The Future of Assessment

Insights from the Assessment Modernization Summit

Hosted by: The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) on May 20, 2026, in Chicago

Through presentations, panel discussions, and roundtables, participants brought different perspectives about emerging technologies, professional competence, and approaches to assessment and how assessments might evolve.



Facilitator

Lenora G. Knapp, PhD
President, Knapp & Associates International



Host

Phara Rodrigue, MA
Chief Operating Officer, Dental Assisting National Board

Panelists



Steve Addicott
Chief Operations Officer, Caveon Exam Security



Evan Burton
Head of Growth, BenchPrep



Mark Franco, JD, ICE-CCP
Partner, Rimon PC



Isabelle Gonthier, PhD, ICE-CCP
Chief Assessment Officer, PSI & ETS



Haseeb Khan
Vice President of Product & Design, Pearson Professional Assessment



Joy Matthews-Lopez, PhD
Founder & President, JML Measurement and Testing Services



Rory Mccorkle, PhD, MBA, CAE, ICE-CCP, PMP, SPHR
Vice President, Business Development, Straz



Liberty Munson, PhD
Director of Psychometrics, Microsoft



Melissa Nosik, PhD, BCBA-D, ICE-CCP, SHRMSCP, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, Competency & Credentialing Institute

5 Key Themes from the Assessment Modernization Summit

These themes reflect ideas and perspectives shared during the Summit and are intended to encourage further discussion.

Keeping assessments relevant and trustworthy

Participants framed modernization as a responsibility to maintain the relevance, rigor, fairness, and credibility of assessment. The goal is to support trustworthy certification decisions, safe practice, and public protection.

Connecting assessment to learning and real-world practice

Participants explored how assessments could become more connected to ongoing learning and work, while recognizing the continued role of standardized assessments in evaluating knowledge and skills.

Improving the candidate experience

The assessment experience begins before test day. Understanding eligibility requirements, applying, and scheduling are all part of the process. Participants encouraged evaluating the entire journey for modernization and improvement opportunities.

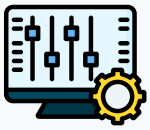
Exploring AI's opportunities and risks

AI can play a role in operational activities, assessment development, and administration, but its use comes with different levels of risk. Human oversight remains essential, along with appropriate quality controls, security, and validation.

Preparing organizations for change

Modernization is about more than technology advancement and organizations must prepare for change. Governance, process clarity, staff capacity, technology skills, and stakeholder readiness will affect the decisions an organization makes regarding change.

AI Insights



When AI is used to draft exam questions, the role of subject matter experts may shift from writing questions to reviewing and refining them. AI may make it possible to generate more questions in less time, but the quality of those questions will determine how much review and editing is needed.



Unequal resources among certifying organizations may create a gap in the adoption of AI and the way it is used. Mid-sized and smaller organizations in non-technical fields may lag behind due to smaller budgets and staff size.



Different assessments will require differentiated approaches. A model that is appropriate for one credential or candidate population may not be sustainable or suitable for another.