyed said that Candidate Orientation helped clarify exam procedures. One candidate commented, "This was extremely helpful and also served to relieve stress because of how pleasant the examiners were." Meeting the floor examiners and chief examiner before your exam not only allows you to ask questions not addressed in other materials, but allows you to get to know the people who will be helping you on the clinic floor. "This was particularly helpful in establishing a tone of success, and to build rapport with the floor examiners," said one candidate of Candidate Orientation.

More helpful advice for future WREB exam takers from past WREB exam takers:



Most importantly, trust your skills and knowledge, and know that you have received a great education.

Preparation Advice For A Less Stressful Exam

Knowing how to prepare for the WREB dental exam is the key to a stress-free exam. Over the years, we have asked our candidates to give their advice on how to do just that.

The number one thing that candidates agree on is that it is important to read the Candidate Guide and the School Information for the exam site. Both can be found at www.wreb.org. Most candidates say you should read the Candidate Guide several times. And, since the grading examiners score according to the criteria found in the Candidate Guide, this is the perfect way to study.

Another helpful tip is to review the online candidate tutorial available at www.wreb.org. The more familiar you are with the flow of the exam, the more relaxed you will be about the process.

If your school has arranged for a WREB precandidate orientation, make every effort to attend. This will help you in your preliminary exam preparation.

Attending Candidate Orientation is also key to reducing stress. Floor examiners and other im-

portant WREB staff are there to answer your questions at the end of the Orientation session.

Another area where candidates can reduce their anxiety is patient selection. You should schedule reliable, cooperative patients and explain in detail the exam process and what role they play in your success. Since patient selection is the candidate's responsibility, you should read the patient criteria and understand the broad range of patients that are acceptable for exam procedures.

A final tip from former WREB candidates is that you should spend time with the type of equipment used at the exam and visualize steps for each procedure, making sure you have all available instruments and supplies you may need. Information regarding equipment and supplies can be found in the School Information and the Candidate Guide.

Now that you have heard some advice from previous WREB candidates, just remember one last thing—RELAX!

Examination Integrity (or The Top Three Reasons Not to Cheat on a Test)

by Sharon Osborn Popp, Ph.D., 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 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

Integrity...continued

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.

Let 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.

WREB has heard over and over from candidates who were unsuccessful comments like, "But my instructor checked my patient and said he was perfect!" or, "I paid big bucks for this patient

and they guaranteed she would qualify" or, "My father is a dentist and he said this was a great patient."

This may be perhaps just a lapse in self-confidence or not being prepared in time. The Candidate Guide clearly states the criteria for patient acceptance. Often, those you consult do not have this information or have only a cursory understanding of it. Regardless of outside reassurances, you will be the one to suffer the consequences if your patient does not qualify.

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

Choose your patient...continued

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 is 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 once in awhile, 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 give over your clinical judgment to someone else who has no stake in passing the exam. It is your future, so make these critical decisions for yourself.

ASK THE EXAMINER

- Q. May I use a foreign trained dentist as my dental assistant?
 - A. Operative assistants may not be dentists (including graduates of foreign dental schools) or be in their final year of dental school. Operative assistants may be dental assistants or dental hygienists, if they do not hold a permit to place and finish restorative materials.
- Q. What is the minimum age a patient can be? If my patient is under 18, does the parent or guardian need to stay during the procedure?
 - A. The minimum patient age for the periodontal treatment procedure is 18 years. There is no minimum age for operative procedures. A parent or guardian does not have to remain during the procedure.
- Q. When are my assistant and my patient allowed on the clinic floor to start the exam? When can I put my patient in line for acceptance or grading?
 - A. Assistants and patients may enter the clinic with you at 7:00 a.m. on clinic days 1, 2 and 3. For patient comfort, patients should not be sent to the grading area any earlier than 15 or 20 minutes before the exam begins. The exam officially begins at 8:00 a.m. The patient line will not move until the exam begins. Candidates who are assigned endodontics the first morning of the exam may not submit patients until 10:00 a.m.
- Q. Do I have to have my patient in line for grading by 10:30 a.m. on the last day of the exam?
 - A. You have until 11:00 a.m. to have your patient in line for grading on the last day. The first two days of the exam, your patient must be in line for grading by 4:30 p.m.

Ask the Examiner...continued

Q. Are translators allowed on the clinic floor?

A. Translators will be allowed on the clinic floor or in the grading area only as needed. Translators will be asked to remain in the patient waiting area until, or if, their services are required.

