Candidate Guide

Official Guide to the Dental Aptitude Test (Canada)

CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DENTAIRE CANADIENNE

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST
DAT

Updated January 2026

NOTICES

You are required to read this document before you apply to take the examination. At the time of registration, you must confirm that you have read this document, understood its contents, and agree to comply with the policies and procedures it contains.

Changes to the DAT Program might occur after publication of this Guide and will be posted at www.cda-adc.ca/dat. You will be subject to the policies and procedures in effect at the time you write the DAT. Therefore, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the policies and procedures in effect at that time.

Acknowledgements

The Canadian Dental Association acknowledges the assistance of the Department of Testing Services at the American Dental Association for their ongoing collaboration in providing a Dental Aptitude Test of the highest caliber.

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REVISION HISTORY

Listed below are significant revisions to the *DAT Candidate Guide*.

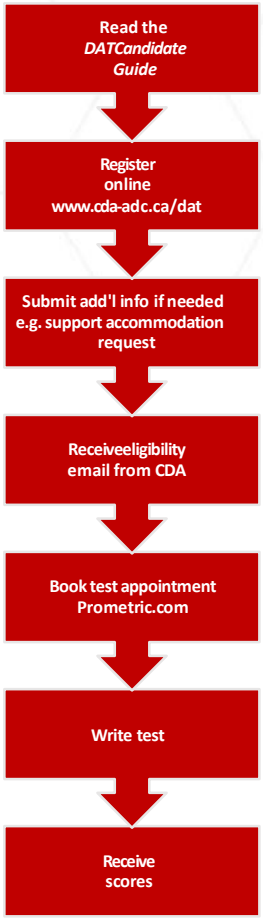
EXAMINATION PURPOSE

The Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) Program is provided by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) to assist dental schools in selecting first-year students. Dental schools use information concerning candidates' DAT performance to inform admissions decisions. While most dental schools require applicants to participate in the DAT Program, DAT results are just one factor considered in evaluating applicants. Validity studies have shown that test scores in conjunction with academic performance are useful in predicting success in dental school. The relative importance of these predictors in the admission process is determined by each dental school.

The Canadian Dental Aptitude Test has two main parts: the computer-based "written" test and the Manual Dexterity Test. The Manual Dexterity Test, which involves carving a piece of soap according to exact specifications, is currently suspended because of COVID-19 restrictions and related logistical challenges. CDA is working toward the resolution of those challenges and will reintroduce the Manual Dexterity Test as soon as possible.

The registration and testing process for the DAT is described in detail in this Candidate Guide. In brief, the process is:

- You register on the CDA website.
- Within a few days, in a follow up email, CDA provides your Eligibility ID and notes the start date of the six-month testing window in which to write the DAT.
- With the Eligibility ID, you book a test appointment at a Prometric test centre through the Prometric website, not the CDA website.
- When you arrive to write the DAT, Prometric will verify that your ID exactly matches the information you submitted; if it does not, you will NOT be permitted to test and you will forfeit the registration fee.
- You write the test.
- Your scores are provided about four weeks after the date of writing the DAT. CDA will send you an email when your DAT scores are available to retrieve from the CDA website.
- At the same time, CDA sends your DAT scores to the dental schools you requested during the registration process.



It is your responsibility to know the deadlines for each dental school you wish to apply to. These deadlines include the deadline to apply, and the deadline for schools to receive your DAT scores from CDA. You need to make sure the test is completed in time for scores to be transmitted to the dental schools. It is recommended you write the DAT at least 8 weeks before scores are needed. Register as early as possible for the best opportunity to get a testing appointment with a place, date and time that is suitable for you.

About this guide and examination program

This document is the official Candidate Guide to policies and procedures for the Canadian Dental Aptitude Test ("DAT" or the "Examination"). It provides information such as application and testing procedures, examination content, the consequences of rules' violations, and scoring. The DAT is implemented by the Programs and Services team of the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). CDA collaborates with the American Dental Association (ADA) on the development and administration of the Canadian DAT, and with Prometric and related testing centres for the delivery of the test itself. The set of activities, policies, and procedures that occur to support this examination are determined by CDA and are referred to as the "DAT Program."

In the event of a discrepancy in information between this guide and other information about the DAT published by the CDA, the information in this guide will prevail.

See the Frequently Asked Questions section of the DAT website for answers to commonly asked questions.

Ethical conduct

Dentists play an important role in society by providing services that contribute to the health and well-being of individuals and their communities. This profession requires members to always behave ethically. This obligation begins at the time of application to school and continues through the educational process, the licensure process, and the entirety of professional practice.

Members of the dental profession voluntarily abide by the CDA Principles of Ethics in the interest of protecting patients and maintaining the trust of society. The CDA Principles of Ethics are found at this link: https://www.cda-adc.ca/about-cda/ethics

DAT Candidates are expected to abide by these ethical standards and to read, understand, and comply with the examination regulations and rules of conduct guiding the examinations. The obligation to abide by the ethical standards of the profession includes a commitment to honesty, truthfulness, full disclosure, accuracy, fairness, and integrity in completing the examination application, in the examination process itself, and in applying for licensure.

Misconduct or irregularity in the examination process is a very serious matter. Violation of the rules of conduct or examination regulations may result in civil liability, voiding of examination results, or another appropriate penalty.

