

These data are presented for informational purposes only and are not intended as a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. DANB confers with each state's dental board at least annually regarding the accuracy and currency of this information. To verify, or if you have any questions, please contact your state's dental board.



Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

## How To Use The Following Charts

### Chart 1

View which job designations are used in your state.

Be sure to follow the legal requirements to perform dental radiographic procedures.

See which tasks are not permitted by state law.

View the education/training/credentialed required for each level of dental assisting.

North Dakota		State approved 10/11 Revised by DANB 10/11
Education/Training/Credentialed Required	Job Title Assigned by State or ND	Proposed Radiographic Requirements
<p>To apply job and require evaluation in the state of North Dakota under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) as defined in NDCC §14-02-01.</li> <li>Provide documentation of a successful completion of a North Dakota board-approved sealant course.</li> </ul> <p>To earn status as a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in the state of North Dakota, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold current national DANB Certification (CDA) with within two years of application or equivalent certification from a state-approved dental assisting program within one year of application or hold a current CDA with a dental assisting program within two years of application and 18 CE hours.</li> <li>Pass DANB RDA and ICE exams within one year of application.</li> <li>Apply to the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners.</li> </ul> <p>A dental assistant in the state of North Dakota may perform duties specified by the state dental practice act and those procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p>	<p>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of North Dakota, one must be a Registered Dental Assistant or meet the requirements to be an RDA.</p> <p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Scaling, root planning, or prophylaxis.</li> <li>31. X-ray training or counseling of a trainee.</li> <li>32. A crown which has not been placed by a dentist.</li> <li>34. Mixing, curing, or setting.</li> <li>40. Apply gel and fluoride.</li> </ol> <p>Additional tasks not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnose and treat pulpitis.</li> <li>Diagnose and treat periodontitis.</li> <li>Administer or instill local anesthetic, sedative or general anesthesia drugs.</li> <li>Any invasive dental procedure or procedure which requires the use of a handpiece, dental drill or a handpiece dental unit.</li> <li>Any invasive procedure which would result in the fabrication of any appliance with the exception of training impressions for custom made removable partial dentures.</li> <li>Remove missing teeth.</li> <li>Dental extractions, any type of extraction, including: forceps, mouth packs, splints, telescopic trays, or root canal irrigation.</li> <li>Advancing any type of orthodontic appliance.</li> <li>Comminuting or bonding orthodontic appliances.</li> <li>Any procedure which has not been placed by a dentist.</li> <li>Mixing the prepreg matrix with a preiodontic paste.</li> </ul> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 all-inclusive tasks which were identified to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>It was determined that the tasks that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competency Study are numbered to the right within the job titles directly from the DANB/ADAA Core Competency Study. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this study's function list but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p> <p>These state templates reflect the work being done by the ADAA/DANB Alliance to support a uniform national model for one list of dental assisting tasks, terms, and requirements which will serve as a viable career ladder for dental assistants.</p>

Compare your state's job designations to those used as standardized job titles in the DANB/ADAA Core Competency Study.

### Chart 2

Review all the allowable tasks for each level of dental assisting as published in the state practice act.

