

# DANB

Dental Assisting National Board

# 2022 State Candidate Handbook

The State Candidate Handbook contains important policy information for DANB-administered state-specific certificate and exam programs.

Please review this information carefully; you are responsible for understanding and complying with the policies and procedures provided in this handbook when taking a DANB-administered exam or apply for a DANB-issued certificate.

To download exam or certificate application packets, please visit [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).

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This state candidate handbook contains policies for the following exams:

- Maryland Expanded Functions — General Dental Assisting (MDG) exam
- Maryland Expanded Functions — Orthodontic Assisting (MDO) exam
- Missouri Test of Basic Dental Assisting Skills (MBDA) exam
- New Jersey Expanded Duties — General (NJXDG) exam
- New York Professional Dental Assisting (NYPDA) exam
- Oregon Basic Dental Assisting (ORB) exam
- Oregon Expanded Functions — General Dental Assisting (ORXG) exam
- Oregon Expanded Functions — Orthodontic Assisting (ORXO) exam
- Washington State Restorative (WARE) exam
- Washington State Jurisprudence (WSJ) exam

**Additional state/exam specific requirements will be provided in the exam application packet. You are responsible for reading and understanding the information provided in this State Candidate Handbook AND the information provided in the exam application packet.**

This state candidate handbook contains policies for the following state certificates:

- Arizona Coronal Polishing (AZCP) certificate
- Arizona Expanded Functions — Restorative (AZEFDARF) certificate
- Oregon Radiologic Proficiency (ORCR) certificate
- Oregon Expanded Function Preventive Dental Assistant (EFPDA) certificate
- Oregon Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA) certificate
- Oregon Expanded Functions Dental Assistant — Restorative Functions (EFDA-RF) certificate
- Oregon Expanded Functions Orthodontic Assistant (EFODA) certificate
- Oregon Anesthesia Dental Assistant (AnA) certificate
- Oregon Anesthesia Dental Assistant with IV Therapy (AnA-IV) certificate

**Additional state/certificate specific requirements will be provided in the certificate application packet. You are responsible for reading and understanding the information provided in this State Candidate Handbook AND the information provided in the certificate application packet.**

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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.

## About DANB

Since its inception in 1948, the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) has worked within — and with the support of — the dental community. The American Dental Association recognizes DANB as the national certification board for dental assistants. The following organizations assist DANB in developing its dental assisting exams by recommending subject matter experts to DANB’s exam committees:

- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- American Dental Association
- Academy of General Dentistry
- American Association of Orthodontists
- Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention
- American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

The active DANB Board of Directors selects new Board members from at least two qualified nominees for each vacancy from the following organizations: ADA (two directors), AADB (one director), ADEA (one director) and ADAA (three directors). The remaining two Board Directors are a DANB Certificant-at-Large and a member of the public.

## DANB’s Mission

DANB is a nonprofit organization. DANB’s mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community.

We accomplish and measure the success of this mission through the creation of valid dental assisting exams; recertification requirement integrity; and valuable, visible and accessible DANB exams, certificates of knowledge-based competence and certifications.

We also provide testing services to the oral healthcare community, and information services and resources related to dental assisting credentialing to support DANB’s mission. To accomplish these critical outcomes, DANB is committed to a properly governed, financially secure and administratively sound organization.

## DANB’s Vision

DANB’s vision is to be the premier resource for the credentialing of dental assistants and other oral healthcare professionals.

# APPLYING FOR AN EXAM OR CERTIFICATE

## Timeline

Overview of exam timeline once DANB receives your application and payment.

<b>Application processing</b> within 4 weeks	DANB reviews your application and documentation within four weeks. Exams that do not require documentation may be processed more quickly.
<b>Testing window</b> 60 days	Upon application approval, you will be emailed a link to schedule an exam appointment. This link is also available in your DANB account. You have a 60-day testing window in which to schedule and take the exam.
<b>Preliminary exam results</b> available on exam day	You will receive preliminary results at the test center after completing your exam.
<b>Official exam results</b> 8 weeks from exam date	You will receive official exam results and any earned certificates by mail.

## DANB ID Policy

When taking an exam, the candidate must present one form of identification (ID) at their exam appointment.

The candidate's ID must be:

• Currently valid, non-expired	• Government-issued
• Photo-bearing	• Signature-bearing
• In roman (not italic) characters	• The exact name as listed in their online DANB account

**The printed name on the ID must match the name as it appears in DANB's database.** Differences due to marital status changes without supplemental documentation are not allowed. The middle name is not required and does not need to be spelled out, but, if used, the first letter of the middle name must match the spelled-out name.