The policies and procedures applicable to misconduct and irregularities in the application and examination process are available in later sections of this document. The CDA expects all candidates to carefully read and understand this information and their obligations as candidates for this examination.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

Examination specifications

The computer-based part of the DAT is composed of multiple-choice test questions (items) and is available for administration in the English and French languages. The English DAT meets the requirements of all Canadian dental schools while the French DAT meets only the requirements of all French dental schools. The English DAT has the following sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, and Reading Comprehension. The French DAT includes all sections of the English DAT except for the reading comprehension section. Both the imperial and metric systems of measurement are eligible for inclusion on this exam. Additional information on test content is provided below.

Confidentiality of examination materials

Examination items constitute confidential, copyrighted intellectual property. Obtaining, using, or distributing examination items is strictly prohibited, regardless of the method employed (memorization, recording, copying, or other means). This prohibition includes the discussion, distribution, or online posting of remembered examination questions or answers, in whole or in part.

The use or sharing of examination items violates the Examination Regulations and Rules of Conduct of this testing program. Such activities could provide an unfair advantage to individuals, or groups of individuals, and threaten the validity and credibility of the examination. Since all examinations are copyrighted property, these prohibited activities also violate copyright laws.

The Canadian Dental Association investigates all reports and allegations of candidates' alleged generation, misuse, or sharing of current examination materials, and will pursue formal action against anyone who violates the Examination Regulations or copyright law. Violations could result in the voiding of exam results, legal action, or other appropriate penalties.

Scope of the examination

Survey of the Natural Sciences – Biology (40 items)

- Cell and Molecular Biology: origin of life, cell metabolism (e.g., photosynthesis/enzymology), cellular processes (e.g., membrane transport, signal transduction), thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/meiosis, cell structure and function, experimental cell biology, biomolecules, and integrated relationships
- Diversity of Life: Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, animalia, protista, fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, and integrated relationships
- Structure and Function of Systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, lymphatic/immune, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/sensory, endocrine, reproductive, and integrated relationships
- Developmental Biology: fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, and integrated relationships
- Genetics: molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, genetic technology, and integrated relationships

- Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior: natural selection, population genetics/speciation, population and community ecology, ecosystems, and animal behavior (including social behavior), and integrated relationships.

Survey of the Natural Sciences – General Chemistry (30 items)

- Stoichiometry and General Concepts: percent composition, empirical formula, balancing equations, moles and molecular formulas, molar mass, density, and calculations from balanced equations
- Gases: kinetic molecular theory of gases, Dalton's, Boyle's, Charles's, and ideal gas law
- Liquids and Solids: intermolecular forces, phase changes, vapor pressure, structures, polarity, and properties
- Solutions: polarity, properties (colligative, non colligative), forces, and concentration calculations
- Acids and Bases: pH, strength, Brønsted-Lowry reactions, and calculations
- Chemical Equilibria: molecular, acid/base, precipitation, calculations, and Le Chatelier's principle
- Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry: laws of thermodynamics, Hess's law, spontaneity, enthalpies and entropies, and heat transfer
- Chemical Kinetics: rate laws, activation energy, and half-life
- Oxidation-Reduction Reactions: balancing equations, determination of oxidation numbers, electrochemicalcalculations, and electrochemical concepts and terminology
- Atomic and Molecular Structure: electron configuration, orbital types, Lewis-Dot diagrams, atomic theory, quantum theory, molecular geometry, bond types, and sub-atomic particles
- Periodic Properties: representative elements, transition elements, periodic trends, and descriptive chemistry
- Nuclear Reactions: balancing equations, binding energy, decay processes, particles, and terminology
- Laboratory: basic techniques, equipment, error analysis, safety, and data analysis

Perceptual Ability (90 Items)

The Perceptual Ability Test comprises six subtests:

- Apertures
- View recognition
- Angle discrimination
- Paper folding
- Cube counting
- 3D form development

Reading Comprehension (50 items) (English DAT only)

The Reading Comprehension Test contains three reading passages on various scientific topics. Prior understanding of the science topics is not a prerequisite to answering the test items. The reading passages require the ability to read, comprehend, and thoroughly analyze basic scientific information.

Changes to the test specifications for the DAT may occur after publication of this Guide. If changes occur, they will be posted to https://www.cda-adc.ca/for-prospective-dentists/dat

Examination preparation

Practice test

CDA offers a paper-based practice test to help candidates prepare. The practice test is an example of what to expect in terms of the types of questions, the number of questions and the order of the test. The questions on the practice test previously appeared on official DAT administrations but have been retired from active usage. The practice test provides an opportunity to become familiar with DAT item formats. The DAT practice test is not designed to provide information on how well a candidate is likely to perform on the DAT.

The DAT practice test can be purchased from your DAT account. Only 1 version of the practice test is available. If multiples are ordered, copies of the same practice will be sent

The CDA does not endorse any specific test preparation courses and has no data on the content or efficacy of courses designed to prepare candidates for the DAT. The CDA urges individuals considering participating in test preparation courses to carefully compare course materials against the test specifications for the DAT, to confirm those materials are likely to reflect the current content of the DAT. See Appendix 1 for a list of appropriate reference materials.

The written portion of the DAT is presented on and completed through a computer at a professional testing centre. There is no option to complete a paper-based DAT.

You can become familiar with the computer-based administration of the DAT through Prometric's Test Drive. This 30-minute overview includes the following experiences candidates will encounter at the test centre on their official day of testing:

- The scheduling and registration process
- The complete check-in process
- Introduction to test centre staff and surroundings
- The Test Drive also includes a 15-minute sample test (a generic test, not DAT specific) demonstrating the testing process.

