



2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: District of Columbia



How to Use the Following Charts

- View which job designations are used in your state.
- Be sure to follow the legal requirements to perform dental radiographic procedures.
- See which tasks are not permitted by state law.
- Review all the allowable tasks for each level of dental assisting as published in the state practice act.

View the education/training/credential required for each level of dental assisting.



Arizona		State approval 1/1/17		
<p>Education/Training/Credential Required</p> <p>To perform specified restorative functions in Arizona under the supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Registered Function or Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Function exam. Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program. Hold DANB's AMP, TMP and RMP. Complete a supervised practice program consisting of a minimum of 20 direct restorations and 20 indirect restorations and other restorative procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form. Obtain the DANB for the Arizona Restorative Certificate. <p>To perform general polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona General Polishing Certificate.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam for the General Polishing Certificate. Complete an Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) General Polishing course. Successfully complete the DANB of Arizona General Polishing Clinical Skills Affidavit. <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p>	<p>Job Title Assigned by State (F.A.C.)</p> <p>Registered Function (Restorative)</p> <p>Registered Function (General Polishing)</p>	<p>Proposed Restorative Job Title</p> <p>Restorative Dental Assistant</p> <p>Proposed General Polishing Job Title</p> <p>General Polishing Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Radiography Requirements</p> <p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in Arizona, a dental assistant must have a current state-approved certificate in radiography. To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the national DANB Radiation Safety and Safety (RHS) exam. Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program. Hold DANB's AMP, TMP and RMP. Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program. <p>The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Dental Care Workforce Study conducted from 2012-2013.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 job titles that were representative of the range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are supported by the right, state dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with italics are part of the state's practice act but are not specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA.</p> <p><i>These states explicitly restrict the practice of dental assisting to support a uniform standard for the care and oral health of patients. Some oral requirements, which will vary as a result of state dental practice acts, are not specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA.</i></p>	<p>Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in AZ</p> <p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46. Taking full impressions for any activating orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthetics. 51. Introral carrying of dental radiographs or phosphor-activated dental x-ray sensors. A procedure which by law only a licensed dentist can perform. Any procedure which requires a dental assistant to perform a procedure, including and including of other restorations. <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2015 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Registered Function Restorative Certificate may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>

Compare your state's job designations to those used as standardized job titles in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study.

The numbers next to each task correspond to the 70 numbered tasks that were identified and used in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study. Tasks that are not numbered do not directly match one of the 70 tasks, yet are identified by the state in the practice act. A full list of those tasks follow your state's chart.

See Appendix A for more information about the task numbering system.

