

Feedback on LC 98 from Stephen Prisby, Executive Director for the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) compiled on January 18, 2024.

Our Board has 7.5 Full Time Employees and 10 volunteer Board Members. The OBD licenses about 400 people every year. Our licensing and renewal is on-line and has been for a few years now. Our total license population is about 8000. We are funded by our Licensees: any change to our operations, service expectations or new work may need additional resources, which could lead to fee increases.

Here are the statistics on licensure going back to 2013:

Licenses Issued per year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dental Licenses	126	168	183	196	170	221	224	192	180	172	190
Dental Hygiene Licenses	206	210	221	239	224	196	202	188	188	206	195
Dental Therapy Licenses										4	14
Total Licenses issued	332	378	404	435	394	417	426	380	368	382	399

The licensing portal screen shot is provided. These items are uploaded by the applicant for licensure. As the applicant gathers and completes the items, they go into the application database for each individual. The Licensing Manager conducts verification of the items including education, clinical exam results, Oregon State Police Background check information, check on National Data Bank Practitioner information, other state’s licensure if applicable, etc...

The applicants are directed that they may begin the process even before they complete dental/dental hygiene school or move to Oregon (or for any reason), to get the process started and cut down on any delays.

Application For Initial License

- Instructions ✔
- Personal Details ✔
- Education ✔
- Background and Discipline ✔
- License History ✔
- Dental Biennial Licensure ✔
- Supplemental Documents ✔
- Affidavit of Applicant ✔
- Fee and Payment ✔
- Staff Review ✔

Application Instructions

Dental Licensure by Examination

Licensure by Examination is intended only for applicants who have passed their clinical examination within the immediate five years preceding their application.

These instructions are designed to assist you in the application process for dental licensure in Oregon. Please carefully review [OAR 818-021-0010](#) prior to submitting your application. Failure to meet any of the requirements will result in your application being rejected. If you have questions or you are uncertain if you meet the requirements, please contact the OBD at 971-673-3200 or at information@obd.oregon.gov prior to submitting your application.

Fees: (All Fees are Mandatory):

1. Application Fee: \$445.00
2. Biennial Licensure Fee: \$440.00
3. Prescription Drug Monitoring Fee: \$50.00

Items needed to be uploaded into the application:

-Current Photo taken within one year of application date
-Proof of passage of National Board.
-Proof of passage of clinical examination within the last five years.
-Current copy of BLS for Healthcare Providers or its equivalent.
-Proof of completion of a one hour pain management course taken through the Oregon Health Authority - Oregon Pain Management Commission.

Please carefully review the application requirements outlined below before proceeding with your application:

We have one dedicated licensing manager and other administrative staff assist when questions arise or as needed to support the manager.

We engage with most of our applicants coming right out of school (approx. 60% of applicants), and this will be their first health care license. Those applicants are the easiest and the quickest to get licensed. Those that have long work histories and have been licensed in other states (approx. 40% of applicants) will logically take longer to process, and ensure they meet all statutory and rule criteria to license them in Oregon.

Applicants do not need to live in Oregon and can start the application process a few months before they graduate or move to Oregon.

We acknowledge that some people can have a delayed process and not be issued a license within the standard 6 – 8 weeks. Factors that typically delay a license being issued in a regular timeframe could be due to the applicant having a criminal background, incomplete information, court records not shared, education outside the US, failing clinical exams, other states delayed in providing licensing or disciplinary information, failing the Board's Jurisprudence Exam, and sometimes documents are still mailed into the Board.

On the staff side, with only one licensing manager obviously they need time off and there can be a lot of work and demands, especially in later spring when most schools graduations occur. We believe that a few days at a time, or a one week delay is acceptable. Licenses are issued year-round once all items and criteria are met, and there is no delay. Our Board ratifies my decision as the executive director, to license everyone and no regular applicants are delayed by the board convening for meetings. A few applicants each year need special review due to criminal history and/or board actions from other states. Those go to the full Board for review and the Board decides whether to license them or not.