For more information on Prometric's Test Drive visit https://www.prometric.com/test-drive.

RESULTS INFORMATION

Scoring of examination

DAT results are reported as scale scores. These scale scores are neither raw scores (i.e., the number of questions answered correctly) nor percentiles. The conversion of raw scores to scale scores is accomplished using psychometric equating procedures. Using scale scores, it is possible to meaningfully compare the performance of one candidate with the performance of all candidates. DAT scores range from 1 to 30.

Scores are based on the number of correct responses obtained. Candidates are not penalized for guessing. Each examination includes questions that enable CDA to place different forms (versions) of the test on a common measurement scale, thereby adjusting the forms for minor differences in difficulty. Because of this adjustment, candidate scores have the same meaning, regardless of which specific test form was administered.

The test may contain experimental questions that are not scored. Data collected on unscored questions may be used in later test construction procedures, to ensure that these questions are appropriate before they become scored questions. Unscored questions are presented in the same manner as scored questions.

Results reports

When registering for the DAT, candidates are asked to select the schools that will receive their official results. In so doing, candidates grant CDA permission to release official results to these schools. Results will be released only in accordance with the DAT Program, usually within three to four weeks of the testing date. When results are available for release, official results are reported to the selected Canadian dental schools, and some American and international schools, electronically. For some American and international dental schools, results are sent by postal mail. Candidates will be notified by email when a score report will be available to view from their designated DAT account.

Note: Scores cannot be voided from the candidate record at the request of a candidate after completing any part of the examination.

Dental schools and programs require official scores be transmitted to them directly by CDA. Scores will not be accepted from candidates.

When you register for the DAT, the registration fee includes an official student transcript and up to 5 official transcripts sent directly to the dental schools you indicate on the registration form. Transcripts for additional schools selected at the time of registration cost an additional $20.00 each. Transcripts may be ordered after registration as well. To remove a school from your list of schools to receive scores, send an email with the request to dat@cda-adc.ca. Once you receive your scores from CDA, scores being sent to the schools you have requested cannot be cancelled.

Results audits

As a routine part of the overall results verification process, candidate examination responses and results are audited for accuracy before results are distributed. Candidates can request an additional audit of examination results for an additional charge (see the Examination Fees section of this Guide). Audits require approximately four to six weeks to complete and must be requested within 30 days of the reporting date indicated on the official report of results. Therefore, an audit may not be requested prior to a candidate's reception of their DAT scores.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The DAT Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Participants in the DAT Program typically complete at least one year of university education, including courses in biology and general chemistry. Advanced level biology and physics are not required. Most applicants complete two or more years of university before taking the test.

Applicants seeking admission to Canadian dental schools should confirm the requirement for DAT scores at each dental school of interest, and the required submission deadlines, prior to applying for the test. Dental school applicants are encouraged to take the DAT well in advance of the dental school admission cycle, at least 8 weeks before scores are required by dental schools.

Eligibility to retest

You are required to complete a registration and pay a registration fee for each testing attempt.

A testing attempt is defined as any test administration in which the candidate has been seated at a computer at a test centre and electronically agreed to the confidentiality statement to start the test.

- You can register to re-test only when you have received your scores from your previous DAT attempt.
- You must wait at least 60 days from your last attempt before retaking the DAT. You can register before the 60 days has elapsed (provided you have received your scores), but your eligibility window will begin 61 days after your previous DAT attempt.
- Candidates who have had three or more DAT attempts may register but must provide evidence of their previous applications to dental school. These candidates may retest only once per 12-month period. You can register before the 12 months has elapsed, but your eligibility window will begin 366 days after your previous DAT attempt.

Retesting after three or more attempts

If you have attempted the DAT three or more times, you must provide evidence of your demonstrated intent to apply to dental school within the previous 18 months. Following registration, you must complete and submit the *Continued Application to Dental School Form*, available at www.cda-adc.ca/dat, along with one form of the following supporting documentation, which must be dated within the previous 18 months:

- Copy of a completed and submitted application to dental school
- Letter of rejection from a dental school
- Letter on school letterhead from a dental school admission officer encouraging the applicant to retest
- Letter on school letterhead from a college or university health profession advisor or instructor verifying the applicant is applying to dental school

Please send your completed Continued Application to Dental School Form and your supporting documentation to dat@cda-adc.ca

Partial testing is not permitted. Applicants are required to take all three sections of the written DAT. The lowest possible scale score is reported for any assigned test not taken. Individuals unable to complete the DAT must submit a new application and fee to retest.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Examination fees and refunds

All fees are in Canadian dollars. DAT fees and registrations are not transferable to another candidate. The following indicates DAT fees for 2026 (January 1):

FEE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FEE AMOUNT
DAT Fee	This fee includes test administration, an official student transcript and up to 5 official transcripts sent directly to the dental schools selected at registration.	$585
Preparation materials	DAT Preparation Manual	$30
Preparation materials	Resend DAT preparation materials returned because delivery was not completed (e.g., wrong address provided)	$10
Transcripts during registration	Each transcript requested at registration over the 5 included with the DAT Fee	$20
Transcripts after registration	First copy of transcript requests (including personal copies) Additional copy of transcript requests (including personal copies)	$30 $20
Transcript verification	Can be found in your DAT account in your Previous DAT Registrations.	$0
Score Audit Fee (optional)	For a period of 30 days after the score reporting date, the DAT Program will audit a candidate's DAT results.	$80
Change of Test language	If you have already registered for the DAT and you want to change the language in which you want to write your test, email dat@cda-adc.ca.	$0

Refund of fees

DAT registration and transcript fees are refundable within 90 days of the date on which DAT fees were paid. The applicable administrative fees that apply to refunds are listed in the table below.

