

AMERICAN BOARD OF PROSTHODONTICS at the PCSP Annual Meeting



Heather J Conrad
ABP Immediate Past President

June 19, 2026



AMERICAN BOARD OF PROSTHODONTICS



Our Mission

The mission of the American Board of Prosthodontics is to certify and recertify educationally qualified individuals who demonstrate in-depth knowledge and expertise in prosthodontics.

Our Vision

The vision of the American Board of Prosthodontics is for all educationally qualified prosthodontists to be board certified.



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Board of Directors

- April 2026
- For a dental discipline to acquire and maintain specialty recognition by the NCRDSCB, a board of directors must be established to certify Diplomates





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Examination Team

- April 2026
- Hyatt Regency
- DFW Airport
- Dallas, TX





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Diplomate Numbers

Category	Number
Diplomates	1095
Active Life Diplomates	22
Life Diplomates	494
Active in Private Practice	40%
Active in Academics	42%
Active in Federal Services	13%



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Candidate Numbers

Examination	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
Section A	168	-	156	-	182
OCE	-	-	-	-	23
Section B, Part 2	8	6	4	3	4
Section B, Part 3	18	37	32	38	24
Section B, Part 4	61	29	54	24	21
Section C	25	34	23	29	18
Section D	3	14	5	17	2
<i>Total hours oral exams</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>138</i>



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Pass Rates

Examination	Spring 2025 Exams	Pass Rate	Fall 2025 Exams	Pass Rate	Spring 2026 Exams	Pass Rate	Average Pass Rate Last 3 Exams
Section A	154	82%	-	-	182	84%	-
OCE	-	-	-	-	23	74%	-
Section B, Part 2	4	25%	3	100%	4	75%	7/11 = 64%
Section B, Part 3	32	91%	38	87%	24	88%	83/94 = 89%
Section B, Part 4	54	80%	24	96%	21	71%	81/99 = 82%
Section C	23	78%	29	97%	18	89%	62/70 = 89%
Section D	5	100%	17	94%	2	100%	23/24 = 96%



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Changes to
Certification Process

Section A

Section A Written Examination

- Exam window: March 30 – April 2, 2026
- 4 hours, 200 mcq
- Computer-based, at testing centers
- Can challenge in 3rd year of training
- Application fee = \$250
- Examination fee = \$600



NEW in 2027: Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Criterion-referenced written assessment developed through collaborative efforts of ABP and psychometric experts
- Computer-based exam administered at regional testing centers
- Offered annually with an examination window



Section A

Qualifying Exam

NEW in 2027: Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Designed to evaluate knowledge of qualified candidates in the core principles of prosthodontics
- Content adheres to the standards set by CODA for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics ensuring it is both relevant and rigorous



CODA[★]
Commission on Dental Accreditation

Section A

Qualifying Exam

NEW in 2027: Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Exam window: April 5-9, 2027
- Can challenge in 3rd year of training
- Must pass the written QE before eligible to register for the oral examination
- No other changes to length of exam, content, or fees
 - 4 hours, 200 mcq
 - Application fee = \$250
 - Examination fee = \$600







Section B/C/D

Current: Section B/C/D Examinations

- Three 1-hour examinations
- Offered twice each year in spring and fall
- Section B/D: Candidate-curated case presentations
- Able to challenge any one part of Section B or the Section D examination in 3rd year of training
- Remaining exams can be challenged after completion of formal training in prosthodontics and at any point within eligibility period
- Exam fee = 3 x \$600 = \$1,800



- >  LABORATORY
- >  NARRATIVE
- >  PRESENTATION
- >  RADIOGRAPHS

Qualifying Exam

Section B/C/D

Oral Certifying Exam

NEW in 2027: Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

***With limited release in 2026**

- The OCE replaces the current Section B/C/D examinations
- Oral-based assessment designed to evaluate a candidate's clinically relevant knowledge and judgment in prosthodontics
- Open-ended questions are structured to assess clinical reasoning and expertise



Qualifying Exam

Section B/C/D

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

• Exam Content & Competencies

- Each exam features board-selected content presented in the form of vignettes
- Content is curated by the ABP to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of a candidate's knowledge relevant to prosthodontics
- Exam measures problem-solving, decision-making, and critical analysis



Qualifying Exam

Section B/C/D

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

• Schedule & Structure

- Consists of three 1-hour exams administered over 3 consecutive days
- Candidates must take all 3 examinations consecutively
- Each individual day is dedicated to a major area of prosthodontics: Fixed, Removable, Implants



