



Dental Assisting National Board

# 2026 NELDA Recertification Requirements

**Access your certification information online at  
[www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)**

- Log on at any time to check your certification status
- Review current recertification requirements
- Renew online annually
- Explore state regulations



## **DANB Contact, Forms, and Policies**

Dental Assisting National Board  
444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900  
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[www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)

1-800-367-3262

[danbmail@danb.org](mailto:danbmail@danb.org)

Find all of DANB's policies and forms at <http://www.danb.org/exams/forms-and-policies>.

# Steps to Recertify

DANB certification is valid for one year. Renewing your certification annually protects your DANB credential and shows your commitment to the dental assisting profession.

## NELDA Recertification Credits and Fees

CDE Credits	Annual Fee
6	\$50

\$20 late fee added after expiration date

Upon submission of your annual renewal, you agree to DANB's recertification requirements, policies, and procedures.

Renewal fees are non-refundable under any circumstances.

### STEP 1: MAINTAIN CPR

Maintain DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS or ACLS. See list of DANB-accepted providers on next page.

CPR, BLS or ACLS does not count toward the required number of Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits.

### STEP 2: EARN CDE

Earn the required 6 CDE credits. Certificants are required to earn at least three credits in infection control annually, one of which must focus on Bloodborne Pathogens. See p. 4 to learn more about the CDE requirements. Use the Recertification Recording Form on p. 7 to track your credits and CPR, BLS or ACLS.

### STEP 3: SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE

Submit your completed renewal application and nonrefundable fee online in your DANB account. DANB will send a renewal notification by email nine weeks and by mail five weeks before your certification expiration date. Go to [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org) up to nine weeks prior to your expiration date to renew online. You must renew annually with or without a notice from DANB. You will receive your new certificate and wallet card after you renew (if not selected for audit).

If you do not complete Steps 1 – 3 within three months after your expiration date:

- You are no longer DANB certified.
- You may not use DANB trademarks or registered certification marks or present yourself to the public as being a DANB certificant, in any manner.
- You will no longer benefit from the greater earning power, career mobility, peer recognition and overall enhanced employment opportunities that more than 34,000 DANB certificants enjoy.

**If you allow your NELDA certification to expire, it cannot be reinstated. Because it is an entry-level certification, the NELDA certification can only be renewed up to three times.**

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DANB is dedicated to upholding impartiality in carrying out its certification activities, managing conflicts of interest, and ensuring the objectivity of its certification activities.

## CPR, BLS, or ACLS Requirement

DANB only accepts courses from these providers. Courses must include CPR and a hands-on exam. Cards from other providers will not be accepted and may result in expiration of your DANB certification. CPR, BLS, or ACLS does not count toward the required number of Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits.

**Proof: Copy of the certificate or front and back of card** that includes issue and expiration dates, instructor's name and your name and/or signature.

- Advanced First Aid, Inc.
- American CPR Care Association\*
- American CPR Training
- American Emergency Response Training
- American Environmental Health and Safety
- American Health Care Academy\*
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute
- Emergency First Response
- Emergency Medical Training Associates
- Emergency University\*
- Medical Training Associates
- Military Training Network
- National Safety Council (Green Cross)
- Pacific Medical Training (BLS only through <https://911coned.com>)
- ProCPR\*
- Saudi Heart Association
- Save A Heart of Utah
- The Health and Safety Institute (HSI). This organization includes the following providers, which are all DANB approved:
  - American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI)
  - EMS Safety (EMS)
  - MEDIC First Aid

\*Not all courses include a hands-on exam. Contact provider to be sure the course includes a hands-on skills assessment and will be accepted by DANB.

## CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

CDE must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting to maintain or improve dental assisting knowledge. Programs must be at least 45 minutes to qualify. CDE credits are calculated in 15-minute increments (e.g., 45 minutes = .75 CDE credits, 1 hour = 1 CDE credit).

CDE credits must be earned during your renewal period. If you earn CDEs for the same course/activity twice within your renewal period, they will only be counted once (duplicate CDE activities will not count). Your renewal period begins the date you earned your most recent DANB certification and ends once your three-month grace period has ended. Passing a DANB exam to earn initial DANB certification does not count toward CDE credits. CDE credits may not be applied retroactively.