North Dakota		State approved 10/11 Revised by DANB 10/11
Job Title Assigned by State or ND	Proposed Radiographic Requirements	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in ND
<p>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Under Direct Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40. Apply gel and fluoride sealants and which occurs with a slow-speed handpiece.</li> </ol> <p>Under Indirect Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Place retention cord in the gingival sulcus of a prepared tooth prior to the setting of a impression of the tooth.</li> <li>7. Polish the coronal surfaces of the tooth with a rubber cup or brush only when necessary to remove plaque.</li> <li>8. Remove calculus.</li> <li>9. Dry and seal with sealer paste.</li> <li>10. Place, fit and remove ligature wires.</li> <li>11. Place orthodontic agents rapidly.</li> <li>22. Place and remove rubber dams.</li> </ol> <p>Under Direct Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Only transmit a prescription that has been authorized by the supervising dentist.</li> <li>10. Place and remove arch wires or appliances that have been activated by a dentist.</li> <li>41. 24. Fabricate, adjust, place, reinsert, or remove a temporary crown, bridge, or any other temporary restorative appliance.</li> <li>44. Use impressions for study casts.</li> </ol> <p>Under Direct Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Take dental radiographs using "Radiography Requirements" on one-on-one basis.</li> <li>All duties enumerated to Dental Assistants below.</li> </ol> <p>Under Direct Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Take and record pre- and post-operative radiographs and to prepare radiographic films for processing.</li> <li>36. Remove removable dental appliances for cleaning or repair.</li> <li>44. Use impressions for study casts.</li> </ol>	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Scaling, root planning, or prophylaxis.</li> <li>31. X-ray training or counseling of a trainee.</li> <li>32. A crown which has not been placed by a dentist.</li> <li>34. Mixing, curing, or setting.</li> <li>40. Apply gel and fluoride.</li> </ol> <p>Additional tasks not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnose and treat pulpitis.</li> <li>Diagnose and treat periodontitis.</li> <li>Administer or instill local anesthetic, sedative or general anesthesia drugs.</li> <li>Any invasive dental procedure or procedure which requires the use of a handpiece, dental drill or a handpiece dental unit.</li> <li>Any invasive procedure which would result in the fabrication of any appliance with the exception of training impressions for custom made removable partial dentures.</li> <li>Remove missing teeth.</li> <li>Dental extractions, any type of extraction, including: forceps, mouth packs, splints, telescopic trays, or root canal irrigation.</li> <li>Advancing any type of orthodontic appliance.</li> <li>Comminuting or bonding orthodontic appliances.</li> <li>Any procedure which has not been placed by a dentist.</li> <li>Mixing the prepreg matrix with a preiodontic paste.</li> </ul> <p>Under Indirect Supervision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Preset and cure orthodontic bands.</li> <li>35. 32. Place and remove orthodontic archwires.</li> <li>37. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.</li> </ol>

The numbers next to each task correspond to the 70 numbered tasks that were identified and used in the DANB/ADAA Core Competency Study. Tasks that are not numbered do not directly match one of the 70 tasks, yet are identified by the state in the practice act. A full list of those tasks follow your state's chart.

If your state's dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted in the template.

# Dental Assisting Functions List

*The following is a list of 70 dental assisting tasks developed by the ADA/DANB Alliance in the course of its research. These selected tasks were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.*

Functions in each state that correspond to the national Core Competencies Study functions are **numbered** in the Career Ladder Template, using language directly from the state's dental practice act. Functions listed with **bullets** in the *Career Ladder Template* are part of the state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research.

1. Perform mouth mirror inspection of the oral cavity
2. Chart existing restorations or conditions
3. Phone in prescriptions at the direction of the dentist
4. Receive and prepare patients for treatment, including seating, positioning chair, and placing napkin
5. Complete laboratory authorization forms
6. Place and remove retraction cord
7. Perform routine maintenance of dental equipment
8. Monitor and respond to post-surgical bleeding
9. Perform coronal polishing procedures
10. Apply effective communication techniques with a variety of patients
11. Transfer dental instruments
12. Place amalgam for condensation by the dentist
13. Remove sutures
14. Dry canals
15. Tie in archwires
16. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics/jurisprudence/patient confidentiality
17. Identify features of rotary instruments
18. Apply topical fluoride
19. Select and manipulate gypsums and waxes
20. Perform supragingival scaling
21. Mix dental materials
22. Expose radiographs
23. Evaluate radiographs for diagnostic quality
24. Provide patient preventive education and oral hygiene instruction
25. Perform sterilization and disinfection procedures
26. Provide pre- and post-operative instructions
27. Place and remove dental dam
28. Pour, trim, and evaluate the quality of diagnostic casts
29. Size and place orthodontic bands and brackets
30. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic restorative procedures, including prosthodontics and restorative dentistry
31. Identify intraoral anatomy
32. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
33. Place, cure and finish composite resin restorations
34. Place liners and bases
35. Place periodontal dressings
36. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
37. Take and record vital signs
38. Monitor vital signs
39. Clean and polish removable appliances and prostheses
40. Apply pit and fissure sealants
41. Prepare procedural trays/armamentaria set-ups
42. Place orthodontic separators
43. Size and fit stainless steel crowns
44. Take preliminary impressions
45. Place and remove matrix bands
46. Take final impressions
47. Fabricate and place temporary crowns
48. Maintain field of operation during dental procedures through the use of retraction, suction, irrigation, drying, placing and removing cotton rolls, etc.
49. Perform vitality tests
50. Place temporary fillings
51. Carve amalgams
52. Process dental radiographs
53. Mount and label dental radiographs
54. Remove temporary crowns and cements
55. Remove temporary fillings
56. Apply topical anesthetic to the injection site
57. Demonstrate understanding of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines
58. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic intraoral surgical procedures, including extractions, periodontics, endodontics, and implants
59. Monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
60. Maintain emergency kit
61. Remove permanent cement from supragingival surfaces
62. Remove periodontal dressings
63. Place post-extraction dressings
64. Fabricate custom trays, to include impression and bleaching trays, and athletic mouthguards
65. Recognize basic medical emergencies
66. Recognize basic dental emergencies
67. Respond to basic medical emergencies
68. Respond to basic dental emergencies
69. Remove post-extraction dressings
70. Place stainless steel crown