DAYS SINCE DAT FEES PAID	ADMINISTRATIVE FEE
1 to 30 days	$150 + tax
31 to 90 days	$250 + tax

Other situations involving refunds include:

- A candidate who attempts to register when they are not eligible (e.g. waiting for DAT scores). The registration will not be accepted and a $150 + tax fee will be applied to the refund of registration fees.
- A test day emergency that prohibits a candidate from writing the DAT may warrant a refund. There is more information on test day emergencies later in the guide.

Cancelling your DAT registration

Should you wish to cancel your DAT registration and wish no longer to write the DAT. You may proceed with the cancellation of your DAT registration. This cancellation may result in a partial refund if you qualify. (see Refund of fees table above). To cancel your DAT registration, you must:

- First cancel your DAT existing appointment via Prometric website.
- E-mail the DAT office your Prometric cancelation ID
- Send an email to the DAT Office clearly Indicating that you no longer wish to write your DAT exam.

Examination schedule

The table below presents the DAT administration schedule. You must report to the testing centre at least 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. The total administration time is three hours and 50 minutes, which includes the tutorial and survey.

DAT ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences (SNS)	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional)	15 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test (PAT)	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional) (English DAT only)	15 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test (RCT) (English DAT only)	60 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	5 minutes
Total Time	3 hours, 50 minutes

The scheduled breaks are optional. If you choose to take a scheduled break, the testing session will resume automatically after 15 minutes have elapsed. Taking a break at any other time is considered an unscheduled break where the test timer continues to count down remaining time.

During scheduled and unscheduled breaks, lockers may be accessed only for food, medicine and drinking. You may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone or leave the test centre.

TEST REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

You register for the DAT from your DAT Account. When registering, you will:

- Verify you have read this guide, the CDA DAT Privacy Policy and DAT website Terms of Use
- Provide an e-mail address and validate it (do not use a school email address, they can be problematic)
- Verify that you have received the scores for any previous DAT you have written
- Provide your personal information (name, address, etc.)
- Select the dental schools that you want to receive your transcripts
- Order the DAT Preparation Manual, if you wish
- Confirm your order, agree to the Terms and Conditions, and provide payment

You will receive a payment confirmation e-mail as a record of your registration. This email contains your "payment reference number" that will be used to access your scores at a later date – do not delete this e-mail. Your registration is now in-progress.

Registrations must be processed to confirm eligibility. This process usually takes two business days. CDA will then send a second email confirming your eligibility to write the DAT. This eligibility email will provide:

- Your DAT ID number
- Your DAT eligibility number
- The starting and ending dates of your six-month eligibility period (the "testing window")
- Instructions on how to book a testing appointment at a Prometric test centre

On receipt of this eligibility e-mail, your registration is complete. You can immediately use the link in the e-mail to visit the Prometric website and book a testing appointment that falls within the eligibility dates you have been assigned. If it is determined that you are not eligible because you have outstanding scores, the registration fee will be refunded minus a $100 administrative fee.

A completed registration allows you to write the DAT once within the six-month testing window. If you do not write the DAT within the six-month testing window, a new registration and fee is required.

All information you provide during registration must be accurate. You must use your legal name exactly as it appears on the government-issued photo identification that you will present when writing the DAT (see below).

DAT ELIGIBILITY EXTENSIONS

Candidates who need additional time to write the DAT may purchase one 45-day extension to their existing six-month eligibility window.

Extension fee

The extension fee is $175 CAD plus applicable taxes. This fee cannot be reduced or waived.

How to request an extension

· Sign in to your DAT account and order the eligibility extension.

· Submit your request at least five days before your current eligibility period expires.

· If you have a testing appointment booked with Prometric, cancel it before ordering the extension.

Processing and approval

Allow approximately two to three business days for processing. An extension is not active until it has been approved by the Canadian Dental Association. Do not book a test outside your current eligibility window until approval is confirmed.

Important conditions

· Only one 45-day extension is permitted per DAT registration.

· An extension adds 45 days to the existing eligibility end date; it does not create a new six-month eligibility period.

· Cancelling or rescheduling a Prometric appointment does not automatically extend DAT eligibility.

· If your eligibility period expires without an approved extension and you have not tested, a new registration and fee are required.

For details, visit www.cda-adc.ca/dat or contact dat@cda-adc.ca.

If the name on your registration fails to EXACTLY match the name appearing on the IDs you present at the test centre, you will NOT be permitted to test. As a result, the testing appointment and DAT fee will be forfeited, and you will be required to register again and pay the DAT fee.

Changes and corrections to the registration (name, birthdate, etc.) must be completed at least two weeks prior to a scheduled testing appointment. Request changes by emailing dat@cda-adc.ca noting your DAT ID Number.

If you wish to change the language in which to write the DAT, please e-mail dat@cda-adc.ca. A $100 administrative fee will be applied.

TEST CENTRE PROCEDURES

For detailed information about the test centre requirements and procedures, consult Test Day Information on the CDA website at www.cda-adc.ca/dat.