Q. What are Floor Examiners?

A. Floor Examiners assist candidates on the clinic floor:

Answer questions, clarify exam procedures

Act as liaisons between candidates and Grading Examiners

Have extra forms for candidates such as Patient Medical History and Follow-Up Care Agreements

Sign Health History forms with "YES" answers

Distribute forms from Examiners that affect candidates and procedures

Check on modifications (see Operative-Modification Procedure)

Manage pulp exposures

Check and initial steps in the processes involved on worksheets

Q. May I anesthetize my patient before I send him/her to the grading area for approval to start?

A. For periodontal treatment patients, you should anesthetize the quadrant(s) submitted for approval to facilitate Examiner evaluation and for comfort. For operative patient check-in for acceptance, you may anesthetize patients at your discretion.

Q. May I submit both my operative restorations for approval at the same time?

A. If the procedures are on the same patient but **not** on adjacent teeth and accepting both would not cause the loss of occlusal contact, they may be submitted for approval at the same time. You may not submit patients with adjacent (consecutive tooth numbers) for acceptance.

Q. If I have both operative restorations approved to start, do I have to do both preps that day?

A. You may do only one preparation if you choose. For the procedure that has been approved but not started, bring your worksheet to a Floor Examiner for the proper paperwork.

Q. Do I have to work with a rubber dam?

A. You do not have to work with a rubber dam, but a rubber dam is required when submitting a patient for the preparation grade or when requesting a modification request for your patient on the candidate clinic floor.

Q. When do I call a Floor Examiner to check for a modification of outline or internal form?

A. When removal of caries, affected dentin, unsound demineralized enamel, or remaining restorative material will extend the outline and/or internal form of the preparation beyond the criteria for a "5".

Ask the Examiner...continued

Q. How do I write a modification request?

A. Write the type, location, extent, and reason (i.e., caries, affected dentin, unsound demineralized enamel, or remaining restorative material) for the "Modification Request(s)" in the spaces provided on the procedure worksheet. The space on the worksheet is limited, therefore, you are encouraged to write the total extent required to remove the lesion on your initial modification request(s) in 0.5 mm increments (i.e., 0.5 mm, 1.0 mm, 1.5 mm). A Floor Examiner will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Q. When do I need original radiographs? And, when do I not?

A. The two Operative procedures require original radiographs of the tooth taken within the prior six months. The radiographs must show the current condition of the tooth. Duplicates are not acceptable. Separate radiographs or images are needed for each procedure. The Periodontal Treatment procedure requires complete mouth periapical radiographs, including bitewings. The radiographs must have been taken within the past **three years**. Original radiographs are preferred, but duplicates are acceptable if they are of diagnostic quality.

Q. If WREB considers all exposures avoidable, how do I deal with an exposure or near exposure?

A. The preferred procedure is to leave a small amount of caries or affected dentin (0.5 mm) over the pulp to avoid an exposure. Write in the "Note to Examiners" on the worksheet your intentions. All other caries in the preparation must be removed. If an exposure does occur, write in the "Note to Examiners" on the



worksheet your intentions regarding the exposure and how it will be managed, place a rubber dam (if not already in place) and call a Floor Examiner. Upon verification of the exposure, a Floor Examiner will instruct you to place a pulp capping material over the exposure as soon as possible.

Q. Can my Assistant dismiss my patient while I'm in the Endodontics exam?

A. Yes, if there is no follow up required when your patient returns from the grading area. Remember, a Floor Examiner's initials are required on worksheets for patient release from the exam.

Q. How many initials from Examiners do I need on my worksheet?

A. It depends on what portion of the restoration you are doing. One initial is required at Acceptance, at least two initials if you have sent a note with a modification procedure and three initials are required if you have sent a patient for grading.

Q. When do I have to go to the Endodontics lab to do my Endodontics procedure?

A. You may go to the endo lab anytime during your block time schedule. It is recommended that you are in the lab in the first 30 minutes to avoid any delay getting your "Setup Check." You must turn in your two (2) endo models and radiographs at the end of the time block or you will receive a late penalty. There are no exceptions.

Ask the Examiner...continued

Q. When do I take the Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP) computerized exam?

A. The CTP computerized exam can be taken at a Pearson VUE Testing Center. Once you are enrolled in an exam, information will be emailed to you. This will include the time frame to take the exam, Pearson VUE's contact information to schedule your appointment, and your eligibility number.

