

Hawaii Board of Dentistry:
Guidance for Hawaii Licensure Applicants
Enrolled in a Post-Doctoral Residency Program

Last Updated: March 31, 2025

The following guidance is provided for individuals enrolled in a Hawaii-based post-doctoral residency program who are not already licensed to practice dentistry in Hawaii.

Please contact the Hawaii Board of Dentistry by emailing dental@dcca.hawaii.gov with any questions.

1. Which license type do I apply for to practice dentistry while enrolled in a Hawaii-based post-doctoral residency program?

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §448-12(b)&(c) authorizes the temporary licensure of individuals enrolled in a post-doctoral residency program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Therefore, most post-doctoral residents apply for the **Temporary Dentist (DTT) license**.

Note: There are additional requirements if you would like to obtain unrestricted dentist (DT) licensure for your residency program instead of DTT licensure. Please see the DT application instructions for more information.

2. What are the requirements to qualify for the Temporary Dentist (DTT) license?

Applicants for DTT licensure must be enrolled in a CODA-accredited post-doctoral residency program, be a graduate of a CODA-accredited dental college or graduate of a dental college with a reciprocal agreement with CODA*, and submit the following:

1. Application form
2. Non-refundable application fee of \$75

Please see the board's relevant laws and rules for more details: https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/statute_rules/. Please be advised that in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-201-90, this guidance is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the board, or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

3. Any one (1) of the following acceptable documents for verifying education from a CODA-accredited dental college or from a dental college with a reciprocal agreement with CODA:
 - Certified copy of diploma;
 - Official transcripts verifying graduation; or
 - Signed letter from the Dean of the school/Registrar's office sent to Hawaii directly from the school certifying that the individual has graduated, including:
 - Date of matriculation
 - Official date of graduation
 - Confirmation of graduating with a DDS or DMD degree
4. Official letter from the program director of your residency program, which must:
 - Be signed
 - Be on official letterhead
 - List your legal first and last name
 - Confirm the start and end dates of the residency
 - List your assigned training site(s) for the program
5. If licensed in another jurisdiction(s), additionally submit:
 - NPDB Self-Query: Call the Data Bank Customer Service Center at: 1-800-767-6732 or to go online to: <https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/ext/selfquery/SQHome.jsp> to order a "Self-Query Report"
 - NPDB Self-Query may be self-submitted to Hawaii
 - License verifications sent from all jurisdictions currently and previously licensed in.
 - License verifications must be sent directly to Hawaii from the verifying state board. Applicants may not self-submit.

***Note:** As of the last update of this Notice, only CDAC-accredited dental colleges (in Canada) have such a "reciprocal agreement" with CODA. Please contact CODA directly to confirm whether your foreign dental college has such a reciprocal agreement with CODA.

3. Do graduates of a Canadian dental college qualify for DTT licensure as part of a post-doctoral residency program?

Please see the board's relevant laws and rules for more details: https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/statute_rules/. Please be advised that in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-201-90, this guidance is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the board, or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Pursuant to HRS §448-12(b)(3), to meet the education qualifications for DTT licensure, an individual must be “a graduate from a dental college accredited by, or that has a reciprocal agreement with, the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation that is recognized and approved by the board.”

ADA CODA has such a “reciprocal agreement” with the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). Therefore, if you are a graduate of a CDAC-accredited dental college, you meet the education qualifications for DTT licensure.

Please contact CODA directly to confirm whether your foreign dental college has such a reciprocal agreement with CODA.

4. How do I obtain the official letter from my program director for application?

Typically, your program director will submit a letter to the Board on behalf of all the dental residents for the year in your program. Please reach out directly to your program director to inquire if the letter has already been sent to the Board.

Program directors can contact the Board directly by email dental@dcca.hawaii.gov if they have any questions.

