

Is There a Correlation between Mock Board Examination Results and  
Actual Dental Licensure Examination Results for Individual Candidates?  
by Julie Gray, D.D.S.

Successful completion of a state dental licensure examination amongst dental school graduates is often used to assess the effectiveness of many dental school's curriculum. Measuring a student's competency is assessed through both the mock board examination and state board examination. Competency based education includes knowledge, experience, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, professionalism, ethical values, and technical skills. At Meharry Medical College, mock board examinations are conducted to assess the clinical skills of dental students, their preparedness to take the state dental licensure examination, and to provide feedback to the student for areas of improvement. An analysis of "first-time" performance on the state board administered dental licensure examination for graduates from the classes 2014, 2015, and 2016 will be compared to the results of the mock board examination for each respective year. The results will demonstrate a relationship between the school administered mock examination and the state dental licensure examination. A correlation in related subject areas such as restorative dentistry, prosthodontics, endodontics, and periodontics will be assessed as well as overall GPA. A ten item survey of recent 2014, 2015, and 2016 graduates will be conducted to determine if student's value the experience of the mock examination. The overall perception from verbal student feedback is that the mock board examination has adequately prepared the student for the state dental licensing examination. The research goal will be to determine if the mock dental examination will enhance a student's preparedness for success on the state licensure examination or if a student's GPA and dental clinical competencies are more direct variables to their success.