Q. Can I change my assigned time for the Endodontics exam?

A. No. Once schedules are posted, they cannot be changed. Schedules are arranged in advance and in the best interest of all Candidates, taking into consideration space availability, supplies and exam materials. Schedules are made to give Candidates the optimum open block time and to maintain patient flow in the grading area.

Q. What identification do I need to provide at the exam?

A. Candidates MUST present acceptable and valid identification in order to be admitted to the WREB dental exam. At the exam, you shall appear in person and provide two (2) valid, non-expired forms of identification.

States Accepting WREB Dental Exam Results

ALASKA* MICHIGAN PENNSYLVANIA ARIZONA* **MINNESOTA** RHODE ISLAND CALIFORNIA* MISSOURI* **SOUTH DAKOTA** COLORADO MONTANA* **TENNESSEE** TEXAS* CONNECTICUT **NEBRASKA IDAHO* NEVADA* UTAH* ILLINOIS* NEW HAMPSHIRE VERMONT INDIANA NEW MEXICO* VIRGINIA** KANSAS* NORTH DAKOTA* WASHINGTON* **KENTUCKY*** WEST VIRGINIA** OHIO MAINE OKLAHOMA* WISCONSIN **MASSACHUSETTS** OREGON* WYOMING*

WREB is a testing agency only and does not issue licenses. Successful completion of the WREB examination does not constitute licensure in any state. Questions regarding licensing and reciprocity should be directed to the state board where licensure is sought.

^{*}Member State

^{**}Affiliate Member State

FAQs about Score Requests

"What happens after I take my exam and how do I get my scores?" are questions that many candidates have after taking the WREB dental exam. Once the exam is finished and exam materials are



received at the WREB office, WREB exam coordinators process computer scoring, review exam information and cross-check all scores. They take various measures to ensure that scores are thoroughly verified and accurately reported.

Score information is posted to a candidate's account at www.wreb.org. It is very important that candidates save their candidate logins and passwords as they are needed to access exam results.

Results will be posted two to four weeks after an exam. Once logged in, each candidate has access to their personal results report showing whether they passed or failed each section. Candidates who fail the exam get an

additional report that provides detailed scores for each section.

How do I get my scores after the exam?

Candidates are sent an email from WREB to the email address used when applying for the exam. The email will direct them to log on to the website to review their results. This is why it is important to notify WREB of any email address changes.

What if I do not remember my user name and password?

Please contact the WREB office and ask for either the dental or dental hygiene department.

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?

There are a variety of different types of score reports available. Descriptions of the reports can be found on our website at www.wreb.org. When you have determined which score report you need, simply follow the directions on the website for ordering.

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

Prices for reports vary. Prices can be found on our website at www.wreb.org in the "Request Scores" section. Once there, choose "Click Here to ORDER SCORES" and look for prices and options at the bottom of the form.

What forms of payment do you accept for score requests?

WREB accepts credit/debit cards, cashier's checks, money orders and certified checks for score requests. WREB does not accept personal checks.

What is the difference between a Detailed Score Report and an Individual Performance Report?

A detailed score report is a letter providing the breakdown of scores received in each section of your dental or dental hygiene exam. Since 2009, with the change to conjunctive scoring, only pass/fail results are reported. An Individual Performance Report is available for exams starting in 2004. This document breaks down the score received for each procedure, in each section of

FAQs...continued

the exam. Unsuccessful candidates automatically receive this report with their results. Both reports in hardcopy have a WREB raised seal.

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 two weeks depending on the volume of the requests received. Unfortunately, there is no way to expedite your request. Once your request has been processed, it is sent to the destination you specify by First Class Mail.















The WREB Dental Department

It's always helpful to put a face to a name. When you receive correspondence from WREB, there's a real person behind it. Denise Diaz oversees all dental exam operations. Exams are assigned to one of the dental coordinators—Evonne, Cheri and Joani—who expertly prepare all exam materials and correspond with schools, examiners and candidates.



Left to right:

Denise Diaz, Dental Department Manager; Evonne LaVigne, Dental Coordinator Cheri Watson, Dental Coordinator Joani Feathers, Dental Coordinator

Watch the Dental Candidate Tutorial Online

Be sure to review the dental candidate tutorial online at www.wreb.org!

This important presentation provides valuable information about the various components of the dental exam. You are advised to first read through the Candidate Guide and then view the tutorial. In this informative tool you will also find information about the computer exams given at Pearson VUE.



