



# WREB

A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency



Dental Student Newsletter [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) Fall 2009

## Application Process

Watch the WREB web site for information on when 2010 registration will open. There will be 33 exams this year.

For the 2010 exam season, WREB will strongly urge candidates to use the online application process. In order to apply online, Candidates will be required

to pay with a credit card, upload a digital photo and digitally sign the WREB policy agreement. The only paperwork that will need to be submitted to WREB is the applicant's qualification. This process will allow applications to be processed much more quickly and therefore, Candidates will receive confirmation of enrollment much more quickly. Priority will be given to online applications. For those who are unable to pay with a credit card or who cannot upload a digital photo, a downloadable paper application will still be available.

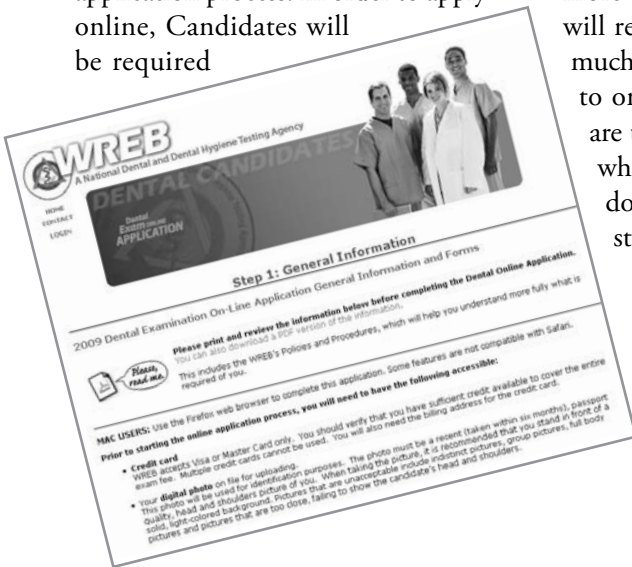
Applicants must select to enroll one of two ways - either completely online or completely by paper and mailed in with a cashier's check or money order. NO personal checks are accepted at WREB.

If you are not familiar with

the process of uploading a digital photo, it is similar to the process used to upload photos to any online photo developer. If you don't know how, now is a great time to learn.

If you don't have a credit card, it's not a problem. The WREB web site allows you to register yourself and use someone else's card to pay for your registration (with their permission, of course!).

Like everything else with the WREB exam, it is a good idea to think ahead and prepare ahead for the best outcome. Please read each page as you go through the process. Once you complete your enrollment, you will be subject to WREB's cancellation policy. Transfers between exams are not allowed so make your decision wisely about which exam schedule you are applying for.



## Looking to the Future at WREB...

- Beginning in 2010, WREB expects to post exam results online. Once results for an exam are posted, candidates will use their secure login to access and print their individual results. No more waiting for results in the mail! In order to take advantage of this option, **Candidates should save their login information when enrolling online.** Please keep checking our website at [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) for additional details and updates.
- Also in the working stage, WREB looks forward to posting exam schedules online for both full exam candidates and those candidates re-taking one or more sections. Candidates will be sent an email letting them know time when they can log in and obtain their exam schedule.
- Electronic scoring is coming. Instead of the paper grade sheets that are currently used by our Grading Examiners, beta testing of WREB's proprietary electronic scoring system will begin at select 2010 exams. Implementation is expected for the 2011 dental exam season. This means score results will be available much sooner than the current turn-around time of 2-4 weeks after the exam.

## How does the Appeal Process work?

by Joani Feathers, Dental Coordinator

What are my options if I happen to fail an exam? Our best advice is to apply for another examination and study the Candidate Guide again. If you had problems in a specific area, you might discuss your performance with a faculty member of your school or another accredited school. Although the statistical data demonstrates that most Appeals are denied – there seems to be a common thread. Why is this? Simply stated, most Appeal requests are asking for Committee consideration to review their grades for potential change. Although this is specifically addressed in the Appeals Criteria, some Candidates may think, for example, a grade of 74.85 is “so close” that perhaps an Appeal will generate compelling reasons for the committee to reconsider the grade to passing. This is not the case, as explained below.

