

## **I'm a foreign trained dentist. Do I qualify for licensure in Mississippi?**

See Miss. Code Ann. § 73-9-23 (3).

An applicant for licensure by examination as a dentist who is a graduate of a non-ADA accredited foreign country dental school shall:

- (a) Be of good moral character and have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years;
- (b) Be proficient in oral and written communications in the English language;
- (c) Have completed not less than six (6) academic years of postsecondary study and graduated from a foreign dental school that is recognized by the licensure authorities in that country;
- (d) Have been licensed as a dentist or admitted to the practice of dentistry in the foreign country in which the applicant received foreign dental school training.
- (e) Present documentation of having completed at least two (2) or more years of full-time postdoctoral dental education in a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its successor commission, and has been certified by the dean of the accredited dental school as having achieved the same level of didactic and clinical competence as expected of a graduate of the school; and
- (f) Have successfully completed Parts I and II of the National Board Examinations of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, or its successor commission, unless the applicant graduated from an approved dental school before 1960.

### **What does six (6) years of postsecondary study mean?**

Post-secondary study means education completed after secondary education (i.e. high school) culminating in the award of a professional dental degree and dental license in that foreign country. Generally speaking, this is the U.S. equivalent of completing an accredited predoctoral dental program.

Six (6) years means the equivalent of six (6) full-time academic years. Taking six (6) years to complete the equivalent of four (4) academic years is not sufficient.

Qualifying post-secondary academic study includes:

- The foreign predoctoral dental program itself,
- Academic study that serves as a pre-requisite for admission to a foreign predoctoral dental program,
- Academic study completed prior to commencing a foreign predoctoral dental program that advances the applicant's fitness for such program, and
- Completion of an internship that is required for degree conferment and/or licensure as a dentist in the foreign country.

Academic study obtained subsequent to dental degree conferment and/or licensure as a dentist in the foreign country (including post-doctoral dental academic study) may NOT be applied towards satisfying this requirement. Completion of post-doctoral education is addressed in subsection (e).

**What kind of post-doctoral education must I have?**

The law requires two (2) or more years of full-time postdoctoral dental education in a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Therefore, the post-doctoral education must be:

- Two (2) or more years;
- Full-time advanced dental education;
- Completed after conferment of a general dental degree (D.M.D., D.D.S., B.D.S.); and
- In a CODA-accredited dental program. \*

\* CODA only accredits programs; CODA does not accredit dental schools.

Additionally, the program's dean must certify to the Board that the applicant has achieved the same level of didactic and clinical competence as expected of a graduate of the school's predoctoral dental program.