BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF ALABAMA
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 270-X-3
DENTAL HYGIENISTS

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270-X-3-.01 Examination Rules For Dental Hygienists.

(1) No person other than members of the Board of Dental Examiners and applicants for licensure shall be present in the rooms when and where examinations, either written, clinical, or laboratory procedures, are being conducted except by permission of the examiner(s) in charge.

(2) Any applicant found guilty of receiving or giving aid during the theoretical, operative, clinical, or prosthetic laboratory examination will be dismissed. Dismissal will constitute a failure.

(3) No smoking is allowed during examinations in examination facilities.
(4) Examination paper and other necessary materials will be furnished by the Board; no other paper of any kind, or textbooks, will be allowed in the examination room unless approved by the Board.

(5) All written examinations must be written in the English language.

(6) Board members are not permitted to interview applicants who have failed the examination. All such matters shall be directed to the secretary-treasurer in writing by the applicant.

(7) Board members are not permitted to disclose grades made by any applicant to anyone other than the applicant.

(8) When an applicant for licensure successfully passes either the written or clinical examination, that passing grade shall carry over and be valid only for the next three (3) examinations but within the next sixteen (16) months following the initial examination unless a written request for an exception is submitted in writing by the applicant and granted by the Board.

(9) In addition, examinations shall be conducted and licenses issued in compliance with Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-11.

(10) If the applicant for licensure is unsuccessful after four (4) attempts or within the sixteen (16) month period following the initial Alabama Dental Hygiene Board Examination then the applicant shall be required to remediate by successfully completing a Board approved hygiene school or training program before he/she will be allowed to reapply for the Alabama Dental Hygiene Board Examination.

Author: James S. Ward


270-X-3-.03 Education Requirements For Examination, Qualifications, Application, Examination And Licensure Of Dental Hygienists.

(1) Education Requirements for Examination.

(a) Graduate of a school or college of dental hygiene approved by the Board.

(b) Graduate of the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program conducted by the Board pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-26.

(2) Applications for Hygiene Licensure Examinations.

(a) Applications and fee in an amount fixed by the Board must be filed with the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the examination.

(b) If the applicant is a graduate of a college approved by the Board, a copy of a transcript of the applicant's grades from said college must accompany the application.

(c) If the applicant is a graduate of the ADHP, the secretary of the Board shall attach a copy of the applicant's grades to the application at least five (5) days prior to the date of the examination.

(d) No part of the above fees are refundable.

(e) All applicants must otherwise comply with all requirements established by law.

(3) All applicants for licensure shall also comply with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-26.

(4) No person shall be granted a license to practice dental hygiene unless he/she has met the requirements of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-26.

Author: James S. Ward

270-X-3-.04 Alabama Dental Hygiene Program Requirements.

(1) ADHP students must be at least eighteen (18) years of age prior to the time the student makes application to begin training, of good moral character, of good health, a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and must be a graduate of an accredited high school or hold a GED certificate.

(2) All ADHP students must have had at least twenty-four (24) full months of full time employment as a dental assistant, or the equivalent of twenty-four (24) full months in part-time employment week within the three (3) years previous to the student’s enrollment in the ADHP. This time must be spent assisting the dentist(s) and/or hygienist(s) at the chair. Fulltime shall mean employment of at least three and one-half (3 1/2) days or thirty (30) hours of Board approved employment per week. Graduates of an approved school of dental assisting will be given credit for such course on a formula determined by the Board.

(3) All ADHP students must be employed full time during the effective period of the training permit before being eligible to take the Dental Hygiene Licensure examination. Full time shall mean employment of at least three and one-half (3 1/2) days or thirty (30) hours of Board approved employment per week with their primary certified dentist instructor whose name appears on the training permit. Any dentist licensed and practicing dentistry full time in the State of Alabama may be issued an “ADHP Instructor Certificate” upon completion of the ADHP Instructor Certification Training and application to the Board of Dental Examiners, which shall have the discretion to grant or deny such Certification. The issued certification shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. Any dentist licensed and practicing dentistry full time in the State of Alabama whose “ADHP Instructor Certificate” expires during the effective period of the ADHP student training permit or who is required to apply for an instructor certification after the beginning of the course year, may, upon successful completion of the online certification course, be issued a temporary “ADHP Instructor Certificate.” Said temporary certificate will only be valid from the date of issuance to the next scheduled ADHP
Instructor Training Session. Any dentist who is certified shall be given credit for continuing dental education for hours spent completing the temporary online certification course and/or ADHP Instructor Certification Training.

(4) ADHP students may practice only under the direct supervision of the dentist whose name appears on the training permit; however, another dentist employed in the same office who is certified pursuant to this Rule may perform pre and post prophylactic examinations of the ADHP student’s patients.

