

North Carolina



DANB Certificant Counts: North Carolina

Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs)	XXXX
Certified Orthodontic Assistants (COAs)	XX
Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistants (CPFDAs)	XX
Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistants (CRFDAs)	X

DANB Contact

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 1-800-367-3262 • Fax: 312-642-1475
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State Board of Dentistry Contact

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CODA-Accredited Dental Assisting Programs

Alamance Community College
 Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
 Cape Fear Community College
 Central Carolina Community College
 Central Piedmont Community College
 Coastal Carolina Community College
 Fayetteville Technical Community College
 Forsyth Technical Community College
 Guilford Technical Community College
 Martin Community College
 Miller-Motte College
 Miller-Motte College-Raleigh
 Montgomery Community College
 Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
 University of North Carolina School of Dentistry
 Wake Technical Community College
 Wayne Community College
 Western Piedmont Community College
 Wilkes Community College

DANB Certificates of Knowledge-Based Competency & Component Exams* in This State

Radiation Health and Safety (RHS)	XXXX
Infection Control (ICE)	XXXX
Coronal Polish (CP)	XX
Sealants (SE)	XX
Topical Anesthetic (TA)	XX
Topical Fluoride (TF)	XX
Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)	X
Impressions (IM)	X
Temporaries (TMP)	X
Isolation (IS)	X

Median Salary of DANB Certified Assistants

DANB Certified Assistant State of North Carolina*	\$XX.XX per hour
DANB Certified Assistant National*	\$XX.XX per hour
Non-DANB Certified Dental Assistant National**	\$XX.XX per hour

DANB certificant and exam information is current as of [date].
 State-specific information on the pages that follow is current as of February 16, 2015.

The pages that follow contain information about this state's requirements for dental assistants. If you have any questions about DANB-administered exams, contact DANB. For questions or further information about state requirements, contact the state board of dentistry.

DANB is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), an Institute for Credentialing Excellence commission with responsibility for accrediting certification programs, has evaluated DANB national certification programs (CDA and COA), including DANB component exams (RHS, ICE, GC and OA), and finds that DANB programs meet NCCA's highest standards, thus helping to assure validity, reliability and objectivity in the testing process.



* RHS and ICE: cumulative totals since 1997; CP, SE, TA and TF: cumulative totals since 2010; AMP, IM, TMP and IS: cumulative totals since 2012

* Source: 2012 DANB Salary Survey (based on 28 responses from this state)

** Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics median salary for dental assistants in 2013, with cost of living adjustment for 2014

North Carolina State Radiography Requirements

To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of North Carolina, a dental assistant must: (1) Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam **OR** (2) Pass a radiological equivalency exam recognized by the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (The equivalency exam may be taken by an assistant who can show evidence of seven hours of instruction in the production and use of dental x-rays and an educational program of not less than seven hours in clinical dental radiography) **OR** (3) Successfully complete a CODA-accredited dental assisting program **OR** (4) Qualify as a DA II (*see requirements below*).

State Requirements For Expanded Functions

The classifications for dental assistants in the state of North Carolina are: **Dental Assistant I (DA I)**, **Dental Assistant II in Training (DA II in Training)** and **Dental Assistant II (DA II)**. It is up to the dentist/employer to determine an assistant's classification and the functions the assistant is allowed to perform.

To perform **expanded functions** under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in the state of North Carolina, one must be classified as a **DA II**. To qualify as a **DA II**, one must: (1) Hold a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification **AND** (2a) Successfully complete a CODA-accredited dental assisting program or one academic year or longer in a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program **or** (2b) Complete full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years (3,000 hours) of the preceding five, radiography training as required by law, a three-hour course in dental office emergencies, and a three-hour course in sterilization and infection control **OR** (3) Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam.

To qualify to *perform coronal polishing*, a **DA II** must successfully complete a 7-hour (three hours of didactic and four hours of clinical) coronal polishing course meeting North Carolina Board requirements.

To qualify to *monitor patients under nitrous oxide*, a **DA II** must successfully complete a North Carolina Board-approved seven-hour course in nitrous oxide-oxygen conscious sedation.

