



Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The AMP exam is a component of the National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA®) certification program and tests knowledge-based competence.

There are no eligibility requirements to take the AMP exam.

The purpose of the AMP exam is to ensure individuals meet the minimum national standard for knowledge-based competence in knowledge of anatomy, morphology and physiology.

NELDA exams

Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)

Radiation Health and Safety (RHS®)

Infection Control (ICE®)

Arizona Restorative Expanded Duties Exams

Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)

Temporaries (TMP)

Restorative Functions (RF)

Effective 03/01/2025

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AMP Exam

Exam Weighting by Domain

- I. Head, Neck and Oral Cavity (40%)
- II. Tooth Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (60%)

Exam Administration

Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	80
Time for Exam (minutes)	60

Testing Options

This exam is administered in-person and through remote online proctoring. The candidate may choose the method they prefer. Remote proctoring allows candidates to take exams using their own computer while being remotely monitored by webcam and microphone.

How DANB exams are administered

DANB uses computer adaptive testing (CAT). Exams are scored based on the level of difficulty of the questions answered correctly. This method can more accurately pinpoint a candidate's ability level. Each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain. The average candidate will answer around 50% of the questions correctly.

AMP Exam Outline

I: Head, Neck and Oral Cavity Anatomy and Physiology (40%)

- A. Circulatory and lymphatic system
- B. Muscular/skeletal system
- C. Nervous system
- D. Hard and soft tissue
- E. Landmarks
- F. Salivary glands
- G. Sinuses

II: Tooth Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (60%)

- A. Classifications of occlusion
- B. Permanent teeth
- C. Primary teeth
- D. Tooth numbering systems, including Universal and Palmer systems)
- E. Tooth anomalies

AMP Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials to develop this exam. This list does not include all available study materials; these are the resources that exam committees have determined provide the most up-to-date information needed to meet a determined level of competence on this exam. It is not an endorsement of the publications. Any one reference will likely not include all the study material required to pass the exam. **Please note that previous editions of the resources below may be used for study purposes if the previous version was published within the past 7 years, unless noted otherwise.**

Suggested Exam Preparation References

1. Bird, Doni L., and Debbie S. Robinson. *Essentials of Dental Assisting*. 7th ed. Elsevier/Saunders, 2023.
2. Bird, Doni L., and Debbie S. Robinson. *Modern Dental Assisting*. 14th ed. Elsevier/Saunders, 2024.
3. Phinney, Donna J., and Judy H. Halstead. *Dental Assisting: A Comprehensive Approach*. 5th ed. Delmar, 2018.

Additional/Optional Study References

1. The DALE Foundation. www.dalefoundation.org.
 - *DANB AMP Review*
 - *DANB AMP Practice Test*

Exam Development and Maintenance

How exams are developed

DANB exams are developed using this exam outline, which is annually reviewed by subject matter experts. The outline is developed using a content validation study, which includes a job analysis survey where practicing DANB certificants and certificate holders are asked how often tasks are performed and how critical competent performance of tasks is to the health and safety of the public and oral healthcare worker. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB's Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines.

How the passing standard is determined

The exam passing standard is evaluated and a Standard Setting Study is conducted the year following a Content Validation Study. DANB uses a modified Angoff standard setting method and convenes a panel of subject matter experts to evaluate and make judgements about the difficulty of the exam items and the criticality of the content of the exam items. Modified Angoff standard setting methods are commonly used to set the passing standards for certification exams.

How exams are scored

In a criterion-referenced examination, a candidate must obtain a score equal to, or higher than, the passing score to pass the test. A minimum passing scaled score of 400 must be obtained to pass the exam with scores ranging from 100 to 900 points. Exam results are reported as a "scaled score" which is neither a "number correct" nor a "percent correct" score. Performance on the exam is not compared to the performance of others taking the exam.

State Regulations

Each state's dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at www.danb.org.