University of Minnesota
School of Dentistry Policy

National Board Examination Policy

I. Purpose:
To describe the academic requirements, the approval process, the testing time, and the academic progression for students challenging the Part I and Part II of the National Board Examination (NDBE) sponsored by the American Dental Association’s Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

II. Policy:

NDBE Part I

All of the following didactic and preclinical technique courses must be completed prior to being qualified by the School of Dentistry to sign up to take the Part I of the NDBE. In addition, all students must participate in a mandatory review session. Failure to obtain a passing grade in any of these courses and/or the completion of the review sessions may result in a student being disqualified to take this examination.

Gross Anatomy lecture/lab-ANAT6050
Biochemistry-BIOC6011
General Histology-DDS6214
Oral Anatomy lecture/lab-DDS6431/6432
Oral Histology-DDS6251
Neuroscience-NSCI6110
System Physiology-PHSL6051
Microbiology-DDS6213
Oral Maxillofacial Pathology-DDS6252
General and Systemic Pathology-DDS6253
Clinical Occlusion-DDS6479

Each student is responsible for independently applying to the JCNDE to take the examination. The office of Academic Affairs will approve each student that has acquired a passing grading in each of the above-mentioned courses, and has completed all review sessions. Students are eligible to take this Part I of the National Boards from February 1st in the spring semester in the second year of dental school, and it must be passed by June 30th in the summer semester in the third year of dental school.

Each student must receive a passing grade on Part I in order to progress with the academic program. Two failures on Part I of the NDBE will result in a referral to the
Core Scholastic Standing Committee to discuss the student’s academic status. If a student fails to obtain a passing grade after third attempt the student will be referred to the Core Scholastic Standing Committee to discuss the student’s academic status. The committee will have the authority to suggest a remediation plan, repeating coursework, suspension, or dismissal.

NDBE Part II

Each student is responsible for independently applying to the JCNDE to take Part II of the examination. The office of Academic Affairs will approve each student that has acquired a passing grading in third year (fall and spring) courses, and the fourth year summer courses. Students are eligible to take Part II of the National Boards from July 1st in the summer semester in the fourth year of dental school, and it must be passed by December 31st of the fall semester.

Each student must receive a passing grade on Part II of the National Board in order to be certified for graduation. Two failures on Part II of the NDBE will result in the loss of clinical privileges, and a referral to the Core Scholastic Standing Committee to discuss the student’s academic status. If a student fails to obtain a passing grade after third attempt the student will be referred to the Core Scholastic Standing Committee to discuss the student’s academic status. The committee will have the authority to suggest a remediation plan and/or repeating coursework in order to certify the student for graduation.

III. Definitions:

- JCNDE is the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, and is a fifteen-member panel with representatives from dental schools, dental practice, state dental examining boards, dental hygiene, dental students, and the public.

- National Board Dental Examinations are designed to assist state boards in determining qualifications of dentists/dental hygienists who seek licensure to practice dentistry/dental hygiene.

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