



NEW in 2011, The "PROCESS OF CARE" Exam

The ability to access current state of the art software technology now makes it possible to test the process of dental hygiene care on the WREB examination, beginning in 2011. In addition to the clinical examination, a computer exam will evaluate the candidate's ability to manage and plan all phases of dental hygiene care. The Dental Hygiene Process of Care exam is an interactive computer exam that simulates a dental hygienist rendering comprehensive treatment to a patient in a practice setting.

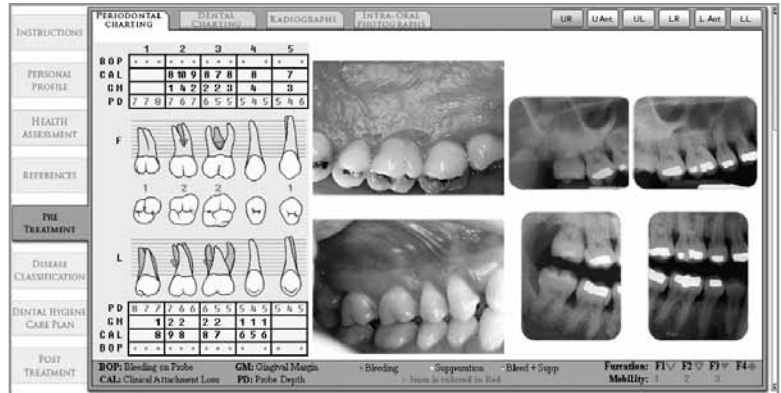
The following information on one patient is available:

- Patient Information, Dental Information and Medical History
- Completed periodontal and dental charts
- Full mouth radiographic images of the patient's dentition
- Intra oral photographs of the patient

Using the patient information provided, the candidate will answer questions regarding the process of care and will develop a Dental Hygiene Care Plan.

The content of the exam covers:

- General Health and Risk Assessment (20%)
 - Medical history and health evaluation
 - Oral health history and etiology
- Periodontal Assessment (25%)
 - Dentition evaluation
 - Periodontal conditions
 - Radiographic evaluation
- Extraoral and Intraoral Assessment (10%)
- Dental Hygiene Periodontal Disease Classification and Prognosis (10%)
- Planning and Evaluation and Outcomes Assessment (35%)
 - Comprehensive dental hygiene care plan
 - Evaluation of Outcomes



The exam simulates actual practice by providing only information that would be available at a given stage of the process. For example, questions regarding the patient's health provide access only to the health history portion of the screen. As the process of care progresses, more information on the patient is available. After the assessment, disease classification and care plan, a Post Treatment section becomes available. This shows the outcome of the treatment and allows the candidate to answer questions regarding the success of treatment and follow-up options.

Using the most up to date computer technology, it is possible to double the size of the photographs and radiographs; access the periodontal chart, radiographs and photographs for an entire sextant simultaneously; and view pre and post views simultaneously.

In addition to following one patient through the process of care, a series of video clips is provided to evaluate the technique for the extra and intra oral examination.

WREB believes this exam provides a method for evaluating important aspects of dental hygiene care in a manner that is reliable and enjoyable.

Why WREB?

WREB is responsible to state licensing agencies, patients, candidates and dental and dental hygiene schools. The examinations we provide represent our best efforts to economically meet the needs of these various entities while delivering a standardized, reliable evaluation of competence throughout

the diverse geographic regions of the country. We have incorporated features that compensate for human error on the part of both candidates and examiners. We require that patients meet certain criteria that disallow unnecessary treatment and provide an equal opportunity for all candidates

to demonstrate their competence. The examinations are under constant scrutiny by examiners, educators and testing specialists so that they can be updated to incorporate the most current practices and technologies in testing and in patient treatment. Those who would like to understand our views

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Why WREB continued from page 1

and the reasons that we feel patients are currently essential in evaluating competence in dental and dental hygiene practice are invited to read the various articles on the WREB website at www.wreb.org.

Our goal is to verify the competency of our candidates by testing the most appropriate procedures for entry level candidates to demonstrate their competency, while supporting the validity of states' licensing decisions. We carefully and thoroughly calibrate our examiners and train them to grade according to the examining criteria established by WREB, which is published in the Candidate Guide. Educators from dental hygiene schools within the WREB states, as well as our examiners, help to develop the examinations and establish these criteria.