When you arrive at the test centre, you must present two pieces of identification that bear your signature. One of these must be government-issued and must include your photo. Only the government-issued identification listed below will be accepted for photo ID:

- Passport
- Driver's license
- Citizenship card
- Provincial Photo ID card
- Certificate of Indian Status

The second piece of ID must bear your signature. Acceptable items in addition to those listed above, include a credit card from a major Canadian bank or a student ID card with your photo and signature. Both pieces of identification you present must be valid (not expired), must show the same first name and last name, and the names must match what you registered with. Temporary ID validation documents must be pre-approved by CDA. See Test Day Information on the DAT website for more information. You will NOT be admitted to the test centre if your ID does not meet these requirements.

The test centre may electronically capture your identity biometrically (e.g., through fingerprint, palm vein print, photograph) before you can proceed with testing. If applicable, you must consent to these procedures before being permitted to test. Electronic capture of biometric data allows for an easier and quicker return to testing after breaks and also protects against security breaches. Biometric and other identification information will be retained by the Administration Vendor and will be utilized for identity verification at any of your potential future test administrations related to dental education and licensure.

Test Centre staff will visually inspect eyeglasses and hair accessories as part of check-in procedures. Staff may also use a detection wand to scan for electronic devices. Jewelry, except for wedding and engagement rings, is prohibited. Updates to security protocol at check-in may be implemented with little to no advance warning. You can view the current check-in procedures at the Prometric website. Please ensure that you check these before you go to the test centre so that you know what to expect.

Test centre staff will observe candidates at all times during the testing appointment. This observation will include staff walking through the secure testing room, as well as video recording of the candidates'

examination session. Administration vendor staff are required to report behaviour that might represent a violation of the rules and regulations.

Prometric staff are not authorized to answer questions from candidates regarding examination content, examination software, or scoring.

Reschedule or cancel a testing appointment

To reschedule or cancel a testing appointment, you must contact Prometric at www.prometric.com in advance of the testing appointment, not CDA. The local Prometric test centre cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment; you need to use the Prometric website or the contacts provided on the Prometric website. Appointments must be rescheduled by the business day (not Saturday, Sunday or statutory holidays) before the test and at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled appointment. Candidates will receive a confirmation notification when rescheduling their testing appointment. Please retain a copy of this confirmation. Cancelling or rescheduling an appointment will not affect your eligibility window or DAT registration. Additional fees apply and must be paid directly to Prometric (see the Examination Fees section of this Guide).

Rescheduling fees

The fee to reschedule a testing appointment with Prometric is determined by the amount of notice you provide and is payable to Prometric. Rescheduling fees, in United States dollars (USD), are as follows and are subject to change:

NUMBER OF DAYS PRIOR TO TESTING APPOINTMENT	RESCHEDULEFEES (USD)
30 or more days before test date	$40
5 - 29 days before scheduled test date	$70
1 - 4 days before scheduled test date	$150
Penalty if candidate fails to appear for a scheduled testing appointment OR presents more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time and is refused admission	full testing fee will be forfeited

*Saturdays, Sundays andstatutory holidays are NOT business days

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is expected that COVID-19 will continue to have an impact on the DAT. You should regularly monitor the DAT website for COVID-19 updates, and the COVID-19 information on the Prometric website.

No Show Policy

If you do not appear for a scheduled testing appointment and do not cancel or reschedule your appointment by the required time in advance of the test date, you will forfeit all testing fees. If you do not write the scheduled test, nothing is transmitted to the dental schools and no information will appear on your DAT transcripts. To write the DAT, you must register again and pay the DAT registration fee to schedule a new appointment.

Emergencies on the day of a testing appointment

If an emergency occurs on the day of a testing appointment that prevents you from attending the testing appointment, a written "Request for Relief" must be submitted to CDA. This request should include applicable documentation and must be sent to dat@cda-adc.ca within five business days following the appointment.

Examples of emergencies and applicable documentation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sudden illness on the examination day. Provide a doctor's note or hospital records confirming that you were treated on the day of the examination.
- Death in the family on the exam day. Provide a copy of an obituary, prayer card, funeral service program, or death certificate confirming that the relative passed away or services were held on the day of the examination.

Testing appointments affected by emergencies occurring prior to the day of the actual testing appointment should be handled through the Prometric's rescheduling and cancellation process indicated previously.

Testing problems on the day of the testing appointment

Please note that testing service interruptions can occur on the day of your test appointment. If you encounter a problem during the examination, the administration should not be resumed until the issue has been documented and resolved by the test centre administrator.

Concerns not resolved at the time of testing must be submitted in writing within five business days of the testing appointment to dat@cda-adc.ca. Upon receipt of the information, CDA will conduct an investigation and notify you of the outcome.

For problems where you wish to request relief, you must e-mail dat@cda-adc.ca directly, and state the specific problem and the relief being requested. Test centre incident reports submitted on behalf of the candidate—and comments submitted by the candidate via post examination surveys—are considered indirect communication to the CDA. These indirect communications may be considered by the CDA as part of its general quality assurance procedures but would not result in specific relief for the candidate.

Scores from a specific administration cannot be canceled or adjusted under any circumstances.

Test scores are still provided within 3-4 weeks when an investigation is required to resolve an issue.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

The DAT program provides reasonable and appropriate testing accommodations in accordance with accepted norms. These accommodations are for individuals with documented disabilities or medical conditions who demonstrate a need for accommodation, request an accommodation prior to testing, and who are approved by CDA to receive accommodations based on the information submitted.

Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified disability or a medical condition to ensure equitable access to testing. Candidates must request testing accommodations with each DAT registration and are required to re-submit the supporting documentation covering the same disability or condition.

