

1 21 NCAC 16C .0303 is amended as published in 37:03 NCR 237 as follows:

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3 **21 NCAC 16C .0303 BOARD APPROVED EXAMINATIONS**

4 (a) All applicants for dental hygiene licensure shall achieve passing scores on the Board's sterilization and  
5 jurisprudence examinations. Reexamination shall be governed by Rule .0311 of this Section.

6 (b) All applicants for dental hygiene licensure shall achieve passing scores on the examination administered by the  
7 Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and clinical examinations administered by Board approved testing  
8 agencies. The Board shall determine which testing agencies are approved based on the requirements set forth in  
9 Paragraphs (c) and (d) of this Rule.

10 (c) To qualify as an approved testing agency, the test-development agencies shall allow Board representation on the  
11 examination review committee and the board of directors of the agency and allow Board input in the examination  
12 development and administration.

13 (d) To qualify as an approved testing agency, the clinical examination administered by a testing agency shall:

- 14 (1) include procedures performed on human subjects or an alternative method that simulates human  
15 subjects, including manikins, as part of the assessment of clinical competency;
- 16 (2) include probing, supra- and subgingival scaling, and soft tissue management; and
- 17 (3) provide the following:
- 18 (A) anonymity between applicants and examination graders;
- 19 (B) standardization and calibration of graders;
- 20 (C) a mechanism for post exam analysis;
- 21 (D) conjunctive scoring, which is scoring that requires applicants to earn a passing grade on all  
22 sections or areas tested and that does not allow weighted, averaged, or overall scoring to  
23 compensate for failures in individual subject areas;
- 24 (E) a minimum passing score set by the testing agency for each subject area tested;
- 25 (F) an annual review of the examination;
- 26 (G) a task analysis performed at least once every seven years that surveys dentists nationwide  
27 to determine the content of the examination;
- 28 (H) a system of quality assurance to ensure uniform, consistent administration of the  
29 examination at each testing site; and
- 30 (I) does not permit a dental hygiene instructor to grade candidates at any institution at which  
31 the instructor is employed.

32 (e) The Board shall accept examination scores for five years following the date of the examination. Individuals who  
33 apply for licensure more than five years after the examination date shall re-take the examination. Each applicant shall  
34 arrange for the applicant's scores to be submitted to the Board office.

35 (f) The applicant shall comply with all requirements of the testing agency in applying for and taking the examination.  
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37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-224;*

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*Eff. September 3, 1976;*  
*Readopted Eff. September 26, 1977;*  
*Amended Eff. September 1, 2014; June 1, 2009; June 1, 2006; May 1, 1989; March 1, 1988;*  
*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9,*  
*2018;*  
*Amended Eff. December 1, 2022; September 1, 2020.*