

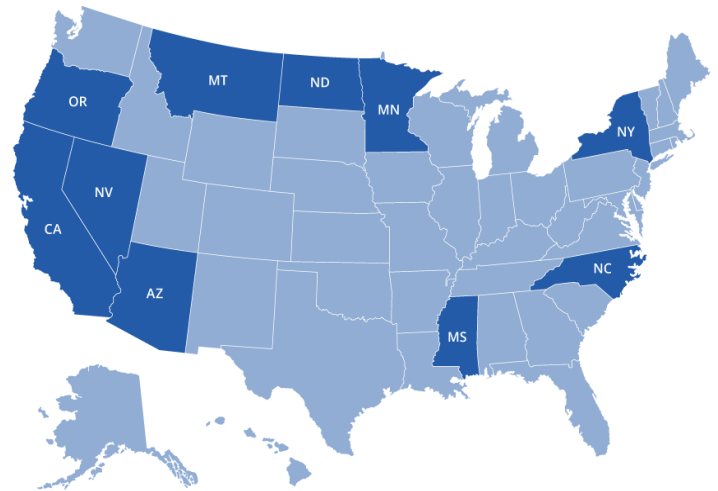
DANB's compilation of state dental assisting requirements is one of the most comprehensive resources available on this topic. The updates below highlight dental assisting state legislative and regulatory changes from Aug. 1, 2024, to Jan. 1, 2025.

Arizona

At its October meeting, the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners approved recognition of AMT's Dental Assisting Radiography (DAR) certification to allow dental assistants to perform dental radiography.

California

Beginning July 1, 2025, the state will recognize new eligibility pathways for RDA registration. In addition to the previous educational and work experience pathways for RDA-eligibility, the new law provides for candidates to meet eligibility requirements by holding CDA certification, completing a preceptorship, or holding current registration as a dental hygienist. The law also adds a requirement to complete a pit and fissure sealants course. Existing registration requirements remain in effect, including board approved courses in the California Dental Practice Act and infection control, recognized BLS certification, and successful performance on the state RDA exam.



Additionally, effective Jan.1, 2025, unlicensed dental assistants are now required to complete an eight-hour course in infection control prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials. Previous rules allowed unlicensed assistants to complete this education within a year of employment.

Minnesota

The Board approved a motion Oct. 11, 2024, for rule variance allowing for licensure as Licensed Dental Assistants (LDAs) without completing the state Dental Assistant State Licensure Exam (DASLE) and to commence rulemaking formally eliminating the exam as a prerequisite for licensure.

Mississippi

Rules amended Nov. 10, 2024, clarify pathways and course requirements to obtain a dental radiology permit. For those applying by passing a board-approved seminar in radiology, the course must contain both clinical and didactic components. Additionally, for those applying by completing a CODA-accredited dental assisting program, there is no longer a difference in requirements between those who complete instruction within or more than 12 months prior to permit application.

Montana

A Sept. 21, 2024, rule clarifies requirements for dental auxiliaries and permits their performance of digital capture of dental images and sodium bicarbonate air polishing. It also allows the following functions to be delegated to a DANB CDA: polishing amalgam restorations, placing/removing rubber dams, placing/removing matrices, applying topical anesthetic agents, applying silver diamine fluoride, and initiating, adjusting, and monitoring nitrous oxide flow for a patient.

Nevada

A Dec. 15, 2024, rule now authorizes the supervision of dental assistants by dental therapists.

New York

A new law effective Nov. 15, 2024, and subsequent emergency rulemaking permits the application of topical fluoride varnish by RDAs (and licensed nurses) to patients. This amendment provides important clarification to the RDA scope of practice, as prior law only permitted the application of “anticariogenic agents” to teeth.

North Carolina

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, amended rules now permit performance of coronal polishing procedures by Dental Assistant IIs in Training. Previously, coronal polishing was the only function within the Dental Assistant II scope of practice that remained prohibited to a trainee.

North Dakota

An Oct. 1, 2024, rulemaking clarified existing permissible functions to allow the delegation of new functions to unlicensed dental assistants, including application of topical fluoride, nitrous oxide monitoring (with training), and taking of digital impressions. It also modifies supervision requirements for functions performed by Qualified Dental Assistants; authorizes their performance of coronal polishing and the placing of orthodontic brackets; and creates a registration by reciprocity pathway for QDAs and RDAs.

Additionally, the rule establishes registration as a Qualified Dental Assistant-Limited Radiology Registrant permitted to perform dental radiography without having to complete other QDA requirements; the DANB RHS exam is recognized to obtain this registration. It further establishes continuing education requirements for QDA-limited radiology registrants and dental anesthesia assistants and opens access to application for dental anesthesia permits to any individual — not just an RDA — who meets requirements.

Oregon

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Oregon adopted rules to allow an EFDA to obtain a local anesthesia functions certificate and thus to be allowed to administer local anesthesia under indirect supervision.