## Levels of Supervision

An important consideration in the discussion of the delegation of tasks to dental assistants is that of supervision of dental assistants by their dentist-employers. The American Dental Association (ADA) has identified four levels of supervision for dental auxiliaries, including dental assistants, which it defines in its “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel,” (2006: 307) which is part of its *Current Policies*, last updated in 2007. Note that “allied dental personnel” refers to dental assistants, dental hygienists and dental laboratory technicians.

The four levels of supervision defined by the ADA are as follows:

**Personal supervision:** A dentist is personally operating on a patient and authorizes the allied dental personnel to aid treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.

**Direct supervision:** A dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the allied dental personnel.

**Indirect supervision:** A dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

**General supervision:** A dentist is not required to be in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel, but has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated, has personally authorized the procedures and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

Furthermore, the ADA’s Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel stipulates that intraoral expanded functions should be performed by allied dental personnel “only under the direct supervision of a dentist.”

Because the study of dental assisting core competencies undertaken by the ADAA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADAA/DANB Alliance does not make any recommendations as to the levels of supervision that should be necessary for the delegation of the tasks included in the study to dental assistants. However, the ADAA/DANB Alliance believes it is important to call attention to the fact that, while the ADA has defined supervision levels in the aforementioned policy statement, which governs the ADA’s own activities and the activities of its members, these definitions have not been uniformly adopted by the dental boards of every U.S. state or district.

**For the purposes of this volume, if a state’s dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted in the template.**



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Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of UT	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <b>NOT</b> Permitted by Dental Assistants in UT
<p>A <b>dental assistant</b> in the state of Utah may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>All dental assistants must have current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) certification.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <hr/> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Utah, a dental assistant <b>must</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete a dental assisting course from a CODA-accredited program</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam <b>or</b> an equivalent Utah Board-approved exam</li> </ul> <p>← The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles (left) based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005.</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.) →</p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>These state templates reflect the work being done by the ADAA/DANB Alliance to support a uniform national model for one set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements, which will serve as a viable career ladder for dental assistants.</p> </div>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>12, 47, 50, 51. Place, condense, carve, finish or polish restorative materials, or perform final cementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Render definitive treatment diagnosis</li> <li>• Cut hard or soft tissue or extract teeth</li> <li>• Remove stains, deposits or accretions (except as is incidental to polishing teeth coronally with a rubber cup)</li> <li>• Initially introduce nitrous oxide and oxygen to a patient for the purpose of establishing and recording a safe plane of analgesia for the patient (except under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist)</li> <li>• Remove bonded materials from the teeth with a rotary dental instrument or use any rotary dental instrument within the oral cavity (except to polish teeth coronally with a rubber cup)</li> <li>• Take jaw registrations or oral impressions for supplying artificial teeth as substitutes for natural teeth (except for diagnostic or opposing models for the fabrication of temporary or provisional restorations or appliances)</li> <li>• Correct or attempt to correct the malposition or malocclusion of teeth, or make an adjustment that will result in the movement of teeth upon an appliance which is worn in the mouth</li> <li>• Perform sub-gingival instrumentation</li> <li>• Render decisions concerning the use of drugs, their dosage, or prescription</li> </ul>

Job Title  
According to  
State of UT

Allowable Functions  
(Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations;  
functions with bullets are in this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research)

Dental  
Assistant

- Supervised acts\* and duties as defined by division rule made in collaboration with the Utah Dental Board  
*\*Level of supervision not defined*

**DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions**

In the state of Utah, all dental assistants may:

- Perform infection control and occupational safety procedures
- Perform other duties not specified by this state's dental practice act

At this time, DANB cannot list all allowable dental assisting functions for each state because some states' dental practice acts outline very specific allowable functions, while others outline only prohibited functions and some contain minimal or no regulation of dental assisting duties.