Qualifying Exam

Section B/C/D

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

• Grading & Evaluation

- The evaluation yields a binary pass/fail decision with no partial passes
- Each exam is conducted by a pair of examiners
- Candidates are evaluated by a total of 6 different evaluators
- Broad structure ensures candidates are thoroughly tested across all areas



Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

• Prerequisites

- Candidates must complete formal training in prosthodontics
- Must successfully pass the QE to establish foundational competence
- Prerequisites ensure candidates are fully prepared for this assessment



CODA
Commission on Dental Accreditation

Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

- Vignette-Based Testing
 - Three 1-hour exams
 - Each 1-hour exam will include 6 vignettes
 - Each vignette lasts 10 minutes, totaling 18 vignettes across 3 hours of exams
- Exam fee = \$1,800



Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) Rating Scale

Rating Scale Categories





1 Unacceptable	2 Marginal	3 Acceptable	4 Outstanding
Performance is incorrect, incomplete, and/or potentially harmful.	Performance is correct and safe but is incomplete or lacks reasoning.	Performance is correct, complete, and safe with minimal reasoning.	Performance is correct, complete, and safe with thorough reasoning.

Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) Rating Decisions

Rating Decisions					
	1 Unacceptable	2 Marginal	3 Acceptable	4 Outstanding	
Correct	X	✓	✓	✓	
Complete	X	—	✓	✓	
Reasoning	X	Lacking	Minimal	Thorough	
Safety Risk		X	X	X	



Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

- Criterion Referenced Testing

Utilizes the collective expectation of experts on:

- The level of knowledge and skill needed to practice safely and effectively in the field
- The ability level that all candidates must demonstrate to pass the test
- Each vignette represents a criterion for competency



Qualifying Exam

Oral Certifying Exam

Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

- Criterion Referenced Testing

Using a criterion referenced standard:

- All candidates can pass
- All candidates can fail
- All examiners participate in a standard setting exercise and calibration prior to the exam



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Timelines

- Section A examination is phased out
- Qualifying Examination (QE) is scheduled April 5-9, 2027
- Last Section C offering in October 2026
- Last Section B + D offering in October 2028
- Limited Release of the Oral Certifying Examination in April and October 2026
- Full release of the Oral Certifying Examination in April 2027



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Pathways to Certification for Prosthodontists

Section A

Section C

Section B/D

≤ 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 ≥2029



Section A + Section B (all 3 parts)

Section A + Section B (any 2 parts) + Section C*

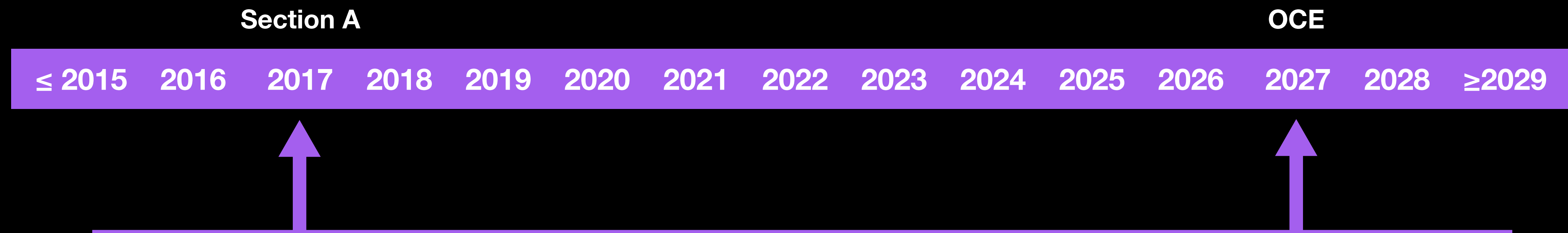
Section A + Section B (any 2 parts) + Section D

*Section C must be completed by the end of 2026



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Pathways to Certification for Prosthodontists



Section A* + Oral Certifying Exam

*Section A must be completed within 10 years of challenging the OCE



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Pathways to Certification for Prosthodontists



Section A* + Oral Certifying Exam

*Section A exam was passed in 2016 or earlier

Challenge and pass QE in 2027 and then challenge the OCE



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Pathways to Certification: Class of 2026



Section A + Section B (all 3 parts)

Section A + Section B (any 2 parts) + Section C*

Section A + Section B (any 2 parts) + Section D

*Section C must be completed by the end of 2026 (one opportunity)



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Pathways to Certification: Class of 2026



Section A or QE + Oral Certifying Exam

Challenge Section A in 2026

Challenge Qualifying Exam in 2027 and beyond



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Pathways to Certification: Class of 2027 & Beyond



Qualifying Exam + Oral Certifying Exam



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Additional Considerations

- For special considerations or extenuating circumstances, please email the ABP exams@abpros.org



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