About the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam

Schulich Dentistry conducts a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam for a maximum of 100 applicants who meet all the ITD Program admission requirements and have successfully completed the Continuing Dental Education PLA Preparatory Course for that admission cycle.

WHY DO WE HAVE A PLA EXAM?

The PLA Exam is used by the ITD Program Committee in the selection of candidates for the ITD Program.

The PLA Exam assesses basic scientific knowledge. It is used to assess psychomotor performance and knowledge in dental subjects at a preclinical level.

WHAT IS THE PLA EXAM?

The PLA Exam has two components: A simulation clinical assessment and, for selected candidates, an interview session.

The first part of the PLA Exam is the simulation clinical assessment. This 1-day assessment is conducted in the Schulich Dentistry Simulation Clinic. Candidates are required to complete a set of clinical procedures associated with the preparation and restoration of permanent teeth using Kilgore mannequins. The evaluations may include, but are not limited to:

i. Preparation of teeth to receive any of the following restorations: Class I, III, or V. These may be restored in amalgam, composite, or glass ionomer and may happen in any teeth of the dentoform. Rubber dam isolation may also be requested.

The second part of the PLA Exam consists of a 30 minute interview. Based on the results of the simulation clinical assessment, a maximum of 40 candidates are invited for an interview. Only candidates eligible for interviews will be contacted by email. The interview is intended to assess communication skills.

The ITD Program Committee utilizes the results of the NDEB Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge Exam, the PLA simulation clinical assessment and the PLA interview, in the selection of the first year ITD class having a maximum of 20 students.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

All necessary equipment and supplies are provided. No personal equipment or supplies are permitted in the Simulation Clinic. **NOTE:** Candidates must bring their own light-curing unit.

DRESS

- Comfortable, casual clothing is recommended; footwear must be fully enclosed; sandals, open-toed shoes, ballet-style shoes are prohibited.
- Lab coats may be worn but are not required.
- Personal headlamps may be utilized.
- Visual magnification loupes are permitted, but not supplied.
- Candidates must bring and wear safety glasses while operating in the Simulation Clinic.
- Please limit the number of personal items brought to the assessment as storage space is minimal; cell phones and any other electronic aids/devices must not be used in the Simulation Clinic.