Results from post-exam analysis show that WREB examiners are grading by the established criteria. Adherence

to psychometrically sound principles of clinical evaluation also include candidate anonymity, comprehensive assessment procedures, standardized sampling of performance, control or equalization of patient variables, appellate procedures and comprehensive statistical analysis of all aspects of the exam. All of these factors create a reliable and fair exam.

WREB also has developed a protocol in response to our ongoing concerns for patient comfort and safety. "Patient Continuing Care Forms" verify that all patients will have a licensed practitioner available should any further care be needed. WREB monitors the latest treatment methodologies to keep exam content current with patient needs. We also survey patients after every exam so that we continuously monitor the exam experience for the patient.

For more information about the WREB exams, please visit <http://wreb.org/Information/Articles.aspx>.

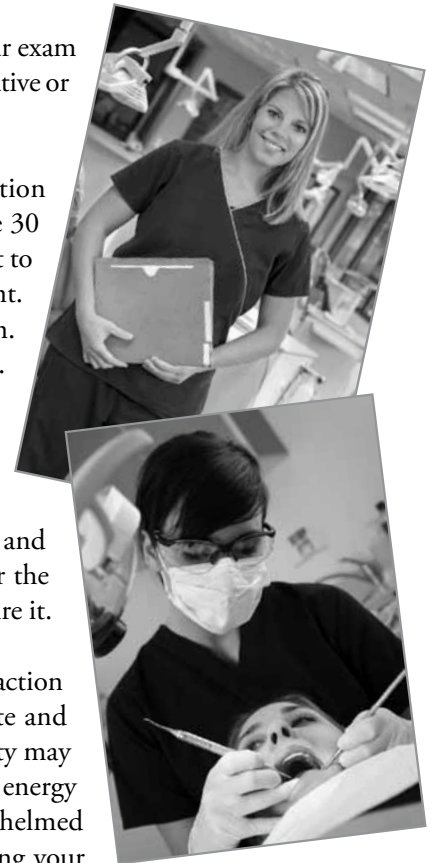
Tips for Taking the Dental Hygiene Exam

A Board member from New Mexico has written the following to help you through your exam day. These suggestions will help you whether you are taking dental hygiene, anesthesia, restorative or all three!

1. **Be prepared.** Make sure that you have familiarized yourself with the exact location of the school as well as the best route to take to get there. You may want to arrive 30 minutes early to find parking and to find the examination room. You may also want to dress in layers so that your clothing can be adjusted, as necessary, to the environment. A cold or warm room could prove to be a distraction while taking the examination. You do not need any added distractions. Anticipate both scenarios and wear layers.
2. **Prepare your body as well as your mind.** During the week of the examination, be sure to get plenty of rest, especially the night before. Last-minute "cramming" is usually not going to help at this point and may produce unnecessary stress. It is advisable to eat well the day of the exam, starting with a balanced breakfast and avoiding stimulants. Coffee or caffeinated sodas may make you feel energized for the moment, but the ultimate effect will be a sluggish performance when you least desire it.

Odds are you will grow increasingly nervous as the exam date draws near. This reaction is perfectly normal. Realizing that your preparation to take the exam is adequate and reassuring yourself of this fact is a comfort. Many experts believe that a little anxiety may actually improve performance in some individuals. So think of this extra nervous energy as an ally and use it to your advantage. If at any time during the exam an overwhelmed feeling or loss of concentration occurs because of increased nervousness, try closing your eyes and taking some slow deep breaths. Too much stress can create a condition of anoxia in vital organs of the body. Breathing correctly will not only help you to relax, but it will also help deliver oxygen to the brain, where it is needed the most. Above all, be confident in your level of preparation to take this examination.

3. **Review the packet and Candidate Guide(s) sent to you by WREB prior to the exam.** Make sure you have filled out all the forms that need to be turned in at the exam and bring the entire packet with you to the school. Read the Candidate Guide and Policy Guide thoroughly as both clearly explain what is expected of you.