DANB allows a grace period of three months from the date of certification expiration to complete the renewal process, including earning CDE credits and submitting the renewal application and payment. For example, if your certification expiration date is June 1, your grace period ends on Sep. 1. DANB will assess a late fee if you renew during your grace period. DANB will consider you certified during the grace period. If you do not renew by the end of the grace period, you are no longer DANB certified and may be required to retest to reinstate certification.

CDE credits have a two-year lifespan. If more than the required number of credits are earned in a renewal period, the additional credits may be carried over to the next renewal period. Retain proof of earned CDE credits for two years in the event of an audit.

## Acceptable CDE credits

**All certificants, whether they hold one or more DANB certifications, must annually earn a minimum of three (3) CDE credits that meet the following requirements:**

- One CDE credit on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard. Certificants may use proof of meeting federally mandated OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard training, or other dental-related courses that focus on Bloodborne Pathogens, and
- Two CDE credits on infection prevention, control or safety (for example, courses may include any topics listed in DANB's Infection Control exam blueprint, which includes but are not limited to information in the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard).

All other credits in this category must directly relate to the clinical practice of dentistry, including dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, behavior management, and chairside patient communication.

### Earn credits:

Attend lectures, seminars and table clinics; successfully complete home study, online and college courses; serve on an in-person DANB exam or DALE Foundation course development committee meeting; author/edit articles/textbooks.

### Calculate credits:

- Each hour of a lecture, seminar, table clinic, or home study course = One credit  
**Proof:** Certificate/letter of attendance/completion on sponsor letterhead with organization contact info, your name, course title and date, and hours
- Each college credit/unit = Four credits  
**Proof:** Copy of a transcript/official letter on letterhead with your name, course title and date, and credits/units.  
\*Transcripts should provide course completion dates (month and year of the end of the semester or quarter).
- Each DANB or DALE Foundation meeting = Three credits  
**Proof:** Letter on organization letterhead verifying participation
- Each authored or edited article or textbook = Two credits  
**Proof:** Completed publisher's evaluation with title, your name, publisher and publication date.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION POLICY

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is committed to promoting public safety by providing credentialing services to the dental community. To take DANB exams and earn DANB credentials, candidates should embody professional values that are in the best interest of patients.

Responses to the Background Information Questions (BIQs) allow DANB to make informed decisions regarding our credentials and ultimately the safety of our stakeholders. Requiring answers to the BIQs supports DANB's mission by removing or restricting the use of credentials to those who exhibit behavior inconsistent with DANB's Code of Professional Conduct.

National exam, certification renewal, certification reinstatement, and emeritus applications contain three BIQs that exam candidates and certificants ("DANB Individuals") are required to answer. Failure to answer the questions will result in the application being returned as incomplete. DANB Individuals must submit documentation, with their completed application, related to each affirmative response. DANB will review the documentation related to each affirmative response and make a case-by-case determination as to the candidate's eligibility to test, to earn certification or recertify. Dependent on specific disclosures made. DANB reserves the right to bring individuals for review under DANB's Disciplinary Policy & Procedures.

Note: Any person being held on criminal charges or serving a sentence of confinement (e.g., prison, jail, home detention, or any equivalent mode of confinement) for any offense, must be fully released from confinement before applying for and/or taking a DANB exam or before renewing or reinstating DANB certification.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION QUESTIONS

#### **BIQ 1: Is your answer "yes" to either of the following?**

- Since you last renewed your certification or applied for a DANB national certification or component exam, have you been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a felony or any crime punishable by confinement in a state or federal prison for any length of time?
- Are you currently serving a sentence of confinement, home detention, parole, probation, or other court-ordered supervision or reporting requirement (e.g., sex offender or violent offender registry) in connection with a felony conviction?

*It is not necessary to report misdemeanor convictions. If you are uncertain whether a conviction was for a felony or a misdemeanor, you must mark "yes."*

#### **BIQ 2: Since you last renewed your certification or applied for a DANB national certification or component exam, have you been the subject of any of the following:**

- Suspension, revocation or voluntary surrender of your dental assisting license, registration or other state-recognized dental assisting credential?
- Suspension, revocation or voluntary surrender of a license, registration or other state-recognized credential in any profession?
- Loss of authorization to practice dental assisting or any profession as an employee of the federal government?
- Loss of authorization to practice dental assisting or any profession in a jurisdiction that does not require registration, licensure or other recognized employment credential?
- Disciplinary action by a professional regulatory board, certifying or exam agency, or other professional body?
- Investigation by or dismissal from an educational institution or employer for cheating, violating and educational institution's or other organization's code of conduct or similar document, or any other ethical violation?