A **Dental Assistant II in Training (DA II in Training)** in the state of North Carolina is an individual who is participating in on the job training to become a DAII. During the training period, which consists of at least two years (3,000 hours) of chairside assisting, the assistant may be trained and allowed to perform most of the functions of a DAII under the direct control and supervision of a North Carolina licensed dentist. A DAII in Training may not monitor patients under nitrous oxide, take radiographs, or coronal polish until he or she successfully completes the required courses in these topics.

A Dental Assistant I (DA I) in the state of North Carolina is an individual who may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the direct control and supervision of a licensed dentist. To qualify to *monitor patients under nitrous oxide*, a DA I must successfully complete a North Carolina Board-approved seven-hour course in nitrous oxide-oxygen conscious sedation.

North Carolina State Dental Practice Act and Administrative Rules for Dental Assistants

Classification of Dental Assistants In North Carolina Delegable Functions | Radiography Requirements

Dental Assistant I and Dental Assistant II

In North Carolina, there are two classifications for Dental Assistants (DAI and DAII). North Carolina does NOT certify assistants. Classification is based on experience and/or training as listed below. It is up to the employer to verify an assistant's qualifications and determine if he/she is a DAI or DAII.

To be classified as a Dental Assistant II, an assistant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

- (1) successful completion of:
 - a) an ADA-accredited dental assisting program and current certification in CPR; or
 - b) one academic year or longer in an ADA-accredited dental hygiene program, and current certification in CPR
- (2) successful completion of:
 - a) full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years (3,000 hours) of the preceding five, during which period the assistant may be trained in any dental delivery setting and allowed to perform the functions of a Dental Assistant II under the direct control and supervision of a licensed dentist;

North Carolina State Dental Practice Act and Administrative Rules for Dental Assistants

- b) a 3-hour course in sterilization and infection control;
 - c) a 3-hour course in dental office emergencies;
 - d) radiology training consistent with G.S. 90-29(s)(12); and
 - e) current certification in CPR; or
- (3) successful completion of the certification examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), and current certification in CPR.

Radiography Requirement

A certified dental assistant [one who successfully completes the DANB CDA exam (see (3) above)] or an assistant who completes an ADA-accredited dental assisting or dental hygiene program may take radiographs without further examination. All others, including those who move to North Carolina from out-of-state, must successfully pass an equivalency exam. This equivalency exam may be challenged after completing “seven hours of instruction in the production and use of dental x-rays and an education program of not less than seven hours in clinical dental radiology.” You must be able to prove that you have the minimal amount of training to be eligible to take the radiology equivalency exam, or you may take a course prior to taking the exam. Any Board approved radiography course is acceptable and any approved course’s final examination is recognized as the equivalency exam.

DELEGABLE FUNCTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA AS OF AUGUST 1, 2000

subject to change

Please note: A DAI can perform the same functions as a DAII while he or she is in training, with the exception of coronal polishing.

FUNCTION	DAI	DAII
Take Impressions for Study Models & Opposing Casts	X	X
Apply Sealants after DDS has Examined Patient & Prescribed Procedure	X	X
Insert Matrix Bands and Wedges	X	X
Place Cavity Bases and Liners	X	X
Place and/or remove Rubber Dams	X	X
Cement Temp. Restorations using Temp. Cement	X	X
Apply Acid Etch Materials/Rinses	X	X
Apply Bonding Agents	X	X
Remove Periodontal Dressings	X	X
Remove Sutures	X	X
Place Gingival Retraction Cord	X	X
Remove Excess Cement	X	X
Flush, Dry & Temporarily Close Root Canals	X	X
Place & Remove Temp. Restorations	X	X
Place & Tie In or Untie & Remove Ortho. Arch Wires	X	X
Insert Interdental Spacers	X	X
Fit (size) Orthodontic Bands or Brackets	X	X
Apply Dentin Desensitizing Solutions	X	X
Perform Extra-Oral Adjustments of any Temp. Restoration or Appliance	X ³	X
Initially Form & Size Orthodontic Arch Wires & Place Arch Wires after Final Adjustment & Approval by DDS	X	X
Apply Topical Anesthetics/DentiPatch®	X	X
Apply Topical Fluoride	X	X
Expose Radiographs	X ¹	X ¹
Write Laboratory Work Orders	X ²	X ²

North Carolina State Dental Practice Act and Administrative Rules for Dental Assistants