IMPORTANT: Candidates requesting accommodation must obtain supporting medical documents before completing their online registration. This ensures that the documents will be submitted within 30 days after registration. If no documentation is received and approved within those 30 days, we will proceed with the processing of your application without accommodation.

To request accommodation:

- During the registration process, when prompted, indicate that accommodation will be requested.
- Download the *Testing Accommodation Application Form*. Carefully read the information and complete the form.
- Submit the completed form and the required documentation here.

When accommodation is requested, the registration processing is held until the required supporting documentation are received and evaluated by the DAT Office. When requests are approved, the testing accommodation is added to the candidate's registration, and when booking a testing appointment, only test centres that can provide the specific accommodation will be presented to select for a testing appointment.

Information concerning specific accommodations provided will not be shared outside of CDA, the test centre and the DAT program. The granting of accommodation will not be indicated on examination results.

In considering a request from a candidate with a disability, the DAT program is guided by a focus on test validity. Testing accommodations are provided so all candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, as opposed to having the measurement of their knowledge and skills inappropriately reflect a disability.

To help determine whether candidates qualify for testing accommodations, the DAT program requires a complete evaluation of the candidate as well as a completed and signed Testing Accommodation Application Form. A health care professional appropriately qualified to evaluate the disability or medical condition must conduct the evaluation.

Note the following regarding the submitted documentation:

- Accommodations requested must align with the identified functional limitation so that the adjustment to the testing procedure is appropriate.
- Required documentation is a current evaluation report (from within the past five years) from the appropriate health care professional. The document must include the professional's full name, credentials including license number, jurisdiction of licensure and contact information. The report must indicate the candidate's name, date of birth, and date of evaluation. The report should include:
    - information concerning the specific diagnostic procedures or tests administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and in alignment with current professional protocol.
    - the results of the diagnostic procedures and tests, and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.

- the specific diagnosis of the disability, with an accompanying description of the candidate's limitations due to the disability.
- a summary of the complete evaluation with recommendations for the specific accommodations and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitation.

- Documentation of any previous accommodations provided by educational institutions or other testing agencies. If no prior accommodations were provided, the licensed professional should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.
- Do not submit the documents indicated below. They will not be accepted and if received will be immediately destroyed.
  - Handwritten letters from health care professionals
  - Handwritten patient records or notes from patient charts
  - Diagnoses on prescription pads
  - Self-evaluations
  - Research articles

A candidate's eligibility for the DAT will only be confirmed after testing accommodation requests have been approved. For more information on accommodations and an explanation of how to request testing accommodations, consult the information provided with the *Testing Accommodation Application Form.*

Adding accommodation to an existing registration

Testing accommodation can be added to an existing registration. To request accommodation for an existing registration, do the following:

1. If you have booked a testing appointment, you must cancel it (fees apply). Accommodations are part of the eligibility, and the eligibility cannot be updated if a testing appointment has been booked. To cancel your testing appointment, visit https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/search/cda-adc.
2. Complete and sign the *CDA Testing Accommodation Application Form* following the instructions included with the form.
3. Upload the completed form and supporting documents to: DAT Uploads

CDA will review your request for accommodation and supporting documents. Within 5 to 7 business days you will receive notice by e-mail whether your application has been approved.

FEE-WAIVER PROGRAM

Students receiving need-based, non-repayable financial aid are eligible to request a refund of the DAT registration fee. To apply, submit a completed Fee-Waiver Application Form, and documentation of financial aid here: DAT Uploads Students must submit refund requests within 30 days of registration and **before** booking a test.

Need-based, non-repayable student aid in Canada includes federal and provincial grants, bursaries, and

specialized funding for specific needs. Key programs include Canada Student Grants, provincial grants (e.g., OSAP, Alberta Student Aid) and institutional bursaries designed for students from low- and middle-income families.

Each year, 100 refunds will be granted, with a set amount released every four months on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applicants from equity-deserving communities are encouraged to self-identify as part of the application process. This information helps us advance equity and support individuals from communities that are underrepresented in dentistry.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

Rules have been established to govern the administration of this examination to ensure results accurately reflect candidates' skills. Examination regulations and rules of conduct help preserve the integrity of the examination process and provide standardized examination administration conditions that yield valid and reliable results.

The Examination Program bears no responsibility for inaccurate information or inappropriate permissions received from test centre administrators. It is your personal responsibility to understand and comply with the Examination Regulations indicated in this guide. If a candidate's conduct is determined to violate the terms set forth in this Guide, CDA will act to strictly enforce its policies and procedures.

Accessing official examination content prior to testing, breaching the confidentiality of examination content, or any attempt to subvert the examination process represent violations of test regulations. Conduct occurring before, during, or after testing that violates the examination regulations and rules of conduct could result in invalidation of examination results and other penalties.

Candidates must be truthful in completing the application and must abide by all instructions regarding examination conduct.

Failure to comply with the examination regulations and rules of conduct could result in a determination of the presence of an irregularity, and examination results could consequently be voided. If results are voided as a result of an irregularity, candidates could be prohibited from testing for a specified time period or, in egregious cases, from retesting at all. Additionally, candidates could face civil or criminal prosecution.

By registering for the examination, you agree to abide by the following Rules of Conduct:

1. You certify that you are registering for this examination for the purpose indicated in the Examination Purpose section of this Candidate Guide. The examination may not be taken on behalf of anyone else or for any reason other than for the purpose indicated. You may not take the examination to practice or to obtain an advance review of the content.
2. You are not allowed to complete an examination for any reason other than that indicated by the Examination Purpose. If available information suggests a previously eligible candidate might be completing an examination for other purposes, the Examination Program may revoke the

candidate's eligibility, and the candidate could be required to re-establish eligibility to take the examination.