#### **BIQ 3: Since you last renewed your certification or applied for a DANB national certification or component exam, have you been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law?**

### DOCUMENTATION

If a certificant answers "yes" to any of the questions, they must submit appropriate documentation according to [DANB's Background Information Policy](#).

# Recertification Requirements Audit

Certificants who wish to renew their DANB certification must meet all renewal requirements and submit their renewal on time each year. When submitting a renewal, certificants attest to having met all renewal requirements for their specified renewal period. To uphold the integrity of a DANB certification, a percentage of certificants are selected for audit each year (either randomly, or at DANB-discretion) to ensure that all renewal requirements were correctly maintained.

If selected for audit, the certificant will receive an emailed notice and are prompted to submit:

- Proof of CDE credits earned during the certificant's renewal period, including the Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogens requirements.
- A copy of a current, DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS, or ACLS card(s) or certificate(s)
- Any other documentation, as deemed necessary by DANB to validate that renewal requirements have been met.

It is recommended that certificants retain all related CDE and CPR documentation for two years in the event of an audit.

If a certificant is selected for audit but cannot submit the required documentation, they will be alerted via email of their deficiency. Certificants may be given additional opportunities to complete their requirements if they are within their grace period.

If a certificant is not able to submit proof of maintaining all renewal requirements by the end of their grace period, their audit will be failed, and they will no longer be DANB certified. Renewal fees are non-refundable, including in the event of a failed audit.

Upon successful completion of an audit, certificants will receive an emailed confirmation. Their renewed certificate(s) will be available immediately within their online DANB account and will be mailed within four weeks.

## Use of DANB Certification Marks

You may use a DANB mark after your name (e.g., Sue Smith, NELDA) on a resume, business card, website, in a book or publication, and in other print and electronic media. You may display the mark on a nametag or uniform worn during the rendering or promotion of certified services, and on a wall plaque present at the place where you render or promote the certified services. If you earned DANB certification in the past but have not maintained the certification, you may not use the DANB mark. An individual who has been granted Emeritus status by DANB may only use the certification mark corresponding to the former credential followed by a hyphen and the word "Emeritus" (e.g. Jane Doe, CDA-Emeritus). Refer to Usage Guidelines for DANB Marks, available at [danb.org](http://danb.org), for more information.

To protect against misuse of DANB marks, DANB sends reports of DANB certificants whose certifications have lapsed to state regulatory agencies. Misuse of DANB certification or service marks is grounds for discipline under DANB's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, available at [danb.org](http://danb.org).

## Purpose of DANB's Recertification Requirements

DANB recognizes the dynamic and emerging roles of DANB certificants in providing quality dental care to patients. DANB assists certificants in meeting these ever-changing roles by requiring annual CDE credits. Because dental health care professionals are vital in protecting the public, they must be prepared for medical emergencies. Therefore, DANB also requires maintenance of DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS, or ACLS certification.

DANB patterns its definition of CDE after that of the American Dental Association and defines CDE as educational activities that review existing concepts and techniques, convey information beyond the basic dental assisting education and training, and update knowledge on scientific advances and clinical and non-clinical practice-related subject matter, including evidence-based dentistry. DANB's objective is to provide the highest quality service to the public and profession by improving each certificant's clinical knowledge. All CDE credits should strengthen the critical inquiry and balanced judgment associated with the truly professional and scientific person, and should incorporate new knowledge and techniques, into the practice of dental assisting.

DANB's CDE requirement(s) are consistent with states that have mandatory dental assistant CDE requirements. DANB's requirements also enhance the continued competence of DANB certificants and promote DANB's goal of lifelong professional learning and development for its certificants.

# DANB Recertification Recording Form

As you complete each CDE credit and earn CPR, BLS, or ACLS, update this form and retain proof of attendance/course completion for two years from the date each credit is earned.

## CPR, BLS, or ACLS

DANB-Accepted Provider	Issue Date	Expiration Date

## CDE Credits

Date	Credits	Cat. #	Sponsor	Course Title

## OSHA Bloodborne CDE Credit (1 required annually)

Date	Credits	Cat. #	Sponsor	Course Title
		1		

## Infection Control CDE Credits (2 required annually)

Date	Credits	Cat. #	Sponsor	Course Title
		1		
		1		