

About the 2024 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam & Interview

Schulich Dentistry conducts the 2024 **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam** for a maximum of 100 applicants who meet all the DDS ITD Program application/admission requirements and who have successfully completed the requisite Continuing Dental Education (CDE) PLA Course. The course is currently valid for **two consecutive PLA exams immediately following the course**.

WHY DO WE HAVE A PLA EXAM?

The PLA Exam is one of the criteria used by the Admissions Committee for the selection of candidates to the DDS ITD Program.

The PLA Exam is used to assess **psychomotor performance** and **knowledge in dental subjects at a preclinical level**.

WHAT IS THE PLA EXAM?

The PLA Exam is a one-day simulated clinical assessment 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 dentoforms. The evaluations may include, but are not limited to:

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.

WHEN ARE THE INTERVIEWS?

Interviews are held virtually and usually take place one week after the PLA Exam. A maximum of 40 of the top-ranked candidates will be invited for an interview based on the results of their PLA Exam and English proficiency scores. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. The 30-minute interview is intended to assess communication skills.

The Admissions Committee utilizes the results of the interview, the PLA simulated clinical assessment and English proficiency scores to

select a maximum of 20 students for the first year DDS ITD class. Offers go out in April for September 2024 admission.

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:

- i. **Light Curing Unit**
- ii. **Face Shield**
- iii. **Lunch**

DRESS:

- Candidates must bring and wear **suitable eye protection** while operating in the Simulation Clinic. For simulated patient work on the mannequins, a **face shield** is required. *(Eye protection may take the form of safety glasses, loupes with side shields, or face shields. Regular prescription glasses alone do not qualify as safety glasses unless they are CSA approved.)*
 - Comfortable, casual clothing is recommended.
 - Lab coats may be worn but are not required.
 - Fully enclosed footwear, such as running shoes, **MUST** be worn. Sandals, open-toed shoes, ballet-style shoes are not permitted.
 - Personal headlamps may be utilized.
 - Visual magnification loupes are permitted, but not supplied.
- Food and beverages are not to be consumed inside the Simulation Clinic; a classroom will be available for use during the break.
- Cell phones, watches, and any other electronic aids/devices are prohibited during the exam. They must be turned off and placed in the designated area for personal belongings.
- Family and friends are not permitted inside the building.

* Subject to Change