### Criteria NOT CONSIDERED:

It is neither consistent nor reasonable to suppose that Examiners can accurately and objectively better

*continued on page 4*

## 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.

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."

As unfortunate as these remarks are, they indicate a lapse in judgment or perhaps just a lapse in self-confidence on the candidate's part. You have the Candidate Guide which clearly states the criteria for patient acceptance. Often, those you consult do not have that 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.

An emerging new issue is the

presence of patient procurement agencies. These 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 allow them on the premises during any of our board exams. They will charge you a premium price for a patient who may not be acceptable. They don't issue refunds.

During each exam we ask for both patient and candidate's comments and suggestions. It is unfortunate that we receive feedback on the use of these services from many distraught candidates. They report having paid thousands of dollars for a patient procurement service, only to a) be held hostage for further funds prior to completion of a procedure

or b) not being provided a back up patient after the first patient is rejected or c) not being provided a patient at all.

The WREB criteria is designed so that students should be able to use patients of record that they would see at school in the 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, Board candidates have been finding patients through friends, through school clinics, through homeless shelters, once in awhile, a workman at a school! The key is that the candidate screens the patient after thoroughly studying the WREB 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.

### North Dakota joins WREB

North Dakota became WREB's 15th member state this year. Dr. Dale Brewster, President of the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners commented after the decision to join was finalized, "North Dakota is honored to be a member state of WREB and accept WREB's regional exam for licensure. We are impressed with the credibility of the WREB exam and the competency of WREB examiners."

Dr. Robert Lauf is serving on the WREB Board of Directors as the representative from North Dakota. He has also recently completed his first WREB exam as a dental examiner. Welcome Dr. Lauf and North Dakota!

### Do The Right Thing by Shane Clays, CSW Executive Director

We have all seen it before. Whether loading the newest version of whatever Microsoft product was released that month, or upgrading your antivirus software, to signing up for the "pay version" of Napster, we all inevitably have to "Agree to Terms" by checking a box before moving on with your software installation. These terms are often pages of text riddled with legal terminology that is translatable only by the finest of attorneys. All too often however, we check the box and move on without even the slightest attempt at reviewing this agreement. This can create problems if the software is used or shared improperly. Often, a software owner will use the same program on two or three computers in their home or office without a second thought, or burn a song onto a CD for a friend. Doing so is generally a breach of the agreement and is punishable by law.

The CSW Computer Exam has its own agreement. It's called a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA). The NDA is displayed prior to the start of each exam. Currently, it reads

as follows:

Applicant will not, at any time, directly or indirectly, use or disclose to any person or entity, except CSW Computer Simulations and its duly authorized officers and employees, any of the questions or other information regarding this exam, and agrees to keep all such information confidential.

It is very important that the CSW NDA be read by each candidate and that the terms within be adhered to. If information is shared with peers, this can be considered unethical conduct. In cases where a candidate breaches the agreement, the assigned testing agency (SRTA, WREB) can take whatever action they deem necessary including, but not limited to, notifying all state boards of the unethical conduct which could result in denial of licensure in that state or any member state of the testing agency.

CSW Computer Simulations encourages all candidates taking the exam to do what's right, read and adhere to the CSW Non Disclosure Agreement.

