

June 27, 2012

Proposed Future Changes in DAT

A message from Dr. Teresa Dolan, chair, Committee on Educational Measurement and Testing, ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure:

In 2011, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) and its Committee on Educational Measurement and Testing (Committee F) reviewed a study examining the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and critical thinking skills. This study found that the DAT currently measures critical thinking through the Reading Comprehension Test and Quantitative Reasoning Test (QRT) that appear within the DAT. The study also indicated that it would be beneficial to supplement the QRT with additional critical thinking items, to strengthen this test and its measurement of this important skill.

Based on these findings, in April of 2011 CDEL authorized the following changes to the DAT test specifications for the QRT:

- * Eliminating the following areas:
 - o Numerical Calculations
 - o Conversions
 - o Geometry
 - o Trigonometry

- * Adding items in the following areas:
 - o Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Sufficiency
 - o Quantitative Comparison
 - o Probability and Statistics

Please note that these changes will go into effect no sooner than 2015. Additional information concerning these changes will be provided in an upcoming DAT Newsletter that will be released in the Fall of this year.