5. How do I submit my application?

The application form, fees, and supplemental documents can be submitted online by creating a MyPVL account: <https://mypvl.dcca.hawaii.gov/> or by mailing hard-copy and check payment to our office:

DCCA-PVL
Attn: Dental (DTT resident)
P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801

6. Do I qualify for DTT licensure if I have not yet passed the Boards? (NBDE Part I & II or INBDE)

Passage of the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Parts I & II or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) is not required for DTT licensure for post-doctoral dental residents.

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Please contact your residency program directly for any additional exam requirements for residency enrollment.

7. Do I qualify for DTT licensure if I have failed the ADEX exam?

There are no restrictions on taking (pass or fail) the ADEX exam as a dental resident applying for DTT licensure or while enrolled in the residency program.

Please contact your residency program directly for any additional exam requirements for residency enrollment.

8. How long will it take to process a DTT licensure application?

All applications currently take a **minimum of 45 to 60 business days** to process, provided there are no deficiencies with your application. If anything is missing, or further clarification requested for your application, this may extend the processing timeline.

We encourage all applicants to apply as early as possible as there are no options to expedite the license, even if your license will not be approved before the start date of your residency program.

Please note that submission of an application does not guarantee that your application will be approved by the Board.

9. Can my program director or other residency program staff assist with my application?

If there are other individuals who will be assisting you with your application (e.g. inquiring about application status, etc.) please make sure to complete and sign the “Release of Information to Third Party” section at the end of the application.

When an individual inquires about your application, we check for prior authorization and ask them to confirm the last 4 digits of your SSN for privacy and security purposes. If not listed and/or unable to provide verification, we will not release any information regarding your application.

10. If approved for DTT licensure, how long will my license be valid for?

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Pursuant to HRS §448-12(b), a DTT license issued to a post-doctoral resident will be valid until the earliest of the following occurs:

1. The date the licensee completes or leaves the residency program; or
2. The date on which the board revokes the license; provided the board may revoke the temporary license at any time for any cause.

Therefore, unless the board revokes the license, the DTT license will be valid until the “end date” of your residency program as listed in the letter from the program director.

Note: If your program has an “optional” additional year and you choose to enroll, your program director will need to submit a new letter to confirm the new end date of your enrollment.

11. Can I practice dentistry outside of my post-doctoral residency assignments under the DTT license?

No, you may not. Pursuant to HRS §448-12(c), post-doctoral resident who are granted temporary licenses under this section shall:

1. Be assigned to affiliated training sites that are restricted to eleemosynary health care organizations, training site hospitals, or university-affiliated training programs, and that shall be visited and accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, consistent with the policies of the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; and
2. Act under the direct supervision of the dental residency faculty licensed in Hawaii.

12. How do I apply for unrestricted dentist (DT) licensure if I intend to practice dentistry in Hawaii after the end of my residency program?

If you would like to obtain unrestricted dentist (DT) licensure in Hawaii after the end of your residency program, you will need to meet all the requirements for DT licensure at the time of application.

Note: Requirements for unrestricted DT licensure differ significantly from the application requirements for DTT licensure, including, but not limited to,

- Passage of all five (5) sections of the ADEX exam;
- Passage of the NBDE Parts I & II or INBDE;
- Being a graduate of a CODA-accredited dental college only (reciprocal agreements do not qualify for DT licensure).

Please see the board's relevant laws and rules for more details: https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/statute_rules/. Please be advised that in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) section 16-201-90, this guidance is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the board, or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Please see the instructions on the DT application form and the relevant laws and rules for more information.

13. Are there any other options for licensure after I end my post-doctoral residency program?

After an individual finishes their residency program and their DTT licensure expires pursuant to HRS §448-12(b), individuals who wish to continue practicing dentistry in Hawaii may consider application for the unrestricted dentist (DT) license, the community service dentist (CSDT) license, or the temporary dentist license (DTT) under the provisions for individuals who are not post-doctoral residents. Please see the instructions on the application forms and the relevant laws and rules for the respective license type for more information.

Please contact the Board if you have any questions regarding qualifications for DT, DTT, or CSDT licensure.

References:

- Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §448-12:
https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/statute_rules/
- Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §16-79:
https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/statute_rules/
- Application forms & Board website: <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/>

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