About the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Western University conducts a **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)** for the top 100 selected applicants to the **Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) Program**.

Applicants accepted into the PLA are selected based primarily on a combination of the results of the NDEB Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK), and English language test scores.

**WHY DO WE HAVE A PLA?**

The PLA is used by the ITD Program Committee in the selection of applicants to the ITD Program.

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

**WHAT IS THE PLA?**

The PLA has two components: A Simulation Clinical Assessment and, for selected candidates, an interview session.

The first part of the PLA is the Simulation Clinical Assessment. This 2-day assessment is conducted in our new **Simulation Clinic** at Western University. 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. Single and multi-unit full coverage restorations including porcelain-fused-to-metal and all ceramic and all metal designs for both anterior and posterior teeth.

ii. Preparation of teeth to receive any of the following restorations: Class I, II, III, IV, or V. These may be restored in amalgam or composite resin and may appear in any suitable area of the dentoform. Veneers, cusp-covered amalgam restorations and/or gold onlays may also be requested.

The second part of the PLA consists of a 30 minute interview. Based on the results of the Simulation Clinical Assessment, a maximum of 40 candidates are invited to present for an interview, **which is scheduled to take place the week following the PLA**. 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 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.