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WREB 2011 Examination Schedule Local Anesthesia, Dental Hygiene, and Restorative

Exam Location	Exam Dates	Application Deadline	Exam Type & Fee Anes (AN), Hygiene (DH), Rest (RE)
Portland Community College-Portland, OR	February 26-27	January 12, 2011	AN \$280.00
University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, NM	March 11-13	January 25, 2011	AN \$300.00
Rio Salado College-Phoenix, AZ	March 12	January 26, 2011	AN \$270.00
University of Missouri -Kansas City-Kansas City, MO	March 12-15	January 26, 2011	DH \$950.00
Weber State University -Ogden, UT	March 16-19	January 31, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$975.00
Phoenix College-Phoenix, AZ	March 17-20	January 31, 2011	AN \$285.00 DH \$970.00
University of Iowa-Iowa City, IA	March 18-20	February 1, 2011	DH \$1125.00
Lake Washington Technical College-Kirkland, WA	March 23-28	February 4, 2011	AN \$325.00 RE \$515.00
Salt Lake Community College-Salt Lake City, UT	March 25-26	February 8, 2011	AN \$300.00
Baylor College of Dentistry-Dallas, TX	April 15-18	March 1, 2011	DH \$1050.00
University of the Pacific-Stockton, CA	April 15-18	March 1, 2011	AN \$295.00 DH \$1055.00
Dixie State College-St. George, UT	April 20-23	March 7, 2011	AN \$295.00 DH \$995.00
University of Texas, San Antonio-San Antonio, TX	April 29-May 2	March 15, 2011	DH \$1015.00
University of Oklahoma-Oklahoma City, OK	April 29-May 2	March 15, 2011	DH \$990.00
Utah College of Dental Hygiene-Orem, UT	May 4-7	March 18, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$1200.00
Midwestern State University-Wichita Falls, TX	May 5-8	March 21, 2011	DH \$1005.00
Rio Salado College-Phoenix, AZ	May 6-9	March 22, 2011	AN \$270.00 DH \$960.00
University of Texas, Houston-Houston, TX	May 11-15	March 27, 2011	DH \$1050.00
Carrington College – Boise-Boise, ID	May 12-15	March 28, 2011	AN \$305.00 DH \$1000.00 RE \$475.00
University of Alaska-Anchorage, AK	May 13-16	March 29, 2011	AN \$270.00 DH \$1060.00 RE \$500.00
Lane Community College-Eugene, OR	May 18-22	April 1, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$1000.00 RE \$515.00
Phoenix College-Phoenix, AZ	May 20-23	April 5, 2011	AN \$285.00 DH \$970.00
MSU-Great Falls College of Technology-Great Falls, MT	May 28-29	April 13, 2011	AN \$295.00 DH \$975.00
Eastern Washington University-Spokane, WA	June 3-7	April 19, 2011	AN \$285.00 DH \$1005.00 RE \$530.00
Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID	June 8-11	April 22, 2011	AN \$295.00 DH \$960.00
Lake Washington Technical College-Kirkland, WA	June 9-13	April 25, 2011	AN \$325.00 DH \$1010.00
Loma Linda University-Loma Linda, CA	June 17-21	May 3, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$1000.00
University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, NM	June 24-26	May 10, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$1015.00
Portland Community College-Portland, OR	June 24-29	May 10, 2011	AN \$280.00 DH \$995.00 RE \$500.00
University of Southern California-Los Angeles, CA	August 19-21	July 5, 2011	AN \$325.00 DH \$1060.00
Eastern Washington University-Spokane, WA	September 8-11	July 25, 2011	AN \$285.00 DH \$1005.00 RE \$530.00
University of Texas, San Antonio-San Antonio, TX	September 9-12	July 26, 2011	DH \$1015.00
Utah College of Dental Hygiene-Orem, UT	December 12-17	October 28, 2011	AN \$300.00 DH \$1200.00
Carrington College – Boise-Boise, ID	December 15-18	October 31, 2011	AN \$305.00 DH \$1000.00 RE \$475.00
Phoenix College-Phoenix, AZ	December 15-18	October 31, 2011	AN \$285.00
University of Southern California-Los Angeles, CA	December 16-18	November 1, 2011	AN \$325.00 DH \$1060.00

California Accepts Dental Hygiene Results as of January, 2010

As of January of 2010 California began accepting the WREB dental hygiene exam as a pathway to licensure for dental hygiene applicants in California. WREB has historically tested candidates in California, but these candidates were seeking licensure in other states. The first exam was held at USC in April this year that included California candidates seeking licensure in California utilizing WREB results. At that exam,

WREB hosted members of the Dental Hygiene Committee of California so they could become more familiar with the WREB examination process. In addition, there were several potential future WREB examiners observing in preparation for joining the ranks of WREB examiners in 2011.

