Pathways for dental licensure in Oregon for dentists that did NOT graduate from a CODA-accredited dental school

Eligibility checklists are for dentists who did not graduate from a CODA-accredited dental school.

Use these checklists to identify a potential pathway. Checking every applicable box does not guarantee licensure. The Oregon Board of Dentistry determines eligibility after reviewing each application and supporting documentation.

Find Your Potential Pathway

Did you complete a **predoctoral** dental education program of not less than two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school**? → Review Pathway 1.

Are you licensed in another state and did you complete a **predoctoral** dental education program of not less than two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school**? OR did you complete a **postdoctoral General Dentistry Residency** program of not less than two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school**? → Review Pathway 2.

Did you complete a **post-graduate** specialty program of not less than two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school**? AND do you hold an active license as a general dentist in another state obtained as a result of the passage of any clinical Board examination administered by any state or regional testing agency? AND can you provide proof of passing the **specialty examination** required by the Board of your designated specialty? → Review Pathway 3.

Pathway 1 | Licensure by Examination

OAR 818-021-0010 • General dental licensure by examination

☐ I graduated from a dental school outside the United States or Canada and am proficient in English.

☐ I completed a **predoctoral** dental education program of not less than two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school**.

☐ I passed the examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations OR the Canadian National Dental Examining Board Examination.

☐ I passed an accepted clinical Board examination (**results recognized for five years preceding your application**).

☐ Before initial licensure, I completed the one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon provided by the Pain Management Commission of the Oregon Health Authority.

Important: A two-year postdoctoral program does NOT replace the required predoctoral education for this pathway. The predoctoral dental education program must be taken at a CODA accredited **dental school**. Standalone CODA accredited programs, not taken at a CODA accredited dental school, do not meet application approval requirements.

An applicant who has not yet met the educational requirement may apply for examination if the dean of an accredited school certifies that the applicant will graduate.

A person who fails any Board approved clinical examination three times must successfully complete the remedial training recommended by the testing agency. Such remedial training must be conducted by a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Pathway 2 | Licensure Without Further Examination

OAR 818-021-0011 • For qualifying dentists already licensed in another state

☐ I hold an active, unrestricted license to practice dentistry in another U.S. state.

☐ I graduated from a dental school outside the United States or Canada and am proficient in English.

Education — Check ONE Qualifying Option

☐ Option A: Completion of at least two years of **predoctoral** dental education at a CODA-accredited **dental school**.

☐ Option B: Completion of at least two years of a **postdoctoral General Dentistry Residency** program at a CODA-accredited **dental school**.

Important: Option B must specifically be a **General Dentistry Residency Program**, as shown by its title, course description, and materials. A standalone CODA-accredited GPR program not taken at a CODA-accredited **dental school** does not qualify. Other postdoctoral programs that are not specifically a General Practice Residency do not meet application approval requirements.

Additional Requirements — Check ALL

☐ I passed a clinical dental examination administered by a state dental licensing authority, regional or national testing agency, or other Board-recognized testing agency.

☐ I currently hold an active license to practice dentistry, without restrictions, in any state; including documentation from the state dental board(s) or equivalent authority, that I was issued a license to practice dentistry, without restrictions, and whether or not I am, or have ever been, the subject of any final or pending disciplinary action. Board-issued verifications of each license will be required, even if the license is expired/not active.

☐ I have completed at least 3,500 hours of qualifying licensed clinical practice in the five years immediately preceding application.

☐ I have or will complete 40 hours of qualifying continuing education in the two years **immediately preceding application**. The 40 hours must meet Oregon's continuing education requirements in accordance with OAR 818-021-0060. **Continuing education hours completed after your application is submitted will not count toward this requirement.**

☐ Before initial licensure, I completed the one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon provided by the Pain Management Commission of the Oregon Health Authority.

Important: Qualifying licensed clinical practice could include hours devoted to teaching by dentists employed by a dental education program in a CODA accredited dental school, with verification from the dean or appropriate administration of the institution documenting the length and terms of employment, the applicant's duties and responsibilities, the actual hours involved in teaching clinical dentistry, and any adverse actions or restrictions. The Oregon license will reflect the scope of the license held in another state, subject to OAR 818-021-0011.

Pathway 3 | Licensure to Practice as a Specialist

OAR 818-021-0017 • License limited to the approved specialty (This pathway is **NOT** for an applicant who holds a **general dentistry license** in addition to completing a specialty program. Please contact the Board before applying for this pathway if you hold a general dentistry license in the United States or Canada).

☐ I graduated from a dental school outside the United States or Canada, do not currently hold an Oregon dental license, and seek practice **only** in a recognized specialty.

☐ I completed a **postgraduate specialty** program of at least two years at a CODA-accredited **dental school.** The specialty is a specialty recognized by the Board in accordance with OAR 818-021-0012.

☐ I am proficient in English.

Clinical Examination / out-of-state licensure — check ONE option

☐ Option A: I hold active general dentist licensure in another state obtained by passing a state or regional clinical Board examination.

☐ Option B: I passed a state or regional clinical examination **within the five years immediately preceding application**.

Other Mandatory Requirements

☐ I passed the examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations OR the Canadian National Dental Examining Board Examination.

☐ Before initial licensure, I completed the one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon provided by the Pain Management Commission of the Oregon Health Authority.

Specialty Examination — check ONE option

☐ Option 1: I passed the specialty examination required by the Board of your designated specialty **within the five years immediately preceding application.**

☐ Option 2: I passed a Board-approved specialty examination **more than five years ago** AND meet BOTH additional requirements below:

- ☐ I completed at least 3,500 hours of qualifying licensed clinical practice in my specialty in the five years **immediately preceding application**.
- ☐ I have or will complete 40 hours of qualifying continuing education in the two years **immediately preceding application**. The 40 hours must meet Oregon's continuing education requirements in accordance with OAR 818-021-0060. Continuing education hours completed after your application is submitted will not count toward this requirement.

Important: Qualifying licensed clinical practice could include hours devoted to teaching by dentists employed by a dental education program in a CODA accredited dental school, with verification from the dean or appropriate administrator of the institution documenting the length and terms of employment, the applicant's duties and responsibilities, the actual hours involved in teaching clinical dentistry, and any adverse actions or restrictions.

Any applicant who does not pass the first examination for a specialty license may apply for a second and third regularly scheduled specialty examination. If the applicant fails to pass the third examination for the practice of a recognized specialty, the applicant will not be permitted to retake the particular specialty examination until they have attended and successfully passed a remedial program prescribed by a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and approved by the Board.

Recognized Specialties

The Board recognizes the following specialties in accordance with OAR 818-021-0012.

Dental Anesthesiology • Dental Public Health • Endodontics • Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology • Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology • Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery • Oral Medicine • Orofacial Pain • Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics • Pediatric Dentistry • Periodontics • Prosthodontics

What do my answers mean?

IF ALL REQUIRED BOXES CHECKED, including one choice in each applicable either/or section → You may qualify for that pathway; submit an application with the required evidence for Board review. You may submit your application here: https://online.oregondentistry.org/#/

IF A REQUIRED BOX IS UNCHECKED → You may not currently meet that pathway's requirements. Review another pathway or contact the Board at information@obd.oregon.gov or 971-673-3200 before applying.

This guide is not a substitute for Oregon statutes, administrative rules, or a formal eligibility determination.