

# American Board of Orthodontics GLAO Report

## August 2020

### **ABO Mission:**

*The mission of The American Board of Orthodontics is to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration.*

### **ABO Vision:**

*The American Board of Orthodontics is the global leader in orthodontic board certification and sets the standards of care for excellence in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.*

### **ABO Written Examination**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, our original testing centers offered limited appointment availability, directly impacting our Written Examination originally scheduled on April 7, 2020. Identifying an appropriate solution to this problem was our top priority as this examination is often used as an exit examination for many orthodontic programs.

In response, the examination was postponed to June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The administration of the examination was modified to a Live Online Proctored Written Examination, overseen by Scantron and Examity.

The 2020 Written Examination was administered to 409 examinees. The reliability of the exam was 87% with a 99% pass rate. Once the Written Examination is successfully completed, it never expires.

The ABO would like to thank the many educators and residents who were affected by this change for their understanding and patience while we determined the best alternative format for completing their examination in a fair and timely manner.

### **A Required Change to the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination**

The ABO, like all organizations, has had to weigh options and identify adjustments that best allow them to accomplish their mission, serve orthodontists, and maintain the highest commitment to health and safety. The ABO board, staff, and consultants have been working diligently to identify every viable method of administering the Scenario-Based Oral Clinical Examination in light of so much uncertainty regarding the future of travel and in-person gatherings.

Therefore, in response to COVID restrictions and the safety requirements recommended by the CDC, the American Board of Orthodontics is making a change to the Scenario-Based Clinical Examination. Instead, **all** Scenario Based Clinical Board Exams from now on, will be held at [Scantron Testing Centers](#) throughout the U.S. and Canada. Traveling to the ABO testing center in St. Louis **will no** longer be necessary. Thus, removing barriers that might have prevented the attainment of ABO certification.

This decision was made with serious deliberation and evaluation of multiple options. The goal was to find the best way to balance honoring commitments to exam candidates and maintaining the integrity of the exam, while protecting the health and safety of all involved in the examination administration.

### **Scenario-based Clinical Examination Format**

The Clinical Exam will continue to be administered in a scenario-based format with the same exam components and testing criteria, with natural alterations in how answers are submitted. Examinees will be required to provide typed bullet-point responses instead of giving responses orally to examiners. As the ABO makes this change, they are maintaining the validity of the exam with the same primary exam structure and requirements, and changes only made to accommodate the new limitations:

- The same four domains will be covered with equal weighting for overall assessment.
- Examinees will still be expected to assess case outcomes using the CRE, CMF and the cephalometric superimposition technique/interpretation, however physical models and superimposition transparencies will no longer be used in the exam.
- Examinees will have three hours to complete the examination.
- Examiners will grade exams virtually - with different examiner partners grading each section of the exam (just as an examinee would see six different sets of examiners in St. Louis).
- Exams results will still be based on pass/fail.

To learn more about the new Clinical Examination format, please visit the [ABO website](#).

Respectfully submitted

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