Kentucky Laws & Rules
Updated: 31 January 2025

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Initial Licensure	CDCA-WREB-CITA, CRDTS, DLOSCE, or SRTA
Examination	Successfully complete all components of one (1) of the following clinical
Requirements	examinations within the five (5) years preceding the filing of the application.
	Source: 201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 8:533. Licensure of dentists.
General	Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 313 Practice of Profession
Licensure	313.030 Licensing and registration of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental
Requirements	assistants Duration, expiration, and renewal Disciplinary action by
	board Board's power to extend license or registration.
	(1) The license or registration held by a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental
	assistant shall be valid for a period of two (2) years.
	(2) Each license or registration held by a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental
	assistant shall expire on December 31. A dentist's license shall expire in odd-
	numbered years, while all other licenses or registrations issued by the board shall
	expire in even-numbered years.
	(3) Each license or registration held by any person issued under the provisions of
	this chapter shall be renewed at least biennially. Upon receipt of the application
	and fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the application to determine
	whether the licensee or person seeking licensure or registration has met all the
	requirements as set forth in this chapter and in the administrative regulations
	promulgated by the board, and, if so, shall issue to the applicant a license or
	registration to practice or engage in the activity for the ensuing licensure or
	registration period. Such license or registration shall render the holder a legal
	practitioner of the practice or activity specified in the license or registration for the
	period stated on it. The board shall prescribe by administrative regulation
	promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A the beginning and ending of
	the licensure or registration period.
	(4) Any person who is licensed or registered by the board who allows his or her
	license or registration to lapse by failing to renew the license or registration as
	provided in this section may be reinstated by the board on payment of the current
	fee for original licensure or registration in addition to any late fees and by meeting
	the requirements of administrative regulations promulgated by the board.
	(5) An application for renewal of a license or registration shall be completed
	online or, if a written request is made to the board prior to November 1 of the year
	of expiration, a paper application shall be sent to the last known address of each
	licensee or certified or registered person requesting a paper application.
	(6) Any person engaging in any practice or activity regulated by the board during
	the time his or her license or registration has lapsed shall be considered
	practicing with an expired license or registration and shall be subject to the
	penalties provided for violations of this chapter.
	(7) Failure to receive the application for renewal of a license or registration shall
	not relieve a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant from the duty to renew his or her license or registration prior to December 31 of the year in which the
	license or registration expires.
	(8) The duration of any license or registration issued by the board may be limited
	by disciplinary action of the board.
	(9) Every license or registration issued by the board shall have the seal of the
	board affixed. A holder of a license or registration shall retain it in his or her
	possession and be prepared to exhibit it upon demand by an employer or anyone
	to whom the holder of the license or registration offers treatment or any board or
	staff member of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry. Each license or registration
	issued by the board shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each place of
	employment of the dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant.

The ADA attempts to keep this information current based on information from state dental boards, clinical testing agencies and state dental associations. Individuals seeking dental licensure should consult with the state board of dentistry and their professional advisors for the complete and most recent dental licensure information, application requirements, forms and fees. Updated: 31 January 2025

- (10) Failure or refusal to produce a license or registration upon demand shall be prima facie evidence that no such license or registration exists.
- (11) In order to ensure a proper transition during the implementation of the provisions of this section, the board may, for a period of no longer than three (3) years, extend a license or registration of any person in order to utilize the expiration date provided for in this section. The board shall, in writing, notify each person whose license or registration is extended of the extension and the new date of expiration. The extension shall be without charge.
- **201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 8:533. Licensure of dentists.**Section 1. General Licensure Requirements. An applicant desiring initial licensure in Kentucky as a general dentist shall:
- (1) Understand, read, speak, and write the English language with a comprehension and performance level equal to at least the ninth grade of education, verified by testing as necessary;
- (2) Submit a completed, signed, and notarized Application for Dental Licensure with an attached applicant photo taken within the past six (6) months;
- (3) Pay the fee required by 201 KAR 8:520;
- (4) Not be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to KRS Chapter 313 that would prevent licensure;
- (5) Complete and pass the board's jurisprudence exam;
- (6) Hold an active certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or a more comprehensive program which meets or exceeds the American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC:
- (7) Submit to a nationwide state and federal criminal background check by fingerprint through the Department of Kentucky State Police;
- (8) Provide verification of any license to practice dentistry held previously or currently in any state or other licensing jurisdiction;
- (9) Hold a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from a dental school, college, or department of a university accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
- (10) Successfully complete the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I and Part II or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), conducted by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE);
- (11) Provide a written explanation for any positive returns on a query of the National Practitioner Data Bank; and
- (12) Complete all additional requirements for one (1) of the following:
- (a) Licensure by clinical examination;
- (b) Licensure by credentials; or
- (c) Licensure by foreign training.
- Section 2. Requirements for Licensure by Clinical Examination.
- (1) An individual desiring initial licensure in Kentucky as a general dentist by clinical examination shall:
- (a) Complete all requirements in Section 1 of this administrative regulation; and
- (b) Successfully complete all components of one (1) of the following clinical examinations within the five (5) years preceding the filing of the application:
- 1. The examination of the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA);
- 2. The examination of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS):
- 3. The examination of the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA);
- 4. The examination of the States Resources for Testing and Assessments (SRTA);
- 5. The examination of the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB); or

