



# Sealants (SE)

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## Exam Outline and References

The SE exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Function Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) certification program and tests knowledge-based competence.

There are no eligibility requirements to take the ICE exam.

The purpose of the SE exam is to ensure that individuals meet the minimum national standard for knowledge-based competence in application of sealants.

### **CPFDA component exams**

Coronal Polishing (CP)

**Sealants (SE)**

Topical Fluoride (TF)

### **CRFDA component exams**

Impressions (IM)

Temporaries (TMP)

**Sealants (SE)**

Restorative Functions (RF)

Effective 07/01/2022

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# SE Exam

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## Exam Weighting by Domain

- I. Evaluation (20%)
- II. Armamentarium (20%)
- III. Procedures (45%)
- IV. Administration (15%)

## Exam Administration

Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	50
Time for Exam (minutes)	40
Time for Appointment (minutes)	45

### 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.

# SE Exam Outline

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## I: Evaluation (20%)

- A. Health and dental histories
- B. Indications and contraindications for sealants, including but not limited to:
  - 1. abnormalities of the oral cavity.
  - 2. restorations.
  - 3. occlusion.
  - 4. pit and fissures.
  - 5. stages of eruption.
  - 6. caries.

## II: Armamentarium (20%)

- A. Acid etch and bonding agent materials
- B. Characteristics of Sealant material
- C. Isolation
- D. Personal protective equipment (PPE)

## III: Procedures (45%)

- A. Sealant application
  - 1. Apply acid etch, bonding agent and sealant
  - 2. Flossing
  - 3. Remove debris
- B. Infection prevention and control
- C. Maintenance of armamentarium
- D. Patient education
  - 1. Objective of sealants
  - 2. Disease prevention and progression
  - 3. Pre- and post-operative instructions

## IV: Administration (15%)

- A. Legal record maintenance and legal responsibilities, including but not limited to:
  - 1. clinical treatment notes.
  - 2. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- B. Safety data sheets (SDS) for sealant products

## SE Exam Suggested References

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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*. 6th ed. Saunders, 2017.
2. Bird, Doni L., and Debbie S. Robinson. *Modern Dental Assisting*. 13th ed. Saunders, 2020.
3. Eakle, Stephan W. and Kimberly G. Bastin. *Dental Materials: Clinical Applications for Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists*. 4th ed. Saunders, 2020.
4. Phinney, Donna J. and Judy H. Halstead. *Dental Assisting: A Comprehensive Approach*. 6th ed. Cengage, 2022.

### Additional/Optional Study Resources

1. The DALE Foundation. [www.dalefoundation.org](http://www.dalefoundation.org).
  - *EFDA Practice Test*

## Acronyms

The following table lists acronyms that you may find on this exam. When you take the exam, the full list of acronyms will be available to you.

Abbreviation	What it stands for
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
ADA	American Dental Association
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
PPE	personal protective equipment
SDS	safety data sheet
pH	potential of hydrogen
TMJ	temporomandibular joint
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
bis-GMA	bisphenol A-glycidyl methacrylate
GIC	glass ionomer cement
UDMA	urethane dimethacrylate

# Exam Development and Maintenance

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## **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.

## **Receiving your Pass or Fail status**

Candidates will receive a preliminary Pass or Fail status at the test center, or a link to the results if taken through remote online proctoring, upon completion of the examination. A preliminary report may not be used for regulatory or employment decisions. Official exam results will be provided by DANB within one to three weeks.

## **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](http://www.danb.org).