

Dental Terminology



Health Science Event

Eligible Divisions: Secondary & Postsecondary / Collegiate	Round 1: IN PERSON TESTING 50 Q test in 60 minutes
Solo Event: 1 competitor	

**This event will take place as a written test at SLC
Refer to Conference Agenda for assigned testing time**

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.

Dress Code

Proper business attire or official HOSA uniform.

Competitors Must Provide:

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

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. 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%

7. 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

8. 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.

International Leadership Conference (ILC) qualifiers

Go to <https://hosa.org/guidelines/> for specifics about this competitive event at ILC.
June 17-20, 2026 – Indianapolis Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN