



Dental Assisting National Board

Company Contact Info:

Katherine Landsberg

klandsberg@danb.org

312-280-3431

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is the national certifying board for dental assistants. DANB exams and certifications are recognized or required by 37 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, DANB develops and administers state-specific exams that fulfill regulatory requirements. Currently, all states that work with DANB to develop state-specific exams also recognize DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam as meeting that state's regulatory requirements. DANB publishes several resources to assist state dental boards in implementing the state dental practice act, including DANB's State Fact Booklet, DANB's State Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants, customized reporting tools for states that require or recognize DANB exams, and comparative tables and charts on state requirements for selected dental assisting duties and competencies. In a collaborative endeavor with AADB, DANB also hosts an online tool that links to each state's dental practice act as a service for AADB members.

The DALE Foundation, the official DANB affiliate, offers interactive, online educational courses and resources to advance the dental team and to help dental assistants prepare for DANB exams. Additionally, the DALE Foundation conducts research to promote oral health.

Excellence is important to the DALE Foundation, which is why all of the e-learning courses and study aids are created by educators and experts in the dental community. The DALE Foundation's products adhere to the same quality and high standards for which DANB is known.

Website: www.danb.org
www.dalefoundation.org

About DANB

Established in 1948, DANB (a nonprofit organization) is recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA) as the national certification board for dental assistants. DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. More than 35,000 dental assistants nationwide are currently DANB certified. In addition, more than 200,000 dental assistants hold one or more of DANB's certificates of knowledge-based competence (marked with an asterisk* below).

DANB certifications and exams are currently recognized or required by 38 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DANB Exams and Certifications

National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA[®])

Component exams:

Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)*
Radiation Health and Safety (RHS[®])*
Infection Control (ICE[®])*

Certified Dental Assistant[™] (CDA[®])

Component exams:

General Chairside Assisting (GC)
Radiation Health and Safety (RHS[®])*
Infection Control (ICE[®])*

Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA[®])

Component exams:

Orthodontic Assisting (OA)
Infection Control (ICE[®])*

Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA[®])

Component exams:

Impressions (IM)*
Temporaries (TMP)*
Sealants (SE)*
Restorative Functions (RF)

Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA[®])

Component exams:

Coronal Polish (CP)*
Sealants (SE)*
Topical Fluoride (TF)*

Models for Using DANB Exams in Regulation of Dental Assistants

Registration or Other Credentialing Conducted by State Regulatory Boards

In states where the state board of dentistry is empowered by state law to register, license or otherwise credential dental assistants, DANB's national certification programs, or selected component exams, can fulfill the knowledge-based competence measurement requirement underlying state-specific credentialing. Rather than expending state resources to develop a state-specific exam, a state regulatory agency can accept or require an existing DANB national certification, exam or combination of DANB exams; doing so can eliminate costs associated with exam development, administration, scoring and reporting and reduce lead time required to implement a state-specific dental assisting credentialing program. The modular format of DANB's certification exams — which consist of individual component exams covering specific functions or areas of knowledge — provides states with the flexibility to test only in the areas that are delegable to dental assistants under state law or rules. In addition to DANB's online credential verification tool, DANB provides state regulators with secure online access to reporting of candidate exam results free of charge.

Competence Measurement Without State Credentialing

When a state dental board is not empowered to register, license or otherwise credential dental assistants, regulation of dental assistants often takes the form of establishing parameters for delegation of duties to dental assistants, including outlining allowed and prohibited tasks, education requirements and competence testing requirements. DANB provides state regulators with a suite of independent, psychometrically sound and standardized exams that allow for reliable measurement of knowledge-based competence.

In such circumstances, it is often the dentist's responsibility to ensure that dental assistants have met the state's requirements, including passing any required exams. DANB simplifies the employer's job by providing online and written credential verification at no cost.

