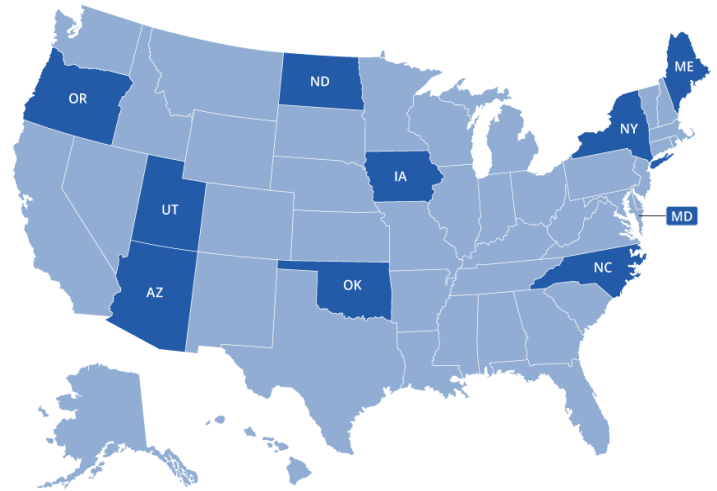


DANB's compilation of state dental assisting requirements is one of the most comprehensive resources available on this topic. The updates below highlight dental assisting state legislative and regulatory changes from Jan. 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025.

### Arizona

Arizona enacted a law March 31, 2025, that establishes a new category of oral healthcare professional known as "Oral Preventive Assistant" (OPA). To qualify as an OPA, a dental assistant must complete a board-approved 120-hour training course from a qualifying institution and meet prerequisites including current CPR certification, coronal polishing and radiography certification, and either "current national board certification in dental assisting" or graduation from an accredited dental assisting program. The OPA's practice is strictly limited to removing plaque, calculus, and stains using scalers or sonic/ultrasonic devices, and only on periodontally healthy patients or those with mild gingivitis.



### Iowa

On May 1, 2025, the governor signed into law HF805, which allows dental assistants to work without being registered in Iowa. The Iowa Dental Board is in the process of developing rules to implement this new law.

### Maine

Effective May 23, 2025, a new law simplifies EFDA and radiographer licensing by expanding EFDA scope to include radiography without needing a separate dental radiographer license. The law eliminates extra licensing costs and simplifies credentialing.

### Maryland

Effective April 8, 2025, HB 573 modifies requirements to qualify as an EFDA, specifying that a candidate must complete at least 35 hours of hybrid instruction (online plus in-person), DANB certification, and a board exam. The bill also adds courses from the DALE Foundation and Trapezio Orthodontic Assistant Training Solutions to the list of accepted education and directs the board to establish continuing education requirements, including hands-on clinical training, for EFDAs.

### New York

The New York Board for Dentistry added applying topical fluoride varnish to the list of duties that may be delegated to a Registered Dental Assistant in New York. An emergency rule addressing this topic was published in December 2024, and a permanent rule was subsequently approved and adopted as of April 2, 2025.

### North Carolina

Approved July 1, 2025, the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners amended rules to clarify that supra- and subgingival scaling and use of an ultrasonic scaler may not be delegated to a Dental Assistant 1 or a Dental Assistant 2. The amendment also removes a prohibition on dental assistants applying resin infiltration treatment for incipient smooth surface lesions, following dentist's diagnosis that the lesion is non-penetrable.

## North Dakota

A law enacted March 27, 2025, created a new “dental anesthesia assistant” designation for those assisting with sedation-related duties. The same law also authorized the board to conduct CE audits for dental assistants, streamlined other provisions related to registration and discipline of registrants, and added a definition for “qualified dental assistant limited radiology registrant,” already defined in rule.

Additionally, a new law effective May 16, 2025, calls for a legislative management study in the 2025-2026 interim term on dental care access, including exploration of apprenticeships and on-the-job training pathways for dental assistants.

## Oklahoma

Effective May 21, 2025, SB669 eliminates the “oral maxillofacial surgery assistant” permit and, instead, adds an “oral maxillofacial surgery expanded duty” permit to the list of dental assisting expanded duty permits administered by the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry. The new oral maxillofacial surgery expanded duty permit incorporates and takes the place of a similar expanded duty permit that had allowed dental assistants to assist a dentist holding a parenteral or pediatric sedation permit. The new law also requires all dental assistants to apply for and obtain permits prior to practicing; under the old law, dental assistants had 30 days from beginning employment to apply for a permit.

## Oregon

The Oregon Board of Dentistry approved a temporary rule change to comply with a 2023 law that made changes to requirements for dental assisting certificates and became effective July 1, 2025. Under the new rules, applicants for any type of dental assisting expanded functions certificate may now meet the examination requirement by taking only one exam. Dental assisting exams required for any type of dental assisting certificate in Oregon are now available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

## Utah

The state legislature passed a law effective May 7, 2025, directing the Division of Professional Licensing to create certifications for dental assistants to perform placement of direct restorations and removal of coronal dental adhesive and to make rules regarding the education and minimum qualifications for certification.