2015 Dental Exam Locations, Dates & Fees

Exam Location	Exam Dates	App Deadline	Final Deadline	Exam Fee	Registration Opens
Midwestern University*, Glendale, AZ	Mar 4 - 7	9/1/2014	2/11/2015	\$1,760	8/4/14 10:00 AM
University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV	Mar 6 - 9	9/1/2014	2/13/2015	\$2,185	8/4/14 11:00 AM
Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Mesa, AZ	Mar 6 - 9	9/1/2014	2/13/2015	\$2,160	8/4/14 1:00 PM
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH	Mar 11 - 14	9/1/2014	2/18/2015	\$2,060	8/4/14 3:00 PM
University of Colorado, Aurora, CO	Mar 12 - 15	9/1/2014	2/19/2015	\$2,360	8/6/14 10:00 AM
New York University*, New York, NY	Mar 12 - 15	9/1/2014	2/19/2015	\$2,210	8/6/14 11:00 AM
State University of New York - Buffalo*, Buffalo, NY	Mar 15 - 18	9/1/2014	2/23/2015	\$1,760	8/6/14 1:00 PM
University of Missouri - Kansas City*, Kansas City, MO	Mar 20 - 23	9/1/2014	2/27/2015	\$1,760	8/6/14 3:00 PM
Tufts University*, Boston, MA	Mar 20 - 23	9/1/2014	2/27/2015	\$1,760	8/8/14 10:00 AM
Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA	Mar 20 - 24	9/1/2014	2/27/2015	\$2,185	8/8/14 11:00 AM
University of Washington, Seattle, WA	Mar 25 - 28	9/1/2014	3/4/2015	\$2,210	8/12/14 10:00 AM
University of California - Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	Mar 26 - 29	9/1/2014	3/5/2015	\$2,420	8/12/14 11:00 AM
Boston University*, Boston, MA	Mar 26 - 29	9/1/2014	3/5/2015	\$1,760	8/12/14 1:00 PM
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA	Apr 8 - 11	9/29/2014	3/18/2015	\$2,185	8/12/14 3:00 PM
Western Univ. of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA	Apr 9 - 12	9/29/2014	3/19/2015	\$2,260	8/14/14 10:00 AM
Creighton University, Omaha, NE	Apr 9 - 12	9/29/2014	3/19/2015	\$2,210	8/14/14 1:00 PM
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA	Apr 17 - 20	9/29/2014	3/27/2015	\$2,360	8/19/14 10:00 AM
Roseman University, Jordan, UT	Apr 22 - 25	9/29/2014	4/1/2015	\$2,260	8/19/14 11:00 AM
University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK	Apr 24 - 27	9/29/2014	4/3/2015	\$2,310	8/19/14 1:00 PM
Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas, TX	May 1 - 4	9/29/2014	4/10/2015	\$2,210	8/21/14 10:00 AM
University of Texas - San Antonio, San Antonio, TX	May 1 - 4	9/29/2014	4/10/2015	\$2,210	8/21/14 11:00 AM
Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR	May 1 - 4	9/29/2014	4/10/2015	\$2,235	8/21/14 12:00 PM
University of Texas - Houston, Houston, TX	May 13 - 16	9/29/2014	4/22/2015	\$2,210	8/21/14 1:00 PM
University of Louisville, Louisville, KY	May 14 - 17	9/29/2014	4/23/2015	\$2,260	8/21/14 3:00 PM
University of California - San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	May 15 - 18	10/27/2014	4/24/2015	\$2,420	9/1/14 10:00 AM
University of Illinois - Chicago, Chicago, IL	May 28 - 31	10/27/2014	5/7/2015	\$1,760	9/19/14 1:59 PM
University of the Pacific, San Francisco, CA	Jun 5 - 8	10/27/2014	5/15/2015	\$2,235	9/1/14 1:00 PM
Tufts University*, Boston, MA	Jun 5 - 8	10/27/2014	5/15/2015	\$1,760	9/3/14 10:00 AM
Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA	Jun 12 - 16	10/27/2014	5/22/2015	\$2,185	9/3/14 11:00 AM
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA	Jun 19 - 22	10/27/2014	5/29/2015	\$2,360	9/3/14 1:00 PM
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA	Aug 14 - 17	7/2/2015	7/24/2015		2/2/15 10:00 AM
University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV	Nov 13 - 16	10/2/2015	10/23/2015		5/2/15 10:00 AM

 $^{{}^*\}mathsf{School}\ \mathsf{charges}\ \mathsf{additional}\ \mathsf{fee}.$