If the name in the candidate's online DANB account and ID do not match, the candidate must submit the *Name Change Request* form, available online in their DANB account or at [www.danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx](http://www.danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx), with acceptable documentation at least two full business days prior to the exam appointment.

Acceptable forms of identification include:

- U.S. driver's license
- Valid passport
- Military ID card
- U.S. ID card/State ID
- A U.S. government-issued permanent resident card (commonly known as the green card, formerly known as the alien registration card)
- Student ID, if a minor

Minors who are under the age of 18 are permitted to present a valid student ID as a form of identification.

The candidate will not be allowed to take the exam if the name on the ID does not match the registered name exactly, and the candidate would need to reapply. See the Missed Exam Appointment section for details.

## Submitting an Application

When applying for a DANB exam or certificate, candidates agree to abide by all applicable DANB policies as well as those of DANB's testing provider, Pearson VUE.

DANB communicates by email. Providing a valid and **unique email address on all applications is required**. If a valid and unique email address is not provided, the application is considered incomplete.

Exam/certificate applications may be submitted online at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org), by mail or fax.

**Signing and dating the application is required.** By signing and dating the application, the candidate affirms that the application and documentation are accurate and that the candidate agrees to abide by all applicable DANB policies described in this handbook and the application packet. This includes understanding that any stated application fees are not refundable under any circumstances. The signature allows DANB to release exam results and certificate status to state regulatory agencies.

## Payment Information

DANB accepts payment by check, money order or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover) for mailed applications. Check or money order payments must be payable to DANB in U.S. dollars, must be written in English, must include the candidate name and must be mailed with the exam application.

Online applications require payment by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover).

All applications incur a \$75 nonrefundable application fee once submitted. The application is a contract to test, and the check or credit card authorization is the contract between DANB and the payer to pay.

## Duplicate Applications

If more than one application is submitted for the same exam/certificate, all completed applications will be processed, and duplicate payments will be refunded, minus any stated nonrefundable fees.

## Returned or Reversed Payment

If a check is returned by the bank for any reason (including but not limited to nonsufficient funds, stop payment, closed account or refer to maker) or payment by credit card is disputed or reversed by the payor, DANB will notify the candidate and assess a \$25 fee to the account. The candidate will not be allowed to take any exam until a cashier's check or money order for the exam fee plus the returned payment fee has been received. If full payment has not been received within 30 days, the application will be null and void and the candidate's account will remain on finance hold. The candidate must pay the \$25 returned payment fee and any nonrefundable application fees before DANB will remove the finance hold and process any application. No new business will be allowed for the candidate until the finance hold has been resolved.

## Incomplete Applications

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure the application is complete. If an application is considered incomplete, the candidate will be notified by email. DANB will refund payment, minus the \$75 nonrefundable application fee and/or any nonrefundable certificate fees, to the payer.

An application is considered incomplete for reasons including but not limited to:

- Missing information (e.g., candidate and/or payment information, background information questions)
- Failure to provide appropriate documentation
- No date or signature on paper applications
- Insufficient payment
- Expired application
- Failure to provide a valid personal email address that is unique to the candidate; DANB does not allow candidates to share email addresses

## Group Testing

Groups of seven or more candidates may request to take any DANB-administered exam on the same day, at the same test center. Download the *Group Testing Form* from <https://www.danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx>.

## Retaking a Passed Exam

DANB certificants/candidates may take and pass DANB exams only once unless directed to retake the exam by DANB staff to reinstate a certification(s) or to meet state regulatory agency requirements.

Any candidate who otherwise applies to take a DANB exam and has previously passed that exam will be in violation of this policy and will have their application denied and refunded minus the \$75 nonrefundable application fee.

## Retaking a Failed Exam

There is no waiting period to reapply or limit on how many times a candidate may retake a failed exam. State laws may require additional education after failed attempts. Please contact your state board or go to [www.danb.org/Meet-State-Requirements.aspx](http://www.danb.org/Meet-State-Requirements.aspx) for more information.

If a candidate takes more than one component exam in a single sitting at a test center but does not pass all the component exams, the candidate only needs to reapply for and retake the failed component exam(s) with a new application, required documentation and fees.

## DANB's Nondiscrimination Policy

DANB does not discriminate in application, exam or certification activities on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, marital status, race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

## Reasonable Accommodations for Candidates with Documented Disabilities

DANB exams are designed to provide an equal opportunity for each candidate to demonstrate their knowledge-based competence. The exam will be administered to best ensure that it accurately reflects a candidate's aptitude or achievement levels intended to be measured, rather than reflecting a candidate's impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills except where those skills are factors the exam purports to measure.