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	6. The Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) of the JCNDE.
	(2) An individual applying more than two (2) years after graduating with a DDS or
	DMD, shall: (a) Hold a license to practice dentistry in good standing in another
	state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia; or
	(b) Complete a continuing education plan approved by the board.
	(3) An applicant who has taken a clinical examination three (3) times and failed to
	achieve a passing score shall complete a remediation plan approved by the
	board.
License by	201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 8:533. Licensure of dentists.
Credential/	Section 3. Requirements for Licensure by Credentials. An individual desiring initial
Endorsement	licensure in Kentucky as a general dentist by credentials shall:
Requirements	(1) Complete all requirements in Section 1 of this administrative regulation;
Requirements	(2) Successfully complete a state, regional, or national clinical examination used
	to determine clinical competency in a state or territory of the United States or the
	District of Columbia; and
	(3) Be licensed and actively practicing dentistry in a state or territory of the United
	States or the District of Columbia for a least five (5) of the six (6) years preceding
	the filing of the application.
Specialty Practice	Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 313 Practice of Profession
opoolally i radiioo	313.035 Scope of administrative regulations Specialties
	(1) The board shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS
	Chapter 13A relating to dentists. The administrative regulations shall include the
	classification of and licensure of dentists, by examination or credentials, the
	licensure of specialists, student limited licenses, faculty limited licenses,
	reciprocity, retirement of a license, reinstatement of a license, charity licenses,
	and conscious sedation and anesthesia permits. (2) Renewal programs shall be
	organized to include continuing education approved by the board.
	(3) For the purposes of licensure of specialists the board shall only
	recognize fields of specialty duly recognized and approved by the American
	Dental Association. Individuals licensed as specialists shall not practice
	outside of that specialty except as provided for in charitable dentistry as
	defined by administrative regulation, during a declared disaster by order of
	the Governor, or when the special needs of the patient require they be
	followed past the age of eighteen (18) by a pediatric dentist.
	201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 8:533. Licensure of dentists.
	Section 8. Requirements for Specialty Licensure. An individual desiring initial
	licensure as a dental specialist in Kentucky as defined by KRS 313.010(9) shall:
	(1) Submit a completed, signed, and notarized Application for Specialty Dental
	Licensure with an attached applicant photo taken within the past six (6) months;
	(2) Pay the fee required by 201 KAR 8:520;
	(3) Hold an active Kentucky license to practice general dentistry prior to being
	issued a specialty license; and
	(4) Successfully complete a CODA accredited graduate or postgraduate specialty
	program after graduating from a dental school.
Continuing	201 Kentucky Administrative Regulations 8:533. Licensure of dentists.
Education	Section 9. Continuing Education Requirements.
	(1) A Kentucky licensed dentist shall complete thirty (30) hours of continuing
	education during the two (2) year licensure period defined by KRS 313.030(2),
	except in the following cases:
	(a) A licensee who was issued a new or reinstated license in the second year of
	the current biennial license period shall only complete one-half the required hours
	for that period;