(5) The closing date for accepting applications for training permits for each year will be determined by the Board.

(6) ADHP students are allowed one transfer of their training permit per course year based upon approval by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. During the period of the ADHP student training permit, the student may only be terminated for good cause which shall be determined by the Board. An ADHP student who has participated in the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program twice unsuccessfully may apply to participate in the program a third time at the discretion of the Board after two (2) years of continual full time employment as a dental assistant.

(7) All ADHP students must attend every session of the academic instruction given under the auspices of the Board. An ADHP student who fails to attend any session of academic instruction is no longer eligible for a training permit without consent of the Board. If an ADHP student misses any part of an academic instruction session, the student must submit a written explanation of the absence within ten (10) business days of the absence to the Board office for review and request permission to continue in the program. An ADHP student who fails to attend every session of academic instruction is not eligible for a renewed training permit without consent of the Board.

(8) No dentist shall be permitted to train more than one (1) ADHP student at a time.

(9) ADHP students who obtain training in the ADHP must pay a fee in an amount fixed by the Board, (this includes training permit, examination, certificate and workshop fees), which must be enclosed with the application for training permit. The academic instruction portion of the fee may be refunded only within the first thirty (30) days of issuance and only at the Board’s discretion.

Author: Alabama Board of Dental Examiners
Chapter 270-X-3


270-X-3-.05 Replacement And/Or Duplicate Certificate.

(1) Replacement

(a) Replacement certificate must be requested in writing. The request for replacement must include the reason for request

(b) Replacement certificate must be marked "replacement certificate."

(c) Replacement certificate should contain date that original certificate was issued and must be signed by the entire Board and contain the date the duplicate is issued.

(d) Fee to be set by the Board

(2) Change of name on license certificate

(a) Any individual desiring a change of name on their certificate must notify the Board in writing and enclose the following.

(i) The reason for the name change (i.e. the legal document used to change the name)

(ii) Original license certificate, if available

(iii) Fee to be set by the Board
(b) The original license certificate will be destroyed upon issuance of a new certificate so marked as “change of name certificate”.

(3) Duplicate certificate.

(a) Any licensee requesting a duplicate certificate must notify the Board in writing and enclose the following:

(i) The reason they are requesting a duplicate certificate and where it will be held.

(ii) Fee to be set by the Board.

Author: James S. Ward

270-X-3-.06 Direct Supervision Defined. Direct supervision is defined as supervision by a dentist who authorizes the intraoral procedure to be performed, is physically present in the dental facility and available during performance of the procedure, examines the patient during the procedure and takes full professional responsibility for the completed procedure.

Author: James S. Ward

270-X-3-.07 Annual Registration For Hygienists.

(1) No person shall practice dental hygiene in the State of Alabama unless licensed by the Board and registered annually as required by Code of Ala. 1975.

(2) The secretary-treasurer of the Board furnish mail to each such licensee on or before the September 1st of each year, a registration form which shall contain space for the insertion of his/her name, address, date, and number of his/her license certificate and such other information as the Board shall deem necessary.
(3) On or before the first day of October of each year, every dental hygienist licensed to practice in the State of Alabama shall transmit to the secretary of the Board the completed form prescribed by the Board, together with the annual registration fee.

(4) Any license and license certificate previously granted shall automatically be suspended if the holder fails to secure the annual registration certificate before the first day of January each year.

(5) The annual registration for dental hygienists shall be an amount fixed by the Board.

(6) Any dental hygiene license suspended by reason of failure, neglect or refusal to secure the annual registration certificate may be reinstated by the Board upon payment of a penalty fee as determined by the Board plus the current year’s registration fee. The form and method provided for in §34-9-28, Code of Ala. 1975, as amended.

(7) All licensed dental hygienists shall also comply with the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-28.

Author: James S. Ward

270-X-3-.08 Change Of Address Of Dental Hygienists. Every licensed dental hygienist upon changing his/her mailing address or employer shall within thirty (30) days thereafter furnish the secretary-treasurer of the Board with their new address or the address of the new employer.

Author: James S. Ward

270-X-3-.09 Grounds For Disciplinary Action Pertaining To Dental Hygienist License. The Board may refuse to issue the license or license certificate provided for in Code of Ala. 1975,
Duties Of Allied Dental Personnel. Allied dental personnel are dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians.

Subject to the prohibition that no intra-oral procedure can be performed unless under the direct supervision of a duly licensed dentist as defined by Board rule, the following allied dental personnel may perform the following:

(1) **Dental Laboratory Technicians:**

(a) No intra-oral duties are allowable other than assisting the dentist in determining tooth color.