Arizona		State approval 1/1/17	
<p>Education/Training/Credential Required</p> <p>To perform specified restorative functions in Arizona under the supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Registered Function or Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Function exam. Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program. Hold DANB's AMP, TMP and RMP. Complete a supervised practice program consisting of a minimum of 20 direct restorations and 20 indirect restorations and other restorative procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form. Obtain the DANB for the Arizona Restorative Certificate. <p>To perform general polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona General Polishing Certificate.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam for the General Polishing Certificate. Complete an Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) General Polishing course. Successfully complete the DANB of Arizona General Polishing Clinical Skills Affidavit. <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p>	<p>Job Title Assigned by State (F.A.C.)</p> <p>Registered Function (Restorative)</p> <p>Registered Function (General Polishing)</p>	<p>Proposed Restorative Job Title</p> <p>Restorative Dental Assistant</p> <p>Proposed General Polishing Job Title</p> <p>General Polishing Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Allowable Functions</p> <p>If functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations, functions with italics are in the state's practice act but are not specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA research.</p> <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Apply fluoride varnish 40. Apply sealants * Place interim restorations * Perform restorative procedures under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through radiography. <p>Level of Supervision Not Specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 23, 51, 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring of preformed indirect restorations, including the placement of a bonded dental restorative material used and determined by the dentist. <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61. Remove excess cement from trays. 62. Remove excess cement from crowns, bridges, and orthodontics. 63. Prepare a patient for retentive socket and complete denture impressions using a dental tray. 64. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a licensed dentist's instruction. <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform coronal polishing procedures. <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Remove sulcus 23. Apply topical fluoride 24. Apply fluoride 25. Apply fluoride 26. Apply fluoride 27. Apply fluoride 28. Apply fluoride 29. Apply fluoride 30. Apply fluoride 31. Apply fluoride 32. Apply fluoride 33. Apply fluoride 34. Apply fluoride 35. Apply fluoride 36. Apply fluoride 37. Apply fluoride 38. Apply fluoride 39. Apply fluoride 40. Apply fluoride 41. Apply fluoride 42. Apply fluoride 43. Apply fluoride 44. Apply fluoride 45. Apply fluoride 46. Apply fluoride 47. Apply fluoride 48. Apply fluoride 49. Apply fluoride 50. Apply fluoride 51. Apply fluoride 52. Apply fluoride 53. Apply fluoride 54. Apply fluoride 55. Apply fluoride 56. Apply fluoride 57. Apply fluoride 58. Apply fluoride 59. Apply fluoride 60. Apply fluoride 61. Apply fluoride 62. Apply fluoride 63. Apply fluoride 64. Apply fluoride 65. Apply fluoride 66. Apply fluoride 67. Apply fluoride 68. Apply fluoride 69. Apply fluoride 70. Apply fluoride <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform coronal polishing procedures.

If your state's dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted below the chart. See Appendix B for more information about supervision.

These data are presented for informational purposes only and are not intended as a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. DANB confers with each state's dental board at least annually regarding the accuracy and currency of this information. To verify, or if you have any questions, please contact your state's dental board.

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Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to D.C.	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in D.C.
<p>To be registered as a Level II Dental Assistant in the District of Columbia, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have graduated from high school or hold a general equivalency diploma <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a dental assisting education program approved by the D.C. Board of Dentistry or accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) <p>OR</p> <p>Hold current DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification</p> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a course in dental radiography training that the D.C. Board of Dentistry deems satisfactory (see "Radiography Requirements column" at right) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for a registration as a Level II Dental Assistant to the D.C. Board of Dentistry <p>An applicant who has been performing the duties of a dental assistant on July 15, 2011 may be granted a registration if he or she fulfills the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate competency to perform the duties of a dental assistant to the satisfaction of the supervising dentist <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for a registration as a dental assistant to the D.C. Board of Dentistry no later than 9/17/12 	<p>Level II Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p>	<p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the District of Columbia, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam <p>OR</p> <p>Successfully complete a dental radiography training program approved by the D.C. Board of Dentistry</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Register as a dental assistant with the D.C. Board of Dentistry (see <i>additional requirements in "Education/Training/Credential Required" column at left</i>)</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete in-office training and demonstrate competency to perform the task to the supervising dentist's satisfaction <p>AND</p> <p>Register as a dental assistant with the D.C. Board of Dentistry no later than 9/17/12 (see <i>additional requirements in "Education/Training/Credential Required" column at left</i>)</p>	<p>The following functions shall not be delegated to dental auxiliaries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The charting of cavities during preliminary examination, prophylaxis, or polishing The intraoral polishing of a tooth or a restoration Placing, carving, or finishing of amalgam restorations Temporary wire ligation The instruction of individuals or groups of individuals in oral health care, unless it is in the dental office and done as instructed by the dentist Final positioning of orthodontic bonds and bands Condensing, contouring or adjusting any final, fixed or removable prosthodontic appliance or restoration in the mouth Placing and finishing of composite resin/silicate restorations Application of cavity liners and bases The application of pit and fissure sealants Taking final impressions Placement of temporary restorations Administering or monitoring nitrous oxide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing final diagnosis and treatment planning Performing surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue Prescribing or parenterally administering drugs or medications Administering inhalants or inhalation conscious sedation agents Authorizing work orders for any appliance or prosthetic device or restoration to be inserted into a patient's mouth Operating high speed rotary instruments in the mouth Performing pulp capping procedures Orthodontic arch wire activation with the exception of minor adjustments to eliminate pain or discomfort Taking impressions for master casts to be used for prosthetic restoration of teeth or oral structures Final cementation of crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, posts and cores, and insertion of final prosthesis Placing sutures Flushing root canals The performing of a diagnostic screening to identify indications of oral abnormalities A preliminary dental examination A complete prophylaxis, including the removal of any deposits, diseased crevicular tissue, accretion, or stain from the surface of a tooth or a restoration Administering or monitoring general anesthetics and conscious sedation Administering or monitoring local anesthesia
<p>To be registered as a Level I Dental Assistant in the District of Columbia, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have graduated from high school or hold a general equivalency diploma <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a course in dental radiography training that the D.C. Board of Dentistry deems satisfactory (see "Radiography Requirements column" at right) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply to the D.C. Board of Dentistry for registration 	<p>Level I Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles (left) based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005.</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p> <p>These state templates reflect the work done by the ADAA/ DANB Alliance to support a uniform national model for one set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements, which will serve as a viable career ladder for dental assistants.</p>	<p>†DANB has not received confirmation that this Career Ladder Template has been reviewed and approved by the DC Board of Dentistry. All of the templates in this volume reflect DANB's interpretation of each state's dental practice act and administrative rules and regulations related to dental assisting. For authoritative information regarding requirements, please contact the relevant dental board. Specific contact information can be found in this DANB publication.</p>