Benefits of Partnering with DANB

- ▶ Recognizing or requiring DANB national exams eliminates exam development costs and allows for turnkey operation of a state registration or competence measurement program for dental auxiliaries
- ▶ There are no DANB-established eligibility prerequisites to take the asterisked (*) exams listed on the first page (aside from answering three Background Information Questions)
 - In this way, DANB supports states in establishing any (or no) additional prerequisites to perform functions addressed by these DANB exams
 - States that do not allow all the duties tested to earn CPFDA or CRFDA certification can choose to recognize these DANB certifications but require only those component exams that meet their state regulations
- ▶ DANB is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) and its Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) and Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA®) certification programs are accredited to ICE's National Commission for Certifying Agencies standards, which recognizes professional certification programs that meet rigorous standards
- ▶ DANB exams are administered at more than 250 proctored, secure computerized testing sites nationwide (through Pearson VUE); alternatively, candidates may select live online remote proctoring for most DANB exams
- ▶ DANB provides online credential verification for all DANB-administered credentials, at no charge
- ▶ DANB reviews self-reported criminal history and adverse regulatory actions from the past five years for all DANB national exam candidates and certificants
- ▶ DANB monitors for and enforces against the unauthorized use of DANB credentials and notifies state regulatory boards of violations, when appropriate

Additional Services for State Regulators

- ▶ **Report Exam Results:** DANB can provide custom reports of candidate exam performance, at no charge
- ▶ **Issue State Certificates:** DANB can issue a state-specific certificate on the state's behalf to those who have met any state-specific eligibility requirements (evaluated by DANB staff on the state's behalf), including passing the DANB-administered exams required by the state
- ▶ **Develop New Exams:** DANB can develop new exams for emerging topics in dental assisting at the request of states; exam development costs are typically incorporated into the exam fee and passed on to the candidate, though states may choose to subsidize these costs

For more information, please contact DANB's government relations staff at 1-800-367-3262, ext. 431, or klandsberg@danb.org.



SET YOURSELF APART

Education



OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate™

A comprehensive online educational program for anyone who wants to learn more about dental infection prevention and control. Earning the certificate demonstrates an in-depth understanding of CDC guidelines and OSHA standards related to standard precautions.

Developed by OSAP and the DALE Foundation

Certification



Dental Industry Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control® (DISIPC®)

Intended for those who play important roles in dental infection prevention and control, such as practice managers, sales representatives, customer service personnel, and service technicians who do not provide clinical care. Earning DISIPC demonstrates knowledge related to infection control guidelines and standards.

Developed by OSAP and DANB



Certified in Dental Infection Prevention and Control® (CDIPC®)

Intended for the dental team, educators, consultants, and others with a clinical background. Earning CDIPC certification demonstrates an advanced level of infection control guidelines and standards knowledge and the analytical and critical-thinking skills to apply them in various scenarios.

Developed by OSAP and DANB

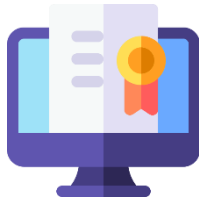


Solutions for the Dental Assistant Workforce

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and the DALE Foundation are committed to developing solutions to address the shortage of qualified dental assistants. Our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan centers on addressing this issue through multiple imperatives. Already, we have several resources to support educators and employers in preparing their dental assistants for the dental practice.

Available Now

Online education



Review foundational dental assisting topics, such as dental radiography, infection control, chairside assisting, and more through the DALE Foundation's interactive, online courses. Practice tests help reinforce key concepts and serve as preparation for exam day for DANB exams and other dental assisting exams. Groups discounts available.

[View the catalog.](#)

[Contact us to learn more.](#)

Curriculum support



The DALE Foundation's Dental Assisting Curriculum Framework is designed to support educators and employers in preparing entry-level dental assistants for the dental practice. The framework includes educational outlines for 10 weeks, 6 months and 2 years, plus recommended online courses, textbooks, links and activity resources, and competency checklists.

[Learn more.](#)

Exam outlines



DANB's exam outlines and lists of reference materials are valuable resources to help dental assistants create their study plans and identify gaps in knowledge. The exam outlines list the topics that will be covered on the exams and their percentages. The exam references list is a handy way to identify textbooks or other materials to support study plans.

[Download the outlines.](#)

In Development

DANB and the DALE Foundation have several initiatives underway to increase access to dental assisting education and exams and to support the needs of the profession now and in the future, including:

- Offering Spanish-language resources, including DANB's RHS exam
- Developing a uniform professional dental assisting model
- Conducting a robust dental assisting job task analysis to ensure our exams, certifications and education meet the needs of the profession now and in the future
- Evaluating policies and processes to identify and remove biases and barriers
- Forming a coalition to address value, culture, respect, compensation and other workplace issues for dental assistants

Get involved: Learn more or get involved. Contact us at communications@danb.org.