FUNCTION	DAI	DAII
Write Prescriptions (Drugs)	X ²	X ²
Remove Sutures	X	X
Polish Dentures	X ³	X ³
Take wax bites	X	X
Monitor Pt.'s under Nitrous Oxide	X ⁴	X ⁴
Oral Hygiene Instruction	X	X
Polish Coronal Portion of Tooth -X ⁶		X ⁵
Place Amalgam in Prep w/ Carrier	X	X
Take Pulse, Blood Pressure & Temperature	X	X
Place Ligature Wire or Lock Pins	X	X
Insert Spacer Wires or Springs	X	X

- 1 – After satisfactory completion of ONE of the following: (1) the North Carolina radiography equivalency examination, (2) dental assisting school (an ADA-accredited program), (3) the Dental Assisting National Board CDA examination (1-800-367-3262), or (4) classification as a DAII in North Carolina.
 2 – Exact words must be dictated by the dentist.
 3 – Extra-orally, upon instruction by the dentist and re-insertion by the dentist.
 4 – After completing a 7-hour Board-approved course in nitrous oxide-oxygen conscious sedation, unless included in an ADA-accredited program (DAII).
 5 – After completing a 7-hour (3 hours didactic, 4 hours clinical) course in coronal polishing.
 6 – Use of a hand-held brush & appropriate polishing agents OR a combination of a slow-speed handpiece (not to exceed 10,000 rpm) with an attached rubber cup or bristle brush and appropriate polishing agents. An individual designated as a “DA II in training” cannot perform this function.

Dental Practice Act - North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners

North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 90: Medicine and Allied Occupations

Article 2 - Dentistry

§ 90-29. Necessity for license; dentistry defined; exemptions.

- (c) The following acts, practices, or operations, however, shall not constitute the unlawful practice of dentistry:
- (9) Any act or acts performed by an assistant to a dentist licensed to practice in this State when said act or acts are authorized and permitted by and performed in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Board;
 - (10) Dental assisting and related functions as a part of their instructions by students enrolled in a course in dental assisting conducted in this State and approved by the Board, when such functions are performed under the supervision of a dentist acting as a teacher or instructor who is either duly licensed in North Carolina or qualified for the teaching of dentistry pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (3) above;
 - (12) The use of a dental x-ray machine in the taking of dental radiographs by a dental hygienist, certified dental assistant, or a dental assistant who can show evidence of satisfactory performance on an equivalency examination, recognized by the Board of Dental Examiners, based on seven hours of instruction in the production and use of dental x rays and an educational program of not less than seven hours in clinical dental radiology.
 - (13) A dental assistant, or dental hygienist who shows evidence of education and training in Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation within a formal educational program may aid and assist a licensed dentist in the administration of Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation. Any dental assistant who can show evidence of having completed an educational program recognized by the Board of not less than seven clock hours on Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation may also aid and assist a licensed dentist in the administration of Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation. Any dental hygienist or dental assistant who has been employed in a dental office where Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation was utilized, and who can show evidence of performance and instruction of not less than one year prior to July 1, 1980, qualifies to aid and assist a licensed dentist in the administration of Nitrous Oxide – Oxygen Inhalant Conscious Sedation.

Article 16 - Dental Hygiene Act

§ 90-221. Definitions.

- (f) "Supervision" as used in this Article shall mean that acts are deemed to be under the supervision of a licensed dentist when performed in a locale where a licensed dentist is physically present during the performance of such acts, except those acts performed under direction and in compliance with G.S. 90-233(a) or G.S. 90-233(a1), and such acts are being performed pursuant to the dentist's order, control and approval.

§ 90-233. Practice of dental hygiene.

- (c) Dental hygiene may be practiced only by the holder of a license or provisional license currently in effect and duly issued by the Board. The following acts, practices, functions or operations, however, shall not constitute the practice of dental hygiene within the meaning of this Article:
- (3) Any act or acts performed by an assistant to a dentist licensed to practice in this State when said act or acts are authorized and permitted by and performed in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Board.
 - (4) Dental assisting and related functions as a part of their instructions by students enrolled in a course in dental assisting conducted in this State and approved by the Board, when such functions are performed under the supervision of a dentist acting as a teacher or instructor who is either duly licensed in North Carolina or qualified for the teaching of dentistry pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 90-29(c)(3).

