



Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

DANB

Overview of Services

About DANB

Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™

Established in 1948, DANB 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 36,000 dental assistants are currently DANB certified nationwide. In addition, nearly 190,000 dental assistants hold one or more of DANB's certificates of knowledge-based competency (marked with an asterisk* below). DANB, a nonprofit organization, is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence and has earned and maintains accreditation for its eligible certification programs from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which recognizes professional certification programs that meet rigorous NCCA standards.

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

DANB offers four national certifications:

Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®)

Component exams:

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

Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA®)

Component exams:

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

Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA®)

Component exams:

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

Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA®)

Component exams:

Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)*
Isolation (IS)*
Temporaries (TMP)*
Impressions (IM)*
Sealants (SE)*
Restorative Functions (RF)

Models for Using DANB Exams in Regulation of Dental Assistants

Dental Assistant Registration or Other Credentialing Conducted by State Regulatory Board

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 exams, or selected component exams, can fulfill the knowledge-based competency measurement requirement underlying state-specific credentialing. Rather than expending resources to develop a state-specific exam, a state regulatory agency can accept or require an existing DANB national exam or combination of DANB exams; doing so can eliminate exam development, administration, scoring and reporting costs and reduce lead time to implement a statewide 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 periodic reporting of candidate exam results to state regulators free of charge at the interval requested by the state.

Dental Assistant Competency Measurement Without State Credentialing

In states where the 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 competency testing requirements. DANB provides state regulators with a suite of independent, psychometrically sound standardized tests that allow for reliable measurement of knowledge-based competencies.

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

Benefits of Partnering with DANB

- ▶ Recognizing or requiring existing DANB national exams eliminates exam development costs and allows for turnkey initiation of a state registration or competency measurement program for dental assistants
- ▶ There are no DANB-established eligibility prerequisites to take these component exams:

For CDA:

- Radiation Health and Safety
- Infection Control (also a component of COA certification)

For CPFDA:

- Coronal Polish
- Sealants
- Topical Fluoride
- Topical Anesthetic

For CRFDA:

- Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology
- Isolation
- Impressions
- Temporaries
- Sealants

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 of the duties tested on the CPFDA or CRFDA certification exams can choose to recognize these national DANB certifications but require or recommend only those component exams that meet their needs.

- ▶ DANB's exams are developed in accordance with nationally accepted psychometric standards, and its eligible certification programs are accredited by the NCCA, helping to ensure validity, reliability and legal defensibility
- ▶ DANB exams are available at more than 250 proctored, secure computerized testing sites nationwide (through Pearson VUE)
- ▶ DANB provides online credential verification for all DANB-administered credentials
- ▶ DANB reviews self-reported five-year criminal history and adverse regulatory actions for all DANB national exam candidates
- ▶ 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:** As noted above, DANB can provide state dental boards, free of charge, with periodic reports of candidate performance on DANB exams; custom reports can also be provided on request, free of charge
- ▶ **Collect Fees:** DANB can collect fees on the state's behalf and transfer the collected fees to the state
- ▶ **Issue State Certificates:** DANB can issue a state-specific certificate on the state's behalf to those who have passed the DANB-administered examinations required by the state
- ▶ **Develop State-Specific Exams:** When requested, DANB can develop state-specific exams, including jurisprudence exams; exam development costs are typically incorporated into the exam fee and passed on to the candidate, though some 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.