



# Missouri Dental Assisting Skills Exam

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## Exam Outline and References

Developed and administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. on behalf of the Missouri Dental Board.

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# MDAS Exam

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## Exam Weighting by Domain

- I. Oral Disease Prevention (10%)
- II. Dental Materials (10%)
- III. Medical Emergencies (10%)
- IV. Charts/Legal/Jurisprudence (10%)
- V. Infection Control (30%)
- VI. Radiation Health and Safety (10%)
- VII. Tooth Anatomy and Morphology (20%)

## Exam Administration

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Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	130
Time for Exam (minutes)	100
Time for Appointment (minutes)	110

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### 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.

# MDAS Exam Outline

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## I: Oral Disease Prevention (10%)

- A. Sealants
- B. Fluoride
- C. Nutrition
- D. Dental caries
- E. Patient education

## II: Dental Materials (10%)

- A. Physical properties
- B. Preparation
- C. Manipulation
- D. Application

## III: Medical Emergencies (10%)

- A. Signs and symptoms
- B. Prevention
- C. Health history review/documentation

## IV: Charts/Legal/Jurisprudence (10%)

- A. Patient records, consent and security
- B. Legal responsibilities and regulations (e.g., HIPAA, OSHA)
- C. State-specific dental assistant rules

## V: Infection Control (30%)

- A. Standard precautions
- B. Prevention of disease transmission (e.g., CDC guidelines)
- C. Occupational safety (e.g., OSHA regulations)

## VI: Radiation Health and Safety (10%)

- A. Expose (e.g., select technique)
- B. Evaluate radiographic image quality
- C. Radiation safety for the patient and operator

## VII: Tooth Anatomy and Morphology (20%)

- A. Head and neck
- B. Oral cavity
- C. Tooth numbering systems
- D. Occlusion
- E. Oral pathology

# MDAS 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. *Modern Dental Assisting*. 13th ed. Saunders, 2020.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
  - *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings — 2003* (MMWR 2003;52(No. RR-17)).
  - *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; October 2016.
3. Phinney, Donna J. and Judy H. Halstead. *Dental Assisting: A Comprehensive Approach*. 6th ed. Cengage, 2022.
4. Miller, Chris H. *Infection Control and Management of Hazardous Materials for the Dental Team*. 7th ed. Mosby, 2022.
5. Missouri State Dental Practice Act. [pr.mo.gov/dental.asp](http://pr.mo.gov/dental.asp).
6. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).
  - *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard* (1910.1030)  
[www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030](http://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030)

# 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.

Acronym	What it stands for
ADA	American Dental Association
AHA	American Heart Association
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEJ	cementoenamel junction
CFU	colony forming unit
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
DANB	Dental Assisting National Board
DEJ	dentoenamel junction
DHCP	Dental Healthcare Personnel
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
kVp	kilovoltage peak
mA	milliamperage
MDB	Missouri Dental Board
mL	milliliter
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PPE	personal protective equipment
TMJ	temporomandibular joint

## Exam Development and Maintenance

### 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 through a link sent to your email address to the results upon completion of the examination. 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).