**2010 DENTAL EXAM LOCATIONS, DATES AND FEES**  
**\* Candidates enrolling in sites marked by an asterisk will be charged an additional fee by the host site.**

Exam Location	Exam Dates	Application Deadline	Exam Fee
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) • Las Vegas, NV	February 27-March 2 Saturday-Tuesday	January 13	\$1950
New York University • New York City, NY	March 4-7 Thursday-Sunday	January 18	\$1900 *
Case Western Reserve University • Cleveland, OH	March 4-7 Thursday-Sunday	January 18	\$1725
Nova Southeastern University • Ft. Lauderdale, FL	March 12-15 Friday-Monday	January 26	\$2185
VA Commonwealth University • Richmond, VA	March 13-16 Saturday-Tuesday	January 27	\$2000
University of Colorado • Aurora, CO	March 19-22 Friday-Monday	February 2	\$2200
University of Iowa • Iowa City, IA	March 19-22 Friday-Monday	February 2	\$1925
Loma Linda University #1 • Loma Linda, CA	March 19-23 Friday-Tuesday	February 2	\$1850
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) • Los Angeles, CA	March 24-27 Wednesday-Saturday	February 8	\$2195
University of Kentucky • Lexington, KY	March 25-28 Thursday-Sunday	February 8	\$1925
Tufts University • Boston, MA	March 26-29 Friday-Monday	February 9	\$1600 *
Creighton University • Omaha, NE	April 8-11 Thursday-Sunday	February 22	\$1875
Boston University • Boston, MA	April 8-11 Thursday-Sunday	February 22	\$1600 *
University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC) • Kansas City, MO	April 8-11 Thursday-Sunday	February 22	\$1600 *
Temple University • Philadelphia, PA	April 15-18 Thursday-Sunday	March 1	\$2025
University of Southern California (USC #1) • Los Angeles, CA	April 16-19 Friday-Monday	March 2	\$2147
Baylor College of Dentistry • Dallas, TX	April 16-19 Friday-Monday	March 2	\$1900
University of Texas, San Antonio • San Antonio, TX	April 30-May 3 Friday-Monday	March 16	\$1925
University of Oklahoma • Oklahoma City, OK	April 30-May 3 Friday-Monday	March 16	\$2100
University of Texas, Houston #1 • Houston, TX	May 13-16 Thursday-Sunday	March 29	\$1900
University of the Pacific (U of P #1) • San Francisco, CA	May 21-24 Friday-Monday	April 6	\$2035
University of Washington • Seattle, WA	May 28-31 Friday-Monday	April 13	\$1925
Oregon Health & Science University • Portland, OR	May 28-31 Friday-Monday	April 13	\$1975
A.T. Still, Arizona School of Dentistry • Mesa, AZ	June 3-6 Thursday-Sunday	April 19	\$1850
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) • San Francisco, CA	June 4-7 Friday-Monday	April 20	\$2108
University of the Pacific (U of P #2) • San Francisco, CA	June 4-7 Friday-Monday	April 20	\$2035
Loma Linda University #2 • Loma Linda, CA	June 11-15 Friday-Tuesday	April 27	\$1850
Tufts University • Boston, MA	June 11-14 Friday-Monday	April 27	\$1600 *
University of Southern California (USC #2) • Los Angeles, CA	June 11-14 Friday-Monday	April 27	\$2147
University of Southern California (USC #3) • Los Angeles, CA	June 18-21 Friday-Monday	May 4	\$2147
University of Southern California (USC #4) • Los Angeles, CA	August 14-17 Saturday-Tuesday	June 30	\$2147
University of Texas, Houston #2 • Houston, TX	September 9-12 Thursday-Sunday	July 26	\$1900
University of Southern California (USC #5) • Los Angeles, CA	December 16-19 Thursday-Sunday	November 1	\$2147

# Comments to Candidates

by Dr. Timothy Saunders, Professor of Clinical Dentistry, University of Southern California

It goes without saying: be prepared! Your dental education has more than given you the clinical and didactic skills to successfully challenge the WREB Examination. I have a few comments, however, that I want to pass along to each of you as you prepare for the examination.