DANB adheres to the provisions outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with this act, DANB will make every reasonable effort to offer the exams in a manner that is accessible to people with documented disabilities.

DANB reserves the right to authorize the use of auxiliary aids or modifications in such a way as to maintain exam integrity and security. DANB exams are administered only in the English language. Modifications will not be approved for a candidate who requests accommodations because English is a second language.

For candidates who provide documentation of a disability, DANB offers time extension, a private room, and/or a reader. DANB will attempt to provide the necessary provisions, unless providing such would fundamentally alter the measurement of knowledge the exam is intended to test, would result in undue burden, or would provide an unfair advantage to a candidate with disabilities.

## SCHEDULING A DANB EXAM

### Receiving Authorization to Test

Upon application and documentation (if required) approval, the candidate will receive an email with a link to schedule the exam appointment within their 60-day testing window (also available in the candidate's online DANB account).

The candidate should check their online DANB account for any errors and report them to DANB immediately at [danbmail@danb.org](mailto:danbmail@danb.org) or 1-800-367-3262. For example:

- Exam name is incorrect
- Candidate's name is spelled incorrectly
- Candidate's ID reflects a different name (e.g., married, maiden, hyphenated, mother's lastname)

The candidate will not be allowed to take the exam if the name on the ID does not match the registered name exactly, and the candidate would need to reapply. See the DANB ID Policy section for complete identification requirements, and see the Missed Exam Appointment section for details on reapplying.

### 60-Day Testing Window

Once an application has been approved, the candidate will be given a 60-day testing window in which they must schedule and take the exam. The window will start immediately upon application approval.

### Scheduling an Exam Appointment

The candidate should schedule the exam appointment as soon as they receive an email from DANB, as appointments may be limited within their 60-day testing window. Instructions are provided by email and within the candidate's online DANB account to schedule the exam appointment. Specific test center locations, dates or times cannot be guaranteed; changes to test center locations and/or hours may occur without notice.

### Exam Appointment Confirmation

After the exam appointment is scheduled, Pearson VUE will email an appointment confirmation by email. The candidate must read all correspondence from Pearson VUE, as it will contain critical exam appointment information. Contact Pearson VUE to request a duplicate confirmation email.

## Rescheduling an Exam Appointment

To reschedule a test center exam appointment within the 60-day testing window, the candidate must log in to their account at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org). The appointment may be rescheduled up to 24 hours before the scheduled appointment. Only the candidate may reschedule an exam appointment.

## Requesting a New Testing Window

If a candidate cannot schedule or reschedule an exam appointment before the end of their original 60-day testing window, they may request a new 60-day testing window one time. If the candidate does not take the exam within the new testing window, the candidate must submit a new current exam application with any required documentation and full fees. Any testing window received at a reduced fee is not eligible for a refund.

To request a new testing window, the candidate must complete the following steps:

1. Access their exam application within their online DANB account and click on the name of the exam to be rescheduled, **AND**
2. Cancel existing exam appointment at least 24 hours before the scheduled exam start time, **AND**
3. Submit request and fee for a new 60-day testing window (the new testing window will start immediately upon successful submission of the request) within 60 days after the end of the original testing window

Failure to cancel an exam appointment will result in forfeiture of the full exam fee, and the application is null and void.

A candidate may request a new testing window only one time. After the first request for a new testing window, the candidate must submit a new current exam application with any required documentation and full fees.

## Canceling a Testing Window for a Partial Refund

If a candidate does not wish to take the DANB exam for which they applied and would like to request a partial refund; the candidate must complete the following steps:

1. If any appointment has been made, access their online DANB account and click on the name of the exam to be canceled, **AND**
2. Cancel existing exam appointment at least 24 hours before the scheduled exam start time, **AND**
3. Submit a request to cancel the testing window before the end of the 60-day testing window.

Once approved, DANB will issue a refund minus the \$75 nonrefundable application fee and \$40 cancellation fee (\$115 total retained by DANB). Visit [danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx](http://danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx) for the *Cancel a Testing Window* form. All refunds will be issued to the payer.

## Missed Exam Appointment

If the candidate arrives more than 15 minutes after an exam appointment start time, the candidate will be accommodated at the discretion of the test center administrator. If the administrator is unable to accommodate the candidate, or if the candidate does not take a scheduled exam because the candidate missed the appointment (for any reason except a valid, documented emergency) or the candidate was denied entry, the candidate may reapply for the exam at a reduced fee. The candidate can only reapply at a reduced fee if they have not already requested a new testing window (due to an emergency or otherwise).



