

DANB's compilation of state dental assisting requirements — on its website and in its state publications — is one of the most comprehensive resources available on this topic. The updates below highlight state legislative and regulatory changes from March to July 2023 that may be of interest to stakeholders of DANB and the DALE Foundation.

Arizona

A new rule effective July 10, 2023, allows licensed dental therapists to supervise dental assistants for functions under direct or general supervision. The rule also allows dental assistants to take final digital impressions for any activating orthodontic appliance or fixed or removable prosthesis under direct supervision.

Connecticut

Signed June 28, 2023, SB 00009 amends statute to recognize a radiation health and safety competency assessment administered by a Connecticut Commission on Dental Accreditation-accredited dental education program for a dental assistant to qualify to perform radiography, in addition to existing recognition of DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam. The law tasks the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine with developing such a competency assessment.

Nevada

Signed by the governor June 15, 2023, SB 310 establishes education, work experience, training, and examination requirements for licensure as an EFDA, including a work-experience pathway that includes passing DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam. It authorizes EFDAs to perform placement and finishing of restorations (amalgams and composites), final impressions, cementation of permanent restorations, and additional expanded functions.

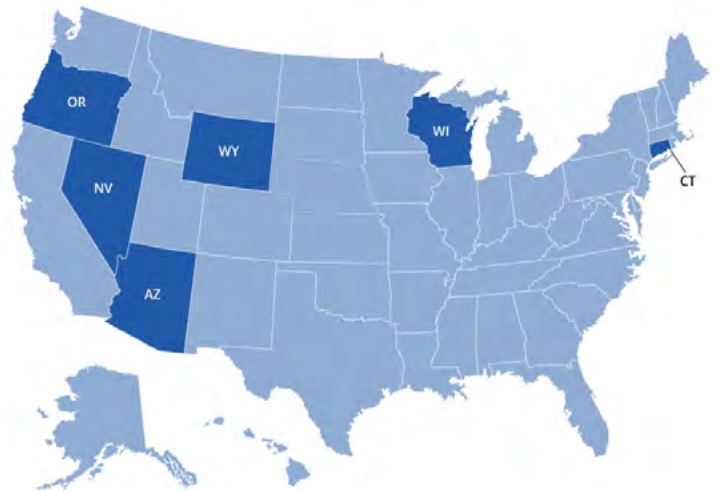
Oregon

Signed into law July 27, 2023, HB 3223 established new parameters for dental assisting exams, including:

- permitting the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require dental assistant certification exams meeting outlined requirements
- specifying that the Board may recognize exams offered by a CODA-accredited dental education program in the state, an entity in the state approved by the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program, or comparable exams from an entity approved by the Board
- providing that recognized exams must be offered in plain language in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- specifying that only one exam per type of dental assistant certification may be required

The new provisions are effective July 1, 2025. The law also requires that the Board convene a committee to advise on the workforce shortage and specifies that a majority of committee members must have experience working as dental assistants.

This bill was significantly amended from a previous version that would have prohibited the Board from requiring written exams for dental assistants. The amendments were achieved through the efforts of dental assistants and other supporters in Oregon.



Wisconsin

New administrative rules effective March 1, 2023, establish a new designation for expanded function dental auxiliaries; DANB CDA certification is among specified training/education requirements. The rules, implemented under emergency rulemaking, are effective through March 1, 2024, or until permanent rules are promulgated, whichever is sooner.

Wyoming

A rule issued April 14, 2023, changed the supervision level under which dental assistants may perform dental radiography from "indirect" to "general" and clarified that any board-approved course in dental radiography must also contain an exam or competency assessment.