3. You will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance prior to the examination, during the examination (e.g., in the testing room or when on a break), or after the examination.
4. You will maintain the confidentiality of examination content at all times. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through memorization, recording, copying, or other means. You will not provide information concerning examination content that might affect the examination's ability to accurately assess your skills, or that might provide unfair advantage to other candidates. For example, you will neither make use of, nor participate in, the sharing or distribution of information regarding examination content or answers (via electronic means or otherwise).
5. You will not bring any unauthorized materials, as listed in the Examination Regulations and Prohibited Conduct section of this Guide, into the secure testing area. All unauthorized materials must be placed in an assigned locker and may not be accessed during testing.
6. You will not remove information about the exam (written, printed, recorded, or other) from the test centre.
7. You will comply with test centre policies and procedures and will not create a disturbance in the test centre.
8. You will not tamper with the computer testing equipment and facilities.
9. You will cooperate fully with any investigations involving testing irregularities and agree to have your examination analyzed to detect evidence of possible irregularities.
10. This Examination is a secure examination protected by copyright laws. Any unauthorized disclosure of the examination's content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, voiding of examination results, or other appropriate penalties.

Test confidentiality

Test content (in whole or in part) is prohibited from being disclosed before, during, or after the test to anyone, including but not limited to: family, friends, classmates, colleagues, or test preparation organizations. This applies to any content disclosed through discussions, emails, in writing, online (e.g., blogs, social media, websites), or otherwise.

If you receive unreleased test items, you should immediately contact CDA at dat@cda-adc.ca, and should NOT review the materials you have received. Candidates who have been found to be in possession of such information—or to have participated in the distribution of this information—may have examination results voided. Penalties might be imposed following investigation of the incident, even if the incident occurred one or many years into the past.

You are encouraged to report any activities in which information about examination questions is disclosed, so that CDA can investigate and take any necessary action. Report such activity to CDA at dat@cda-adc.ca.

Privacy and security

The CDA has developed a Privacy Policy that specifically addresses the personal information that we collect, use, transfer and otherwise process for the DAT Program, including when you use your DAT

account. There are also DAT website Terms of Use that apply when you access and use our DAT website.

Examination misconduct

The Examination Program strives to report results that accurately reflect the skills and performance of each candidate. The standards and procedures for administering each examination are intended to provide candidates with a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their skills, and to facilitate accurate evaluation of those skills.

You are required to adhere to all rules and instructions pertaining to the administration of the Dental Aptitude Test. You shall conduct yourself honestly and ethically in all matters relating to the tests.

If any misconduct or irregularity is detected either before, during or after the tests, those involved will have their test scores voided and all dental schools to which they have applied will be advised of the circumstances surrounding the voiding of their scores. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all written portions of the DAT examination may be computer analyzed for unusual answer patterns and the CDA has the right in its sole discretion not to release any candidate's scores that are brought into question as a result of this computer analysis. In addition, if any candidate is in breach of the above rules, the CDA may refuse to permit the candidate to participate in any subsequent examination for a period of fifteen (15) months after such breach.

The Examination Program reserves the right to withhold, void, or invalidate any result when, in the CDA's judgment, it is reasonable to question the validity of the result. Misconduct or irregularity shall include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following conduct:

- Impersonation of another or allowing yourself to be impersonated in the DAT; including taking the DAT; taking the DAT for purposes other than applying to dental school
- Providing assistance or information to other candidates during the DAT
- Unusual answer patterns
- Atypical score increases from one examination attempt to another
- Discrepancy in, or falsification of, a candidate's identification
- Information indicating that a candidate has engaged in misconduct or a violation of the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test centre procedures
- Sharing of remembered exam questions or answers. This includes sharing through social media platforms, online discussion forums, or other means
- Falsification of application information or supporting documents
- Falsification of a candidate's results or results report
- Inconsistent performance on different sections of the exam from one examination attempt to another
- Improper access to secure exam content
- Availability of evidence concerning the presence of an examination administration irregularity
- Obtaining advance access to DAT materials
- Sharing of remembered DAT questions or answers
- Theft of DAT materials
- Unauthorized possession and/or distribution of DAT materials

- Possession and/or submission of unauthorized materials during the DAT
- Information indicating that a candidate has engaged in misconduct or violation of the DAT Rules
- Any other information indicating a candidate's DAT score may not be valid
- Any breach of the DAT Rules, test instructions or procedures

When examination results are voided or invalidated, the candidate is notified in writing. This notice includes the basis of the decision and the procedure for appeal. Results will remain voided during the appeal process until the appeals processes has been completed and a decision to void the results is overturned.

When previously reported results are voided, recipients of the candidate's transcripts will be notified in writing that the result has been voided.

If it is determined that a candidate has engaged in irregular behavior, this information becomes part of the candidate's record. At its sole discretion, the DAT Program may elect to send a summary report documenting the incident to legitimately interested parties. This would include all dental schools to whom a candidate has instructed results be sent (both currently and in the future).

When an irregularity has occurred, individuals who are involved or implicated, or who are reasonably believed to have witnessed the irregularity, could be asked to provide information.

No personal items are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test centre must be stored in a designated locker; storage is limited. Personal belongings may be inspected. Notes or any materials accessed during the examination or on a scheduled or unscheduled break may be confiscated. Accessing personal belongings or a locker during a break violates the examination regulations. Test administrators are not authorized to provide permission to candidates to access personal belongings or lockers during a break.

