About the 2022 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam & Interview

Schulich Dentistry conducts the 2022 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Exam for approximately 100 applicants who meet all the DDS ITD Program application/admission requirements and who have successfully completed the requisite Continuing Dental Education PLA Preparatory Course. The course is 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 ITD Program 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 simulation 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 mannequins. 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 generally take place during the week following the PLA Exam. A maximum of 40 of the top-ranked candidates will be invited for interviews based on the results of their PLA Exam, NDEB Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK) Exam, and English proficiency scores. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. The 30-minute interview is intended to assess communication skills.

The ITD Program Committee utilizes the results of the interview, the AFK, the PLA simulation clinical assessment and English proficiency scores to select a maximum of 20 students for the first year ITD class. Offers for the program beginning in September 2022 will go out in April/May.

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 not permitted.
- 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.