



Summary of Connecticut EFDA Requirements

Reviewed November 15, 2024

This document provides information about the requirements to earn status as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) in Connecticut.

In order to legally perform the expanded functions under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed dentist in Connecticut, a dental assistant **must meet all state requirements** to earn EFDA status. Please Note: Any DANB certificates of knowledge-based competence or passing exam results do not qualify an individual to perform expanded functions in Connecticut if all of the Connecticut EFDA requirements have not been completed.

The State of Connecticut **does not issue a state certificate or certification** to dental assistants who have met all EFDA requirements. However, it is the supervising dentist's responsibility, before delegating any of the functions listed under the heading "EFDA Functions" to any dental assistant, to verify that the dental assistant has met ALL of the state's EFDA requirements.

Connecticut Requirements to Earn EFDA Status

To earn EFDA status in Connecticut, one must complete ALL the following requirements (in any order):

1. Pass the DANB Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) or Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA®) exam and maintain current certification
(If the candidate earned DANB's CDA certification before June 1, 1993, or DANB's COA certification before June 1, 1994, the candidate must also take and pass DANB's Infection Control [ICE®] exam.)
2. Successfully complete an expanded function dental assistant education program meeting Connecticut state requirements (See p. 2)
3. Pass the DANB CPFDA exams:
 - Coronal Polishing (CP)
 - Sealants (SE) – Candidates who have passed the SE exam as part of the CRFDA certification do not need to retake this exam to earn CPFDA certification if they passed the SE exam within the three years preceding completion of all other CPFDA certification exams and requirements.
 - Topical Fluoride (TF)
4. Pass the DANB CRFDA exams:
 - Impressions (IM)
 - Sealants (SE) – Candidates who have passed the SE exam as part of the CPFDA certification do not need to retake this exam to earn CRFDA certification if they passed the SE exam within the three years preceding completion of all other CRFDA certification exams and requirements.
 - Temporaries (TMP)
 - Restorative Functions (RF)

Additional Requirements: *After obtaining EFDA status, per statute, a dental assistant must adhere to the following additional requirements: (a) conspicuously display his or her dental assistant or orthodontic assistant certificate at his or her place of employment or place where he or she provides expanded function dental assistant services; and (b) maintain professional liability insurance or other indemnity against liability for professional malpractice in an amount not less than five hundred thousand dollars for one person, per occurrence, with an aggregate liability of not less than one million five hundred thousand dollars while employed as an expanded function dental assistant.*

Direct all questions regarding DANB CDA, COA, CPFDA and CRFDA certifications and component exams to DANB at 1-800-367-3262. Visit www.danb.org to download exam application forms.

Direct all questions regarding the requirements to earn state EFDA status or the scope of practice of an individual who has met these requirements to: **Connecticut Department of Public Health**, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section, 410 Capitol Ave., MS# 12 APP, P.O. Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308, Phone: (860) 509-7603; Fax: (860) 707-1984; oplc.dph@ct.gov

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Documentation Demonstrating Completion of EFDA Requirements

An individual who has completed all Connecticut EFDA requirements will be able to provide the following documents as evidence of completion:

1. A current CDA or COA certificate issued by DANB*
2. A certificate of completion or transcript evidencing completion of an EFDA education program meeting Connecticut state requirements
3. A CPFDA certificate issued by DANB (CPFDA certification does not need to be current)
OR
CPFDA component exam certificates of knowledge-based competence or exam results issued by DANB (see prior page for list of component exams)
4. A CRFDA certificate issued by DANB (CRFDA certification does not need to be current)
OR
CRFDA component exam certificates of knowledge-based competence or exam results issued by DANB (see prior page for list of component exams)

*An official Credential Verification Letter from DANB may substitute for items 1, 3, and 4.

The EFDA's employer must maintain copies of these documents on the premises where the EFDA provides services and must make them available to the Department of Public Health upon request.

Connecticut EFDA Functions

Pursuant to Section 20112a, subsection (c)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, a licensed dentist may delegate to an expanded function dental assistant such dental procedures as the dentist may deem advisable, including:

- (A) The placing, finishing and adjustment of temporary restorations and long-term individual fillings, capping materials and cement bases
- (B) Oral health education for patients
- (C) Dental sealants
- (D) Coronal polishing, provided the procedure is not represented or billed as prophylaxis
- (E) administration of topical anesthetic under the direct supervision of the dentist prior to the administration of local anesthetic by a dentist or dental hygienist
- (F) taking alginate impressions of teeth, under the direct supervision of the dentist, for use in study models, orthodontic appliances, whitening trays, mouth guards or fabrication of temporary crowns

Such procedures shall be performed under direct or indirect supervision and the dentist providing such supervision shall assume responsibility for such procedures. **No dentist may delegate expanded functions to a dental assistant who has not completed ALL of the requirements for EFDA status set forth on the prior page.**

Connecticut EFDA Education Program Requirements

Connecticut law specifies that the education for EFDAs must:

1. Consist of an expanded function dental assistant program at an institution of higher education
2. Be offered at a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited dental assisting, dental hygiene or dental program
3. Include educational courses relating to didactic and laboratory preclinical objectives for skills used by an expanded function dental assistant and that requires demonstration of such skills prior to advancing to clinical practice
4. Include not less than four hours of education in the area of ethics and professional standards for dental professionals
5. Include a comprehensive clinical examination administered by the institution of higher education at the conclusion of such program

EFDA Continuing Education Requirements

Connecticut EFDAs are required to maintain DANB CDA or COA certification, and to complete DANB's Recertification Requirements annually, which include 12 continuing dental education (CDE) credits (for certificants who hold one DANB certification) and maintenance of DANB-accepted hands-on CPR, BLS or ACLS. (Visit www.danb.org for complete recertification requirements.)

Beginning July 1, 2018, the State of Connecticut also requires EFDAs to complete one hour of training or education in infection control in a dental setting every two years. Such training may include courses, including online courses, offered or approved by a dental school or another institution of higher education that is accredited or recognized by the CODA, a regional accrediting organization, the American Dental Association or a state, district or local dental association or society affiliated with the American Dental Association or the American Dental Assistants Association.