WREB has four hygiene exams scheduled in California during the 2011 exam season.

Frequently Asked Questions about Score Requests

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 processing computer scoring, reviewing information and cross checking all scores. They take various measures to ensure that scores are thoroughly checked and accurately reported.

Score information is posted to the Candidate Content section of the WREB website (www.wreb.org). It is therefore, very important that candidates save their individual Log-in and Password information as both will be needed to access their results after the exam. Examination results will be posted on the WREB website as soon as possible; generally, within seven to ten business days after the last scheduled exam day. Once posted, candidates will receive an e-mail containing a link along with instructions on how to retrieve their exam results via secure log-in. Each candidate will have access to a results report indicating pass or fail for each examination section; candidates who fail the exam will also receive a report containing a breakdown of scores for each section. These reports are available in a printable format.

How do I get my scores after the exam?

Candidates are sent an email from WREB to the email address that they used when applying for the exam. The email will give them directions to log in to the website using their user name and password to review their results. This is why it is important to notify WREB of any email address change.

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

Please contact the WREB office and ask for the 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 obtain 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 my scores be sent to a state board?

There are a variety of different types of score reports available for you to order for state boards. 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?

Each report that WREB offers has a different price. These prices can be found on our website at www.wreb.org.

What forms of payment do you accept for score requests?

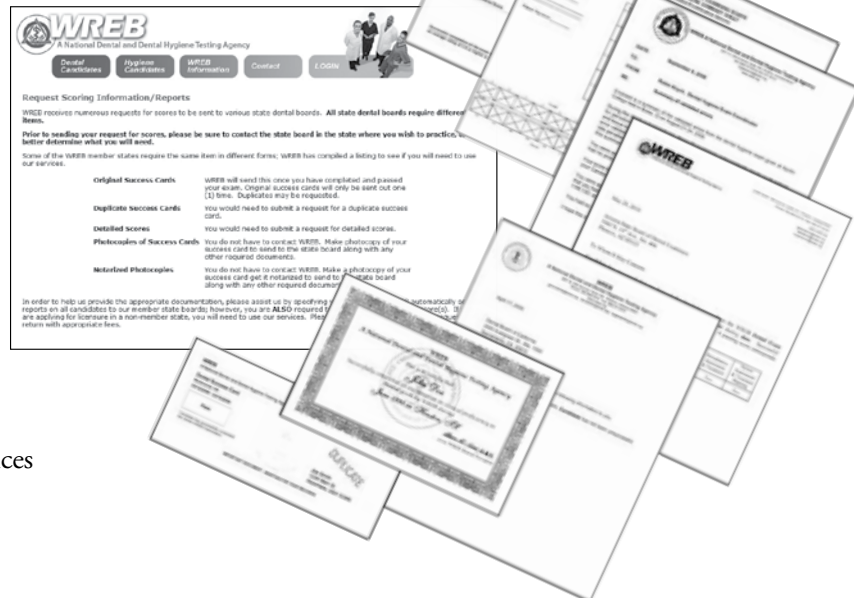
WREB is in the process of revising the website so that credit cards can be used for score requests. Until this process is complete, and thereafter, we will continue to accept cashier's checks, money orders and certified checks. WREB does not accept personal checks.

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

A Detailed Score Report is a letter providing the breakdown of scores received in each section of your 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 the exam. (Unsuccessful candidates automatically receive this review with their result email.) Both reports 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 that have come in. Unfortunately, there is no way to expedite your request or to move it in front of others. Once your request has been processed, it is sent to your requested destination by First Class Mail.



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4. **Pace yourself.** If taking the anesthesia written exam, understand that you have one hour and there are 55 questions. In the written exam, you will be given a 10-minute warning. The dental hygiene clinical exam is 2 hours to do specific tasks. Either way, if you budget your time you can work more efficiently through whatever series of tasks or questions are required in the time allotted. Avoid wasting time by looking frequently at the clock.