We would have challenges implementing LC 98 and from a consumer protection view be very concerned about the safety of Oregonians. A rush to allow someone to practice in Oregon without due diligence in an age of ever sophisticated fraud and lawlessness, could be a recipe for patient harm. A few bad practitioners could negatively impact the dental profession, regulators in Oregon and ultimately the Governor and the Legislature. Dentists are highly compensated - typically earning close to \$150,000/year right out of school. A few days or weeks delay to ensure they meet all criteria seems reasonable & prudent. The OBD would need to revamp a number of rules, policies, forms, webs links/instructions and protocols to implement any sort of temporary authorization or license.

I checked with colleagues at Washington State and they issue temporary licenses to dental hygienists, not dentists. They indicated it still takes a few weeks to process and ensure people meet the criteria for the temporary license offered in Washington State.

Other states regulatory apparatuses are not as robust or as well run as Oregon. I know this first hand as I have been with the OBD since 2012 and served as executive director since 2015. I

have served as President of the American Association of Dental Administrators and have interacted with many state Board executive directors on various issues throughout the years.

Draft LC 98 directs state boards to “determine that other state’s authorization requirements are substantially similar”. We do not currently have processes in place to do this. Scrutinizing each state’s licensure requirements to determine if they are similar to our own would create an immense burden on our small staff.

Draft LC 98 requires that the applicant Provides to the health professional regulatory board, in a manner determined by the health professional regulatory board, sufficient proof that the applicant is in good standing with the issuing out-of state entity. This would be nearly impossible to achieve this within the 10 day timeframe. In a lot of states, it takes longer than 10 days to receive proper verification of good standing. The current estimate to receive license verifications is around 2 - 4 weeks.

Our Licensees can work in a variety of health care settings. There are still many that work in small offices/clinics where there may only be a dentist and one or two other employees. It is these small office settings with zero or very limited oversight that we must be cognizant of to ensure Oregonians are being treated by a competent and legally qualified health care provider. Other direct clinical health care practitioners like medical doctors and nurses typically work in more largely staffed health care settings and are subject to more colleagues’ observations of their care and administrative & clinical oversight.

Draft LC 98 directs the agency to issue a temporary authorization within 10 days. That time frame would be challenging for us to achieve even if we waived or disregarded most criteria for licensure that currently stand in statute and rule. This timeframe would not only be challenging, but near impossible for people who hold licenses in other states. Obtaining license verifications from other states can take 2 – 4 weeks, especially for people who hold licenses in multiple states.

Draft LC 98 uses undefined terms like “adequately demonstrates intent to reside, in this state.” This would, again, create undue burden on board staff. This is not something that we currently require, so it would become the board staff’s responsibility to implement a new process for verifying this information.

Draft LC 98 directs the board to define new criteria for competency, substantially similar, sufficient proof of good standing, competency. Draft LC 98 contradicts itself by directing the board to define new criteria for competency. The existing licensing requirements exist to do just that, yet LC 98 would require us to waive those requirements and issue licenses without first obtaining the documentation required to verify competency. Additionally, our licensing requirements are largely based on educational background, not licensure in other states. LC 98 does not allow us to verify an applicant’s educational background, so this would lead to people being issued a temporary license who do not meet the requirements for a permanent general

dental license. This would result in unqualified providers practicing for up to one year in Oregon. After the temporary license expires they would be required to stop working in Oregon, which only creates more hardship for those individuals. There is no provision or guidance to prevent someone from repeating the temporary process over and over, start one year, stop and repeat in subsequent years.

Also not clear if the Board could charge any fees for a temporary license or authorization. So this could have a negative impact on our Board and most that are funded by its licensees.

Once the Board issues a temporary license or authorization we would convey certain rights to them, and this could lead to legal issues and additional costs in utilizing our assigned DOJ AAG.

Thank you for allowing me to share my candid feedback. Please follow up or reach out any time for anything I can assist on.

Sincerely,

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