(2) **Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists:**

(a) Preliminary charting and inspection of the oral cavity. (Final examination and diagnosis must be made by a dentist before treatment can be instituted.)

(b) Apply topical agents under direct supervision of the dentist.

1. Apply topical anesthetics.

2. Oxygenating Agents. (Excluding endodontic therapy.)

3. Apply anti-inflammatory agents.

4. Apply astringents.
5. Desensitizing agents.

6. Topical fluoride.


8. Apply etchant materials.

(c) Place and remove rubber dam.

(d) Place and remove periodontal dressings.

(e) Place and remove alveolar socket dressings.

(f) Construct and remove with hand instruments only interim restorations. (Interim restorations being any restoration placed while a more permanent restoration is being completed.)

(g) Construct and place temporary crowns (excluding stainless steel crowns placed with intentions of reasonable permanency.)

(h) Contour stainless steel or chrome crowns but cannot cement them.

(i) Pre-fit and pre-contour orthodontic appliances either extra-orally or intra-orally for final adaptation by the dentist.

(j) Remove excess cement with hand instruments from around permanent dental restorations and orthodontic appliances.

(k) Make impressions for diagnostic casts or opposing casts.

(l) Place, wedge and remove matrices for operative dentistry.

(m) Take and record case history, blood pressure, pulse, and oral temperature.

(n) Remove intraoral sutures. (Excluding wire sutures.)

(o) Make dental radiographs.

(p) Give oral hygiene instructions including plaque staining, flossing, brushing, and caries susceptibility tests.
(q) Place cavity liners and bases. (Excluding capping of exposed pulpal tissues.)

(r) Assist in the administering of N20 and O2.

(s) Insert into the mouth of the patient wax models of dentures, partial dentures, or any other structures and make adjustments outside the mouth of the patient to such wax models pursuant to written or verbal instructions or directions from the dentist; provided, however,

1. That the dental hygienist or dental assistant may use these wax models of dentures, partial dentures or any other structure to register the jaw relationships or occlusal relationships of the patient, and

2. That before such wax models may be used for the manufacture of dentures, partial dentures or other structures the dentist shall personally consult with the patient, examine such wax models, and make such additional adjustments as may be required.

(t) Insert into the mouth of the patient dentures, partial dentures, removable orthodontic appliances, prostheses, devices to treat sleep apnea or anti-snoring devices, or any other structures and make adjustments outside the mouth of the patient to the dentures, prostheses (fixed or removable), removable orthodontic appliances, prosthetic appliances, bridges, or other structures pursuant to written or verbal instructions or directions from the dentist; provided, however,

1. That before such prostheses (fixed or removable), removable orthodontic appliances, or other structures are delivered to the patient leaving the dental office with such removable orthodontic appliances, prostheses (fixed or removable) or other structures the dentist shall personally consult with the patient, examine such prostheses (fixed or removable), removable orthodontic appliances, or other structures, and make such additional adjustments as may be required; and

2. That final placement and cementation of all fixed appliances, fixed prostheses and other fixed structures shall be performed by the dentist.

(u) Apply reversible liners and bases to prostheses, orthodontic appliances, or any other structures. However, the dentist shall personally consult with the patient and examiner such liners and bases, and make such additional adjustments as may be required.
(v) Place and remove gingival retraction materials.

(w) Make final impressions for removable and fixed prostheses, orthodontic appliances, retainers, devices to treat sleep apnea or anti-snoring devices, and medicament/whitening delivery trays. However, before said impressions may be used for the manufacture of prostheses and appliances, the dentist shall examine and approve such impressions for accuracy.

(x) Use laser and/or narrow band (light) imaging technology for preliminary diagnostic purposes only with the dentist’s final examination and diagnosis.

(3) Dental Hygienists Only:

(a) Remove extrinsic stains, accretions, and calcareous deposits from teeth.

(b) Gingival curettage.

(c) Root planing.

(d) Polish completed restorations.

(e) Place Pit and Fissure Sealant and polish and adjust sealant as needed.

(f) Place resorbable chlorhexidine chips.

(g) Place topical or sub-gingival antimicrobial or antibacterial agents.

(h) Periodontal probing

Author: Board of Dental Examiners


270-X-3-.11  Statement Of Charges And Notice Of Hearing Before Imposition Of Disciplinary Penalties. No imposition of any of the disciplinary penalties set forth and outlined in Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-18(b), shall be taken until the licensee has been furnished a statement in writing of the charges against him/her and with a notice of the time and place of the hearing. The statement of charges shall be in compliance with Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-9-24, 41-22-12(b).

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270-X-3-.12  Dental Hygiene Advisor. (Repealed)  
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