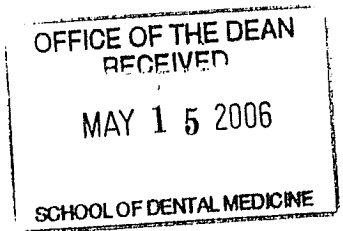





American Dental Association
www.ada.org



Date: May 8, 2006
To: Dental School Dean 
From: Gene A. Kramer, Ph.D.
Director, Department of Testing Services
Subject: Modification to the Policies of the
Dental Admission Testing Program

At its meeting in April of 2006, the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education and Licensure decided that Dental Admission Test examinees will be limited to three opportunities to participate in the testing program. This policy will be retroactive when it takes effect on January 1, 2007.

The Council made the decision to limit access for a number of reasons. First, unlimited access to the DAT has created the potential for individuals and outside agencies to gather information regarding the content of the test as well as information on the wording of individual items. Such information could be used to prepare potential examinees for the test and give them unfair advantage over others. Second, if examinees take a test repeatedly, their performance might eventually improve due to repetition.

In taking this action, the Council did not want to disadvantage any legitimate examinees and will allow exceptions for individuals who provide documentation showing they are current applicants to dental school. The 2007 Candidate's Guide will reflect this policy change. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

/gk

cc: Dr. Paul G. Sims, chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure
Dr. Stephen K. Young, chair, Committee on Educational Measurements and Testing
Dr. Richard Valachovic, executive director, American Dental Education Association
Dr. Laura M. Neumann, associate executive director, Division of Education
Ms. Karen Hart, director, Council on Dental Education and Licensure