1. Read the WREB Candidate Guide, then read it again, highlighting those areas that you feel are important to you and those to which you might want to refer later. Generally, most questions asked by candidates at exam orientation were thoroughly reviewed and answered in the Guide.
2. Patient selection is one of the most troubling aspects of any clinical examination. Start early reviewing your patient needs, make 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 in question. Remember, if you would not normally diagnose this lesion for treatment, you should not submit it for the examination. The periodontal patient must meet the requirements listed in the Guide.
3. Since patients are often difficult to find, you can work in groups in order to secure your patients. This might also provide secondary patients for the group, if needed. In all the years of monitoring dental examinations, I have never seen a candidate fail the examination based on a failure to submit a qualified patient for treatment. Patients are available for treatment at the examination site. You simply need to vocalize your situation.
4. Again read the WREB Candidate Guide. Complete all forms as required and submit your patient for treatment approval with all information requested.
5. The endodontic portion of the examination seems to challenge some candidates, so practice. Use the typodont as outlined in the Guide and practice those procedures that you will be performing on the examination. You are not asked to perform procedures that you have not been taught.
6. Candidates have ample time to complete the clinical examination. Plan your clinical schedule in advance and use your time appropriately. Just because you have "time," do not waste it. Remember you may need extra time if you encounter difficulties of any kind.
7. When you have completed the examination, review all paperwork, ensuring that appropriate information, signatures, etc. are all in order. Submit your completed package to WREB officials as required.
8. Thank your patients, your assistant, and those who helped you through the examination. Feel confident that you did what you have been thoroughly taught to do and know that the results of this experience will be positive.

## Appeals continued from page 1

judge matters after an examination has ended than they did during the examination. It is impossible for an Examiner to change a grade in any meaningful way. "Exam scores cannot and will not be altered by the Appeals Committee unless there is determined to be a technical error, not a perceived judgment error. The Appeals Committee is obligated to base its judgment of technical errors upon its knowledge of the examination, and the calibration process used by WREB.

Late penalties may also prove significant in failures. They can account for the point difference between a successful or unsuccessful examination. Time management truly is critical.

The Appeal process is in place for judicial review in the event WREB's multi-check system fails.

- Three independent Examiners grade each procedure.
- Results are computer scanned

and documented into proprietary software.

- Prior to any failing Candidate results being sent out, all grade sheets must be re-checked by two different Dental Coordinators. This process involves individuals hand-verifying that scores marked on grade sheets match scores entered into the computer.
- All paperwork involving penalties and other point deductions are checked and re-checked.
- Given this multi-check system, it is highly unlikely that the Appeals Committee will find an error in the scoring. As a result, few Appeals can be upheld.

WREB's Appeals Committee is comprised of two Co-Chairmen and six current WREB Dental Examiners to review Dental Appeals. They are charged with providing appellate processes to WREB Candidates who have failed its

Clinical Examinations. WREB has developed policies and procedures that provide anonymous, impartial and timely examination Appeal procedures to any Candidate who requests its services.

### The Process:

If the Candidate fails an exam, a standardized critique (performance review) summarizing the performance is sent with the notification of failure. After review of this, the Candidate may request an Appeal form and file a formal Appeal.

The Appeal forms must be completed and received by WREB no later than 45 days after examination results are mailed from the WREB office.

The complete WREB policy and procedure for the formal Appeal process can be found on the [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) web site under Information for Dental Candidates.

## **Ask the Examiner: Actual questions submitted by Candidates:**

In the Periodontal section, section E. The Patient tray asks for “A new color coded 3-6-9-12 mm perio probe.” Is that the only probe that is acceptable? Is the University of Michigan “O” probe or the UNC probe acceptable? ***Any color coded probe in 3 mm increments is acceptable.***

In the Endo Treatment section the first paragraph mentions that any gutta-percha filling technique may be used, including warm gutta-percha. I use the Sybronendo elements unit and the endotouch rotary motor; they are both electronic may I use them? ***Yes, these instruments are acceptable.***

