

1. **Dental Board of California.** The level of government responsible for licensure of dentists is the State. In California, foreign trained dentists can become eligible for licensure if their foreign dental school has been approved by the Dental Board of California. As a first step, you should contact the Board to see if your school has been approved. If your school is not approved, you must attend an Advanced Standing Program for International Dentists. You can contact the board at www.dbc.ca.gov or call (916) 263-2300 (Direct) or 877-729-7789 (Toll Free).
2. **American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)**- The JCNDE is the agency responsible for the development and administration of the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE). Most state licensing boards (including California) use the National Board Dental Examinations (Part I & II) as a major portion of their written examination requirements.
3. **NBDE Part I**- the first step in the process is submitting an application for Part I of the National Board Dental Examination. To obtain an application you can contact NDBE at (312) 440-2678. For information on the test you can go to the website at http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/nbde01_guide_2010.pdf . Part I is offered only in computerized form. The exam is offered continuously through Prometric Test Centers <http://www.prometric.com/ADA>. The exam takes approximately one day (8 hours). The cost for the Part I exam for 2010 is \$260. There are several testing sites in the San Francisco Bay Area. You must pass Part I before applying for Part II.
4. **Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)**- Before or at the time you apply for Part I, you must have your dental course transcripts verified by ECE. Your application for Part I will not be processed until the Joint Commission receives the ECE Evaluation Report. The type of evaluation needed is a "General" one. The cost for this evaluation in 2010 is \$85. You can contact ECE at (414) 289-3400 for information on their requirements. Their website is: www.ece.org
5. **Advanced Standing Program for International Dentists**- Since 2004, all states except Hawaii require international dental graduates from dental schools that are not approved by the respective State Board, to obtain additional education in order to be eligible for licensure. Advanced Standing Programs are designed to teach qualified dentists from other countries the knowledge and skills found in the United States. These programs are generally 2 years long. Admission requirements generally include passing the NBDE Part I and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exams. Attending an Advanced Standing Program is an option for foreign dental graduates. Foreign dental graduates should inquire with each state dental board about their requirements for licensing.
6. **NBDE Part II**- an application for Part II of the National Board Dental Examination can be submitted after successfully passing Part I. To obtain an application you can contact NDBE at (312) 440-2678. For information on the test, go to the website http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/nbde02_guide_2010.pdf. Part II is offered in computerized form. The computerized exam is offered continuously through Prometric Test Centers <http://www.prometric.com/ADA>. There are several testing centers in the SF Bay Area. Part II requires 1-½ days (11.5 hours). The cost for Part II for 2010 is \$345.
7. **California Dental Licensure Exam** - After passing the NBDE Part I and Part II exams and completing an Advanced Standing Program (required for dentists whose school is not approved by the board) foreign dental graduates are eligible for the California Dental Licensure Exam. The exam is given 3-4 times per year and the fees in 2010 are \$601. The exam includes both a written examination and patient-based procedures. Dental graduates must bring their own patients, instruments and other materials to the exam. A written examination of California Law and an Ethics examination are also part of the licensure exam. For an application and more information go to the Dental Board of California at www.dbc.ca.gov. Or call (916) 263-2300.

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