To request a new testing window due to a missed exam appointment, the candidate must complete the following steps:

1. Access their exam application within their online DANB account and click on the name of the missed exam, **AND**
2. Submit request and reduced fee for a new 60-day testing window (the new testing window will start immediately upon successful submission of the request) within 60 days of the missed appointment date

After 60 days, the candidate must reapply for the exam with a new application, any required documentation and the full fee.

If another appointment is missed (for any reason except a valid emergency) or the exam is not taken within the new testing window, a current exam application with full fee must be submitted; a candidate may request a new testing window due to a missed exam appointment one time.

## Missed Exam Appointment Due to Emergency

If an exam appointment is missed due to a documented DANB-accepted emergency, the candidate must:

1. Access their exam application within their online DANB account and click on the name of the missed exam, **AND**
2. Submit request and documentation for a new 60-day testing window (the new testing window will start immediately upon approval of the request) within 60 days of the missed appointment date

Approved requests will receive a new 60-day testing window at no additional fee.

If the emergency request is denied, the candidate will receive an email with instructions on how to reschedule their testing window at a reduced rate (only available up to 60 days after the missed exam appointment and only available if the candidate did not already request a new testing window at a reduced rate or due to an emergency).

Call 1-800-367-3262 or email [danbmail@danb.org](mailto:danbmail@danb.org) with any questions about what constitutes an emergency and appropriate supporting documentation.

## Pearson VUE Cancelled Exam Appointment

In the event of weather or other emergency, Pearson VUE will attempt to notify candidates by phone of an exam appointment cancellation and will reschedule the exam appointment at no additional fee.

# TAKING A DANB EXAM

## What to Bring to the Test Center

Candidates must bring one form of **DANB-accepted ID** to the test center. See the DANB ID Policy section for complete ID requirements.

Test centers may use an electronic fingerprinting, palm vein and/or photographic security system for identification purposes only. Test centers may use a video/audio recording system to enhance exam security. The candidate must not bring any reference materials or notes into any test center area. A locker will be provided at the test center to store any personal items. No visitors or unauthorized individuals will be permitted in any test center area or building during testing sessions.

## Test Center Environment

There are no breaks during the exam. Candidates may be excused to visit the restroom, one at a time. Candidates are not allowed to leave the building during test time. During the absence, the exam time clock will continue to run. No additional time will be provided.

## Candidate Behavior Before, During and After an Exam Appointment

**The behavior of each candidate taking the exam will be monitored.** Improper behavior is not acceptable before, during or after an exam appointment. DANB seeks to ensure a fair and equitable testing experience for all individuals and to ensure the security and reliability of the process. *DANB's Disciplinary Policy & Procedures* document, which is available at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org), contains examples of improper behavior.

Any violation of the requirements in this document may result in immediate termination of your exam and loss of your application fee. DANB will be notified and you will face disciplinary action up to and including a permanent ban from taking any DANB-administered exams in the future and revocation of any exam results, certificates or certifications already earned.

## Exam Security

**The exam is owned by DANB.** Any individual who attempts to memorize, distribute or otherwise misuse an exam, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose, without the prior express written permission of DANB, will be subject to legal action. Any candidate or certificant who engages in improper behavior also will be subject to disciplinary action by DANB, which may include denial or revocation of certification or recertification. The exam proctor will notify DANB of anyone who talks during the exam, gives or receives assistance, or otherwise engages or appears to engage in dishonest or improper behavior before, during or after the exam. Those candidates may have their exam terminated by the proctor.

After reviewing a reported incident, DANB will determine whether there is reason to believe that a candidate has engaged in cheating or other improper behavior or has otherwise violated the security of the exam. DANB may, at its discretion, pursuant to the procedures set forth in *DANB's Disciplinary Policy & Procedures*, take disciplinary actions, including but not limited to the following:

- Order the candidate to retake the exam at a time and place to be determined by DANB
- Rescind or refuse to release the candidate's exam results
- Deny the candidate's current application for exam or certification
- Require the candidate to wait a specified period before reapplying to take the exam
- Temporarily or permanently revoke the candidate's eligibility to take future exams
- Take a combination of any of the above actions or such other action that may be deemed appropriate

If an exam proctor allows a candidate to take an exam that the candidate is not registered for, those exam results will not be valid.

## Exam Integrity

To ensure a consistently high-quality testing program, each exam is routinely reviewed for reliability and validity. Each exam question is statistically analyzed and evaluated for performance. A small number of pretest questions appear on each DANB national exam. Pretest questions are new test items that DANB includes on each exam to ensure they are accurate measures of candidate knowledge. Pretest questions are randomly distributed throughout the exam and are not counted in the final exam results. Since candidates will not know which items are pretest questions and which are not, candidates should answer all exam questions to the best of their ability.

