

Dental Therapists Outperform Dentists on 2024 ADEX Exam



The ADEX Exam is a licensing exam that graduates of Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental schools and dental therapy schools take to evaluate their skills for entry-level practice.

Dental therapists take the exact same ADEX exam as dentists but are limited to the procedures within their scope of practice.

These clinical exams are specific to the skill sets of Dental Therapists and test their ability to make clinical judgment calls and treatment plans and manage medical emergencies

The ADEX exam for dental therapists is divided in three parts:

1. A restorative exam (anterior and posterior 3 surface restoration);
2. A manikin-based endodontic exam (pulpotomy), a pediatric restorative exam (amalgam and stainless crown); and
3. A didactic (computer-based) exam also called an OSCE (objective structured clinical exam).

Comparison of 2024 ADEX Exam Pass Rates

Dental Therapists	Dentists
Anterior Filling: 94.4%	Anterior Filling: 92.3%
Posterior Filling: 92.6%	Posterior Filling: 85.7%

In addition, 100% of dental therapists passed the didactic dental therapy exam and pediatric manikin exam. The pass rates for pulpotomies were 93.8%, silver fillings 100% and silver crowns 92.2%