

## DANB REPORTS EXAM PERFORMANCE RESULTS

To meet the criteria established by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the International Standards Organization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17024:2012 accreditation standards, and meet certifying board recognition criteria established by the American Dental Association (ADA), DANB regularly reviews the quality of and candidate performance on its exams. On Oct. 15, 2019, DANB submitted recent certification and exam counts and pass rates to ADA's Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) as part of its Annual Report.

As of Aug. 31, 2019, DANB had 36,755 Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certificants; 1,305 Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA) certificants; 249 Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA) certificants; 107 Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA) certificants; 132 National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) certificants; 204 Certified Dental Practice Management Administrator (CDPMA) certificants; and 109 Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) certificants, for a total of 38,881 DANB certifications, held by 37,966 DANB certificants. (Note: DANB discontinued administering the COMSA exam in 2000 and the CDPMA exam in 2008.)

To date (since April 1997, when DANB first began to collect this information), to Aug. 31, 2019, a total of 200,063 individuals have passed DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam, and 119,986 have passed DANB's Infection Control (ICE) exam.

### [Pathway pass rates review](#)

Each year since 1998, DANB applies inferential statistics to compare passing rates of candidates who take the General Chairside Assisting (GC) component of the CDA exam through exam eligibility Pathway I (graduates of CODA-accredited dental assisting or dental hygiene programs) and Pathway II (candidates who are on-the-job trained, with at least 3,500 hours of dental assisting work experience acquired over a 24- to 48-month period).

At the DANB Board's February 2019 meeting, Directors reviewed passing rate comparison results for these two GC exam eligibility pathways. Since 2007, GC Pathway I candidates pass at a rate that is statistically significantly higher than GC Pathway II candidates.

Please note that the pass/fail results for DANB national exams by fiscal year (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31) is now presented by exam component (see page 6), and not by how the exam was administered. For example, DANB formerly reported the pass rates on the CDA, RHS, ICE and RHS/ICE exams. Now DANB reports the pass rates on the RHS, ICE and GC exams. This helps to ensure that the data is interpreted correctly. To illustrate how the data could be misinterpreted, if the CDA exam was reported as a fail, the reader would not know if the candidate failed one, two or all three of the RHS, ICE and/or GC exams.

### [Pass/fail results for DANB national exams](#)

<b>RHS</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	12,654	12,642
Pass	8,685	8,651
Fail	3,969	3,991
Pass rate	69%	68%

# DANB Exam Results

<b>ICE</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	8,160	6,976	Total candidates	37	96
Pass	6,426	5,286	Pass	32	75
Fail	1,734	1,690	Fail	5	21
Pass rate	79%	76%	Pass rate	86%	78%

<b>GC</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	3,799	3,797
Pass	3,146	3,216
Fail	653	581
Pass rate	83%	85%

The total number of DANB national exams administered in FY 18-19 was 24,669.

<b>OA</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	98	87
Pass	67	62
Fail	31	25
Pass rate	68%	71%

<b>CP</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	440	504
Pass	304	313
Fail	136	191
Pass rate	69%	62%

<b>SE</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	65	72
Pass	43	40
Fail	22	32
Pass rate	66%	56%

<b>TF</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	41	40
Pass	26	22
Fail	15	18
Pass rate	63%	55%

<b>AMP</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	226	323
Pass	161	220
Fail	65	103
Pass rate	71%	68%

<b>IM</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	10	16
Pass	10	15
Fail	0	1
Pass rate	100%	94%

<b>TMP</b>	<b>FY 17-18</b>	<b>FY 18-19</b>
Total candidates	40	101
Pass	34	84
Fail	6	17
Pass rate	85%	83%