Amended Rules & Regulations
SUBCHAPTER 16H – DENTAL ASSISTANTS
SECTION .0100 – CLASSIFICATION AND TRAINING

21 NCAC 16H .0101 CLASSIFICATION

Based upon education, training, and experience, a dental assistant shall be categorized as a Dental Assistant I or a Dental Assistant II. [See note on page 345.*]

21 NCAC 16H .0102 DENTAL ASSISTANT I

A Dental Assistant I is a dental assistant who does not qualify by training and experience for classification as a Dental Assistant II.

21 NCAC 16H .0103 DENTAL ASSISTANT II

A Dental Assistant II is an expanded duty assistant who has completed training in accordance with Rule .0104 of this Section. Under direct control and supervision, a Dental Assistant II may be delegated intra-oral procedures in accordance with 21 NCAC 16H .0203 the supervising dentist deems appropriate, with the dentist personally and professionally responsible for any and all consequences or results arising from the performance of said acts. All delegated procedures must be reversible in nature.

21 NCAC 16H .0104 APPROVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS*

To be classified as a Dental Assistant II, an assistant must meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) successful completion of:
 - (a) a CODA-Accredited dental assisting program and current certification in CPR; or
 - (b) one academic year or longer in a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program, and current certification in CPR;or
- (2) successful completion of:
 - (a) full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years (3,000 hours) of the preceding five, during which period the assistant may be trained in any dental delivery setting and allowed to perform the functions of a Dental Assistant II under the direct control and supervision of a licensed dentist;
 - (b) a 3-hour course in sterilization and infection control;
 - (c) a 3-hour course in dental office emergencies;
 - (d) radiology training consistent with G.S. 90-29(c)(12); and
 - (e) current certification in CPR; or
- (3) successful completion of the certification examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, and current certification in CPR.

SECTION .0200 – PERMITTED FUNCTIONS OF DENTAL ASSISTANT

21 NCAC 16H .0201 GENERAL PERMITTED FUNCTIONS OF DENTAL ASSISTANT I

- (a) A Dental Assistant I may assist a dentist as a chairside assistant as long as the acts and functions of the Dental Assistant I do not constitute the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene.
- (b) A Dental Assistant I may do and perform only routine dental assisting procedures such as oral hygiene instruction; chairside assisting; application of topical fluorides or topical anesthetics; and exposure of radiographs, provided that the assistant can show evidence of compliance with radiography training consistent with G.S. 90-29(c)(12). However, functions may be delegated to a Dental Assistant I pursuant to 21 NCAC 16H .0104(2)(a).

21 NCAC 16H .0203 PERMITTED FUNCTIONS OF DENTAL ASSISTANT II

- (a) A Dental Assistant II may perform any and all acts or procedures which may be performed by a Dental Assistant I. In addition, a Dental Assistant II may be delegated the following functions to be performed under the direct control and supervision of a dentist who shall be personally and professionally responsible and liable for any and all consequences or results arising from the performance of such acts and functions:
- (1) Take impressions for study models and opposing casts which will not be used for construction of dental appliances, but which may be used for the fabrication of adjustable orthodontic appliances;
 - (2) Apply sealants to teeth that do not require mechanical alteration prior to the application of such sealants, provided a dentist has examined the patient and prescribed the procedure;
 - (3) Insert matrix bands and wedges;
 - (4) Place cavity bases and liners;
 - (5) Place and/or remove rubber dams;
 - (6) Cement temporary restorations using temporary cement;
 - (7) Apply acid etch materials/rinses;
 - (8) Apply bonding agents;
 - (9) Remove periodontal dressings;
 - (10) Remove sutures;
 - (11) Place gingival retraction cord;
 - (12) Remove excess cement;
 - (13) Flush, dry and temporarily close root canals;
 - (14) Place and remove temporary restorations;
 - (15) Place and tie or untie and remove orthodontic arch wires;
 - (16) Insert interdental spacers;
 - (17) Fit (size) orthodontic bands or brackets;
 - (18) Apply dentin desensitizing solutions;
 - (19) Perform extra-oral adjustments which affect function, fit or occlusion of any temporary restoration or appliance;
 - (20) Initially form and size orthodontic arch wires and place arch wires after final adjustment and approval by the dentist;
 - (21) Polish the clinical crown using only:
 - (A) a hand-held brush and appropriate polishing agents; or
 - (B) a combination of a slow speed handpiece (not to exceed 10,000 rpm) with attached rubber cup or bristle brush, and appropriate polishing agents.
- (b) A Dental Assistant II must complete a course in coronal polishing consisting of at least seven hours before using a slow speed handpiece with rubber cup or bristle brush attachment. A polishing procedure shall not be represented to the patient as a prophylaxis and no specific charge shall be made for such unless the dentist has performed an evaluation for calculus, deposits, or accretions and a dentist or dental hygienist has removed any substances detected.