Regards to the Operative section under the Modification Procedure section, if I say I need to remove 2mm from the axial wall due to caries but in the end only need to remove 1mm to reach sound dentin is there a penalty? ***No, however if the amount of modification requested is initially determined excessive, it may be rejected.***

The Operative section under the Modification Procedure section mentions that if I am at a “5” for ideal extension and need to modify it due to caries, etc. that the FE may look at it and then instruct me to proceed. Since he/she will be the only one who sees it before I modify it do I automatically have a score of “5” because after I finish the preparation the Graders will not see it as a “5” due to the modification? ***If in this case the modified extension is completed appropriately and all other criteria for outline and extension are judged to be 5’s, the candidate will receive a 5 for outline and extension.***

My question is if I have two class II lesions that meet the requirements for a qualifying lesion (hopefully) and they are back to back (the mesial surface of #20 and the distal surface of #21), can I do both of those on the exam? And if so, can I submit the same radiographs for both lesions rather than taking 2 sets of the same radiographs? ***These answers are clear in the 2010 Candidate Guide. You may do both teeth. Only one will be approved and it must be prepped, graded, filled, and restoration graded before the second tooth can be approved. It also states that each submission must have a set of radiographs; they may not be shared.***

## **Obtaining Your Scores**

*by Jennifer Dahl, Office Manager*

“What happens after I take my exam and how do I get my scores?” is a question that many Candidates have after taking the WREB. Once the exam is finished and exam materials are shipped back to the WREB office, the WREB Coordinators are busy scanning grade sheets, reviewing information and processing scores. They take various measures to ensure that scores are thoroughly checked.

Beginning in 2010, score information will be posted to the Candidate login section of the WREB website ([www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org)). It is therefore very important that you save your Candidate login and password as they will be needed to access your results after the exam. Results will be posted within four weeks after the exam and will no longer be mailed to Candidates. Once logged in online, each Candidate will have access to a results report indicating pass or fail for each section; Candidates who fail the exam will also get a report with a breakdown of their scores for each section. These reports will be in a printable format.

Each state board has specific criteria that must be met for licensure. Since every state board is different, it is always best to make sure you understand exactly what they want from you before requesting your scores or contacting the WREB office.

After determining what the State Board requires, you are now ready to request information from WREB. In order for us to process all requests in an organized, timely manner, we have provided a form on our website. Simply go to [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) and find the “Quick Links” box on the home page. There you will see a link for “Request Scoring Information/Reports”. When you click on this link, it will take you to a page that lists all of the different items that you can have sent to State Boards. Each item also displays a description of what is offered. When you find what you are interested in, click on the link provided for that item. This will now display a page with a form that needs to be printed, filled out and mailed to the WREB office with a cashier’s check or money order (no personal checks). Depending on the volume of requests, the information will be mailed out within one to three weeks.

Several months out of the year, our front office is swamped with score requests and telephone calls. The best way to confirm that we have received your request is to send it with some form of delivery confirmation that you can track. For example, you can send your request via Certified mail with a return receipt, Fed Ex, or any other delivery service that allows you to track your package. It is best not to call the WREB office as this will only slow down the process when staff is busy processing requests.

As we receive your request, it is date stamped and put in the order it was received. To be fair to all Candidates, we cannot expedite your request or move it in front of others. You may, however, send a postage paid overnight envelope for us to send your request once it has been fulfilled. Otherwise, your request will be sent through First Class Mail.

# The WREB Staff Is Here to Serve You!



We've added some new faces to our team and are looking forward to meeting the challenges of the 2010 exam season.

If you want to put a face to a name, here is a picture of our staff. From left, Genita Jackson, Cheri Watson, Rad Masinelli, Cindy Brown, Nic

Cronin, Joani Feathers, Tonya Dilley, Jennifer Dahl, Denise Ramos, Robin Krych, Evonne LaVigne, Linda Paul and Beth Cole.



## **WREB**

A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

23460 N. 19th Avenue, Suite 210

Phoenix, Arizona 85027