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- (b) A licensee who graduated in the first year of the current biennial license period shall only complete one-half the required hours for that period;
- (c) A licensee who graduated in the second year of the current biennial license period shall not be required to complete continuing education hours for that period;
- (d) A charitable limited license holder shall not be required to complete continuing education hours; or
- (e) A licensee may be granted a hardship waiver or deferment if the request is submitted to and approved by the board.
- (2) Acceptable continuing education content shall include:
- (a) Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment:
- (b) Pharmaceutical products and proper use protocols of medications;
- (c) Competence to diagnose oral pathology;
- (d) Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control;
- (e) Basic medical and scientific subjects;
- (f) Clinical and technological subjects;
- (g) Patient management, safety, and oral healthcare;
- (h) Mass casualty or mass immunization situations;
- (i) Clinical dentistry performed on a charitable or volunteer basis;
- (j) Business operations and best practices; and
- (k) Dental association or society business meetings.
- (3) The thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall include:
- (a) A minimum of ten (10) hours taken in a live interactive presentation format;
- (b) A maximum of ten (10) hours that meet the requirements of subsection (2)(i) -
- (k) of this section; and
- (c) A minimum of three (3) hours in the use of the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting System (KASPER), pain management, or addiction disorders.
- (4) Dentists who hold a board-issued sedation permit shall also meet the continuing education requirements of 201 KAR 8:550, Section 8.
- (5) All continuing education hours shall be documented by a certificate of completion or attendance bearing:
- (a) A signature or other verification of the provider;
- (b) The name of the licensee in attendance:
- (c) The title of the course or meeting attended or completed:
- (d) The date of attendance or completion;
- (e) The number of hours earned; and
- (f) Evidence of the method of delivery if the course was taken in a live interactive presentation format.
- (6) The licensee shall be responsible for obtaining the qualifying documentation of continuing education from the provider or sponsoring organization and to retain those documents for a minimum of five (5) years.
- (7) During the license renewal process, licensees shall attest to their compliance with the requirements of this section.
- (8) Licensees shall be subject to audit of their compliance with the requirements of this section.

Section 10. Renewal of a Dental License.

- (1) All dental licenses issued by the board shall expire on December 31 of oddnumbered years and shall be renewed to remain active. A licensee desiring renewal of an active general, specialty, student limited, or faculty limited dental license shall:
- (a) Submit a completed and signed Application for Renewal of Dental Licensure;

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- (b) Pay the fee required by 201 KAR 8:520;
- (c) Maintain an active certification in CPR or a more comprehensive program that meets or exceeds the American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC; and
- (d) Meet the continuing education requirements in Section 9 of this administrative regulation.
- (2) A licensee who has not actively practiced dentistry in the two (2) years preceding the filing of the renewal application shall complete a continuing education plan approved by the board prior to resuming the active practice of dentistry.
- (3) A licensee desiring renewal of a charitable limited dental license shall repeat the initial licensure process required by Section 7 of this administrative regulation. Section 11. Retirement of a Dental License.
- (1) A licensee desiring to no longer hold an active dental license in Kentucky shall submit a completed and signed Retirement of License Form.
- (2) Upon receipt of this form, the board shall send written confirmation of retirement to the address provided.
- (3) A licensee shall not retire a license that has pending disciplinary action against it.
- (4) A license that is not properly retired or renewed shall be considered expired for reinstatement purposes.

Section 12. Reinstatement of a Dental License.

- (1) A former licensee desiring reinstatement of an expired or properly retired dental license in Kentucky shall:
- (a) Submit a completed, signed, and notarized Application to Reinstate Dental or Dental Hygiene Licensure with an attached applicant photo taken within the past six (6) months:
- (b) Pay the fee required by 201 KAR 8:520;
- (c) Hold an active certification in CPR or a more comprehensive program that meets or exceeds the American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC;
- (d) Provide verification of any license to practice dentistry obtained in any state or other licensing jurisdiction since the applicant was first licensed in Kentucky;
- (e) Submit to a nationwide state and federal criminal background check by fingerprint through the Department of Kentucky State Police; and
- (f) Provide a written explanation for any positive returns on a query of the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- (2) An applicant who has not actively practiced dentistry in the two (2) years preceding the filing of the reinstatement application shall complete a continuing education plan approved by the board prior to resuming the active practice of dentistry.
- (3) A former licensee who applies to reinstate an expired license that was not properly retired shall be subject to:
- (a) The expired license reinstatement penalties in 201 KAR 8:520 if applying less than two (2) years from when the license was last active; or
- (b) The same reinstatement fees as a properly retired license if applying more than two (2) years from when the license was last active.