- **Bring a photo I.D.**
- **Be sure to have the required instruments for the examiner to use.**
- **Remember NOT to administer local anesthesia until after the Chief's approval.**
- **You may want to consider re-anesthetizing your patient right before checkout.**
- **Use page 27 of your Candidate Guide in your operatory as a checklist.**
- **Bring a blanket and a snack for your patient.**

As students, you have taken a number of examinations. This is one more. It may seem more fraught with consequences, but it is nothing more than proof positive that you have been a good student and are ready to move out into the world of dental hygiene.

A Glimpse into the Future

When I entered the dental clinic at Lane Community College on the morning of June 18th, there was a quiet stillness in the air that reminded me of the tense moments I spent perched upon my horse, waiting at the start of a cross country course. As I introduced myself to the Site Coordinator, I heard a quiver in my own voice, and I realized I was nervous. I had to take a moment to remind myself that it was not my skills being tested today; I was simply to be a privileged observer, taking a sneak peek at the clinical board examination I would be a part of the following year.

Having just completed my first year of dental hygiene school, I had heard stories and various details about the board exams from my instructors, yet I still did not really know what to expect. Both the Site Coordinator and the Chief Examiner were extremely welcoming and made themselves readily available to answer any questions I had. They both expressed to me their desire to see candidates succeed, and I observed them doing all they could to make the exam run as smoothly and as free of stress as possible. After getting a general tour of the examination site, I watched the candidates working for a brief amount of time, but not wanting to add to their stress, I left them and settled myself on the examiner's side of the clinic.

After each patient had been checked in by their candidate, they were escorted to the examiner's side of the clinic and the check in process was repeated by three separate examiners to determine if they were a qualifying board patient. Two out of three examiners must determine a patient is not suitable for the patient to be disqualified. As the examiners were waiting for their turn in the rotation, I got a chance to spend a few minutes with each of them and hear their thoughts on the examination process. A common thread I found throughout the conversations I had was that they all hoped for qualifying patients and candidate success. They are not fishing for errors, but rather trying to execute their jobs with

fairness and consistency. Throughout the day I was assured by many that if candidates read the Candidate Guide and follow the guidelines

precisely, the day of the exam should go smoothly. Finding the right patient is the most challenging part; once that is established, the skills and knowledge gained over the past two years will take care of the rest.

As the examination process was coming to an end, I got a chance to speak with one of the candidates about her experience. She said that although the examination was stressful, it was also fair and went very smoothly. Her biggest fear had been that her patient would not qualify and she echoed the examiners in saying that patient selection is the most crucial part of the process. Lack of calculus is the number one reason why patients get rejected, so it is important to make sure your patient has enough. While it may be tempting to pre-scale on one quad to see how tenacious the calculus is, I was strongly advised against it as it decreases the amount of areas you can submit. Each candidate is allowed three submissions, so you want to keep your options open.

As I started my drive back to Portland that afternoon I felt enlightened and assured. I had seen how the WREB examination process was executed, and I had witnessed all the efforts made to create a positive and un-biased experience for all those involved. I am grateful to WREB for allowing me this experience and I feel confident that I will now enter into my own exam with a little less fear in my heart. I hope that by sharing my experience I will ease the nerves of other future candidates as well. Be prepared and believe in your skills the rest will take care of itself. Best of luck to the graduating Class of 2011!



Get to Know the Dental Hygiene Department at WREB

It's always helpful to put a face to a name...when you receive correspondence from WREB, there's a real person behind that correspondence. Each one of the upcoming 2011 Dental Hygiene exams will be assigned to Robin,

Cindy or Phelecia. Additionally, Robin Krych oversees all Dental Hygiene exam operations. All three expertly prepare exam materials and correspond with schools, examiners and candidates.



Left to right...

Robin Krych, Dental Hygiene Manager - Cindy Brown, DH coordinator - Phelecia Cook-Gyder, DH coordinator

New states accepting WREB results:

California recently added Dental Hygiene acceptance - Kentucky for Dental and Dental Hygiene - Illinois for Dental and Dental Hygiene - Pennsylvania for Dental and Dental Hygiene



WREB

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