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Job Title
According to
D.C.

Allowable Functions
(Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations;
functions with bullets are in this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research)

Level II
Dental
Assistant

Under Direct Supervision*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Drying a root canal 18. Applying topical fluoride 27. Placing or removing a rubber dam 35. Removing or placing a periodontal dressing (except placing the original periodontal dressing) 43. Preparing and fitting stainless steel crowns 44. Taking alginate impressions for intraoral appliances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45. Placing or removing a matrix band 47. Fabricating indirect restorations in a dental office 47. Preparing temporary crowns 49. Performing vitality tests 54, 61. Removing excess cement 55. Removal of temporary restorations without the use of a rotary instrument 64. Constructing athletic mouth guards on models | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying desensitizing agents; • Etching • All functions permitted to Level I Dental Assistant |
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Under Direct Supervision* of an Orthodontist

- 15. Placing and removing arch wires
- 29. Preparing and fitting orthodontic bands
 - Removing excess cement from around orthodontic bands
 - Cementing orthodontic bands, placing bonded attachments, or removing cemented or bonded orthodontic bands and attachments
 - Placing elastics and ligatures
 - Selecting headgear

Level I
Dental
Assistant

Under Direct Supervision*

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Placing retraction cord 13. Removing sutures 27, 45, 48. Placing or removing materials for the isolation of the dentition, provided that the material is not retained by the dentition 35. Placing periodontal dressings 44. Taking impression for study models or diagnostic casts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45. Placing matrices 48. Rinsing and aspirating the oral cavity 48. Retracting the lips, cheek, tongue, and flaps 54, 55. Removing temporary restorations without the use of a rotary instrument 56. Applying topical anesthesia 64. Constructing athletic mouth guards in models | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying a medicinal agent to a tooth for a prophylactic purpose • Performing intraoral photography • Curing by the use of halogen light • Checking for loose bands • Whitening • Other functions as approved by the Board |
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Under Direct Supervision* of an Orthodontist

- 15. Placing and removing arch wires
- 29. Preparing and fitting orthodontic bands
 - Removing excess cement from around orthodontic bands
 - Cementing orthodontic bands, placing bonded attachments, or removing cemented or bonded orthodontic bands and attachments
 - Placing elastics and ligatures
 - Selecting headgear

*Direct supervision: The dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedures, remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the dental assistant, and personally evaluates the performance of the dental assistant before dismissal of the patient.