Items that are prohibited from the secure testing area include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, tissues, and markers
- Personal earplugs not previously approved by the Administration Vendor. Headphones NOT provided to you by the Administration Vendor.
- Dental instruments, models, or materials
- Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, rulers, and other measuring devices (except those items approved in advance under testing accommodations)
- Electronic devices such as cell phones, recording devices, iPods, tablets, and headsets
- Tote bags, purses, wallets, backpacks, and briefcases
- Highlighters, pens, erasers, pencils, dictionaries, and translators
- Food, candy, gum, and beverages (except those items approved in advance under testing accommodations)
- Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, or head coverings (religious attire is allowed)
- Good luck charms, statues, religious or spiritual items, and similar objects

- Watches (digital, analog, or smart) or timing devices (a timer is provided on the computer screen during the examination)
- Magnifying devices
- Jewelry (except for wedding and engagement rings)

The test centre will provide two note boards (without graph lines) and two low-odor fine tip markers during the examination. Used note boards will be replaced by test centre staff upon request. Scratch paper, pencils, and markers not furnished by the testing centre are prohibited. You are not guaranteed to receive graph lines on your provided materials.

Candidates may not write on the note boards before the test begins or during scheduled and unscheduled breaks. The note boards should not be folded, bent, distorted, or modified in any manner. Markers cannot be used on any surface other than the note boards. Candidates may not touch the monitor during the examination. All items provided must be returned to the test administrator before leaving the test centre.

Candidates may not engage in conversation with others during testing or while on a break. Discussing the examination is strictly prohibited.

Test centre administrators will report the activity of candidates who take unscheduled breaks.

During breaks, candidates may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study or refer to notes or texts, use a telephone or leave the test centre. Test administrators are NOT authorized to provide permission to engage in these activities.

Although the examination is administered under strict supervision and security, examination irregularities can sometimes occur. Examination results could be voided based upon a breach of examination security, invalid examination conditions, or candidate violations of the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test centre procedures. If irregularities are detected during the examination, or evidence of irregular behavior is disclosed when the examination is scored or afterward, those involved will have their examination results voided and face appropriate penalties.

Failure to comply with examination regulations, rules of conduct, and test centre procedures could result in determination of an irregularity, and examination results could be withheld, canceled, considered invalid, or another appropriate penalty could be imposed. Candidates might also be directed to leave the test centre before the examination is completed. If results are withheld or invalidated, or other penalties are proposed or imposed as the result of an irregularity, candidates could be prohibited from testing and other appropriate penalties could be imposed.

Irregularities and appeals

An irregularity is defined as a situation in which there could be a question about the validity of examination results in accurately reflecting the ability and skills of a candidate.

For example, questions could be raised when:

- There is communication between candidates during the testing session

- Unauthorized assistance occurs
- Candidates have inappropriate access to examination content (e.g., remembered questions or answers are shared by email, online posting, or other means)
- There is conduct prohibited by the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test centre procedures, or examination disruptions occur, including natural disasters and other emergencies

When an irregularity is identified, results for the candidate(s) involved will be voided pending resolution of the corresponding appeal(s). If an appeal is denied or no appeal is filed, the results of the candidate(s) involved may remain voided and/or other appropriate remedies imposed.

Candidates whose results are subject to being voided are notified by written correspondence and provided with instructions for filing an appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 days of notification of the irregularity. Appeals must clearly state the specific relief being requested and include corresponding arguments, evidence, and documentation in support of the request.

The candidate will be notified of the appeal decision within 60 days after receipt of the appeal.

When considering an appeal, the CDA strives to ensure that examination results accurately reflect candidates' skills, and that the appealing candidate has an opportunity equal to, but not greater than, the opportunity provided to other candidates.

Results will be voided when there is a reasonable and good faith basis to do so. If it is determined that voiding results is not warranted under the circumstances, the results will be released.

Candidates should be aware that irregularities - other than natural disasters and emergencies beyond the control of the candidate - are considered to be a serious breach of the examination process.

The DAT Program strives to handle irregularities and their investigation in a confidential, professional, fair, and objective manner.

Candidates should be aware that reports of irregularities may have consequences beyond the voiding of results or the imposition of other appropriate penalties.

- Information about the irregularities may be brought to the attention of school authorities, regulatory agencies, or other entities, by other sources
- Additional information about a candidate may surface during an investigation into an irregularity

Candidates are encouraged to report suspicious activity or observations of violations of the examination regulations to CDA at dat@cda-adc.ca.

APPENDIX 1: DENTAL APTITUDE TEST REFERENCE TEXT LIST

Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) test items are not based on specific textbooks.
References used by DAT item writers include, but are not limited to, the latest editions of the following:

Biology

Campbell and Reece, *Biology*, Benjamin Cummings.

Raven, Johnson et al., *Biology*, McGraw Hill.

General Chemistry

Brown, LeMay et al., *Chemistry: The Central Science,* Prentice Hall.

Coghill and Garson, Eds., *The ACS Style Guide: Effective Communication of Scientific Information*, Oxford University Press.

Masterton and Hurley, *Chemistry: Principles and Reactions,* Brooks Cole.

McMurry and Fay, *Chemistry,* Prentice Hall.

Pavia, Lampman, and Kriz, *Introduction to Spectroscopy*, Brooks Cole.

Silberberg, *Chemistry: The Molecular Nature of Matter and Change*; McGraw Hill.