DANB's Board establishes passing standards (the exam pass point) using standard psychometric procedures for criterion-referenced exams. A candidate must perform at or above the Board-established standard to pass each exam.

## Fair Testing Policy

DANB seeks to ensure a fair and equitable testing experience for all individuals while ensuring the security and reliability of the process. Improper behavior is not acceptable before, during or after an exam appointment, and each candidate's behavior is monitored during testing. Consequences of improper behavior may include invalidation of exam results and/or revocation of ability to take future exams. For examples of improper behavior, see *DANB's Disciplinary Policy & Procedures*, available at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).

# AFTER THE EXAM

## Name Changes

To change the name on record, the candidate must submit the *Name Change Request* form (available in their online account at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)) and required documentation.

## Address or Phone Number Changes

To notify DANB of email or mailing address or phone number changes, you may log in to your online DANB account to update this information or email [danbmail@danb.org](mailto:danbmail@danb.org)

## DANB Communications

All communications sent to and from DANB are DANB's property. DANB cannot guarantee that communications will remain confidential; clients have no expectation of privacy with respect to items sent or received. DANB may disclose communications as necessary to comply with legal processes. DANB responds to phone and email messages within two business days.

## Hand Scoring

DANB will hand score an exam on request. The candidate must submit a *Request for Hand Scoring of Exam Results* form and a \$75 hand scoring fee to DANB within 7 calendar days after preliminary exam results are released to the candidate. Requests for hand scored exams are completed and provided to the candidate within 10 days of receipt. If the pass/fail status is reversed as a result of the hand scoring, the \$75 fee will be refunded.

## Official Exam Results

You are not considered to have passed or failed an exam until DANB issues the official exam results. DANB will mail the official exam results and any earned certificates within eight weeks after the exam administration.

On the official exam results, DANB presents exam results as a pass or fail. DANB provides domain performance ratings for candidates who receive a fail status, which provide useful information regarding performance in each of the content areas on the exam. Domain results are rated as Moderate or Critical. Domain performance ratings are provided to assist a candidate while preparing to retake the exam and cannot be used in any way to determine overall passing status.

Official exam results that are returned because of an undeliverable address will be held for 90 days. After the 90 days expires, the candidate must submit a *Request for a Duplicate Exam Result* form and/or a *Request for a Duplicate Certificate* form with a \$50 fee for each request.

## State Certificates

DANB issues certificates in the state of Oregon, on behalf of the Oregon Board of Dentistry, and in the state of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners.

Certificates will be mailed to candidates upon successful completion of the state-specific requirements. Certificates

that are returned because of an undeliverable address will be held for 90 days. After the 90 days expires, the candidate must submit a *Request for a Duplicate Certificate* form with a \$50 fee.

## Duplicate Exam Results

The candidate must submit a *Request for Duplicate Exam Result* form and the \$50 fee for each exam result requested. Exam results older than five years are not available, although DANB will verify credentials earned more than five years ago.

## Duplicate Certificates

Candidate who hold a DANB-issued Arizona or Oregon state certificate must submit a *Request for Duplicate Certificate* form (available at [www.danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx](http://www.danb.org/About-DANB/Forms-Used-on-This-Site.aspx)) and the \$50 fee for each duplicate certificate requested.

DANB issues certificates in the states of Arizona and Oregon ONLY. Direct inquiries to the state dental board for all other state certificate information.

## Release of Exam Results

Exam pass/fail results will not be released to employers or any individuals other than the candidate, except on written request of the candidate. DANB releases official exam results or credential verifications to some state regulatory agencies. DANB also releases aggregate results to program directors for candidates who are graduates from or students in the program director's dental assisting programs.

## Verification of Credentials

DANB will verify DANB certification, certificates of knowledge-based competence, DANB-issued state-specific certificates and the effective date(s) over the phone to anyone on request, since these items are matters of public record and may be disclosed. The *Candidate/Certificant Request for Credential Verification* form is available at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org). Only a candidate, certificant or employer may request written credential verification. DANB offers verification on its website. See the *Application Statements* in the exam/certificate application packet for more details.

## Appealing a Decision

To appeal a DANB decision regarding eligibility, administrative or exam content issues, a candidate may submit a *Request for Reconsideration (Level 1)* form and a \$50 appeal fee to DANB's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) within 30 calendar days of the date on the DANB correspondence that prompts the candidate to appeal (e.g., date on the letter indicating the candidate's application was incomplete, date on candidate's exam results). The policy and form governing appeals are available at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).