21 NCAC 16H .0205 SPECIFIC PROHIBITED FUNCTIONS OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS I AND II

Those specific functions which shall not be delegated to either a Dental Assistant I or a Dental Assistant II include those procedures prohibited in 21 NCAC 16G .0103 for Dental Hygienists. In addition, neither a Dental Assistant I nor a Dental Assistant II shall perform a prophylaxis, or shall perform periodontal screening, periodontal probing, subgingival exploration for or removal of hard or soft deposits, or sulcular irrigation.

21 NCAC 16H .0206 DIRECT CONTROL AND SUPERVISION DEFINED

In any instance in which the rules adopted by the Board or any portion of the North Carolina Dental Practice Act shall require or direct that any act or function be performed by a Dental Assistant I or II under the direct control and supervision of a dentist, the term "direct control and supervision of a dentist" means that the dentist must be present in the office when the act or function is being performed and that the dentist must directly and personally supervise, examine, and evaluate the results of any and all acts and functions lawfully done or performed by any person other than the dentist.

SUBCHAPTER 16J - SANITATION

21 NCAC 16J .0103 STERILIZATION

All instruments or equipment used in the treatment of dental patients shall be sterilized according to usage. All dental health care settings shall follow the most current guidelines on infection control for the dental office and the dental laboratory adopted by the American Dental Association. Effective control techniques and precautions to prevent the cross contamination and transmission of infection to all persons is the professional responsibility of all dentists. All licensees are required to maintain and provide a safe, therapeutic environment for patients and employees and to follow a comprehensive and practical infection control program at all times.

**SUBCHAPTER 16O – NITROUS-OXIDE-OXYGEN CONSCIOUS SEDATION
SECTION .0400 - QUALIFICATIONS TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS**

21 NCAC 16O .0402 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A Dental Assistant I or a Dental Assistant II not otherwise qualified under G.S. 90-29(c)(13) may aid and assist a licensed dentist in the administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen inhalant conscious sedation after completion of a Board-approved course totalling at least seven hours and directed by an individual or individuals approved by the Board. Such course shall include:

- (1) Definitions and descriptions of physiological and psychological aspects of pain and anxiety;
- (2) The states of drug-induced central nervous system depression through all levels of consciousness and unconsciousness, with special emphasis on the distinction between the conscious and unconscious state;
- (3) Respiratory and circulatory physiology and related anatomy;
- (4) Pharmacology of agents used in the conscious sedation techniques being taught, including drug interaction and incompatibility;
- (5) Patient monitoring, with particular attention to vital signs and reflexes related to consciousness;
- (6) Prevention, recognition and management of complications and life threatening situations that may occur during the use of the conscious sedation techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- (7) Description and use of ventilation sedation equipment; and
- (8) Potential health hazards of trace anesthetics, and proposed techniques for elimination of these potential health hazards.

**SUBCHAPTER 16Q – GENERAL ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION
SECTION .0200 - GENERAL ANESTHESIA**

21 NCAC 16Q .0202 EQUIPMENT

- (d) A dentist administering general anesthesia shall ensure that the facility is staffed with auxiliary personnel who shall document annual successful completion of basic life support training and be capable of assisting with procedures, problems, and emergency incidents that may occur as a result of the general anesthetic or secondary to an unexpected medical complication.

**Note: According to the Chief Operations Officer of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (personal communication, 2/19/09), North Carolina also recognizes a "DA II in training" [Sec. 21.NCAC 16H.0104 (2)(a)]. A DA II in training is a DA I with two years (3,000 hours) of work experience as a dental assistant. A DA II in training may perform all DA II functions except coronal polishing. A dental assistant must be a DA II (no longer in training) to qualify to enroll in a coronal polishing course. In addition, to expose radiographs and monitor nitrous oxide, a DA II in training must successfully complete required courses as described in Subchapter 16H Section .0200.*