

Dental Terminology



Health Science Event

Eligible Divisions: Secondary & Postsecondary / Collegiate	Round 1: 50 Q test in 60 minutes	Digital Upload: NO
Solo Event: 1 competitor		



NEW for 2025-2026

The total number of test questions and test timing have been reduced. Editorial updates have been made.

Event Summary

Dental terminology allows members to gain knowledge and skills regarding language common to all dental careers and specialties. This competitive event consists of a written test. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker questions will be judged. It inspires members to learn about dental terminology, physiology, and pathophysiology.

Sponsorship

HOSA-Future Health Professionals appreciates the sponsorship of Dental Terminology by the [American Dental Education Association](#).



Dress Code

Proper business attire or official HOSA uniform. Bonus points will be awarded for [proper dress](#).

Competitors Must Provide:

- [Photo ID](#)
- Two #2 lead pencils (not mechanical) with eraser

HOSA Conference Staff will provide equipment and supplies as listed in [Appendix I](#).

General Rules

1. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the [General Rules and Regulations](#).
2. Additional Opportunity:
The HOSA Scholarship program has funding available for HOSA members who have an interest in dental careers! The application process begins January 1, 2026 and can be found here:
<https://hosa.org/scholarships/>

Official References

3. The references below are used in the development of the test questions:
 - a. [Kindle, Calista and Dofka, Charline M. Dental Terminology. Cengage Learning. Latest edition.](#)
 - b. [Nelson, Stanley J. Wheeler's Dental Anatomy, Physiology and Occlusion, Elsevier. Latest edition](#)

Written Test

4. [Test Instructions](#): The written test will consist of 50 multiple-choice items in a maximum of 60 minutes.
5. Twenty (20) tiebreaker questions will be administered with the original test. Correct spelling is required for an item to be considered correct.
6. **Time Remaining Announcements**: There will be NO verbal announcements for time remaining during ILC testing. All ILC testing will be completed in the Testing Center, and competitors will be responsible for monitoring their own time.

7. Test Plan

The test plan for the Dental Terminology Test is:

- Comprehensive Dental Care and Dental Specialties - 30%
 - General Dentistry
 - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
 - Cosmetic Dentistry
 - Pediatric Dentistry
 - Prosthodontics
 - Endodontics
 - Orthodontics
 - Periodontics
 - Implant Dentistry
 - Dental office laboratory and equipment
- Dental Instruments - 10%
- Pharmacology & Pain Management - 10%
- Emergency Care - 10%
- Tooth Restorations - 10%
- Head and Neck Anatomy - 10%
- Radiography - 10%
- Dental Laboratory Materials and Procedures - 10%

8. Sample Test Questions

1. What ridge occurs on the occlusal surface of posterior teeth at a point where two triangular ridges meet? (Dofka pp 52)
 - A. Marginal ridge
 - B. Oblique ridge
 - C. Transverse ridge**
 - D. Triangular ridge
2. What is a small elevation on a portion of a crown produced by an extra formation of enamel? (Nelson pp 7)
 - A. Ridge
 - B. Cingulum
 - C. Tubercle**
 - D. Cusp
3. What is a cowhorn? (Nelson pp 285)
 - A. Extraction forceps**
 - B. Apical forceps
 - C. Root Elevator
 - D. Maxillary Elevator

Final Scoring

9. In the event of a tie, successive sets of five (5) tiebreaker questions will be judged until a winner is determined. Correct spelling is required for an item to be considered correct in the tiebreaker.

Future Opportunities:

Graduating from high school or completing your postsecondary/collegiate program does not mean your HOSA journey has to end. As a HOSA member, you are eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni Member - a free and valuable opportunity to remain connected, give back, and help to shape the future of the organization. Learn more and sign up at hosa.org/alumni.