



## Dental Assisting Structure and Educational Requirements

As of January 1, 2010, dental assisting scope of practice includes new duties and two new “add-on” specialty permits in orthodontics and dental sedation, which all categories of dental assistants are eligible to obtain after completing required instruction. Along with the new duties, licensure and license renewal requirements have changed for registered dental assistants and registered dental assistants in extended functions. Dentist employers are also responsible for ensuring that unlicensed dental assistants hired on or after January 1, 2010, provide proof of course completion in the California Dental Practice Act and Infection Control for Dental Assistants (8-hour) within a specified time and that dental assistants maintain certification in basic life support.

### Dental Assisting Categories

<p><b>Dental Assistant (DA)</b></p> <p><u>(Responsibility of Employer Dentist):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 12 months of employment, must complete one- time only, board-approved courses in:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CA Dental Practice Act</li> <li>– Infection Control for Dental Assistants(8-hr)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintain basic life support certification</li> </ul>	<p><b>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RDA education program <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 15 months of dental assisting work experience</li> <li>• State-administered written and practical examinations</li> <li>• State-administered written examination in law and ethics</li> <li>• 25 hours of continuing education every 2 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of all RDA requirements</li> <li>• RDAEF postsecondary program</li> <li>• State-administered written and practical examinations</li> <li>• 25 hours of continuing education every 2 years</li> </ul>
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### Specialty-Specific Permits (Add-On)

<p><b>Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have 12 months DA work experience, RDA or RDAEF</li> <li>• 84-hour board-approved orthodontic assistant course</li> <li>• State-administered written exam</li> <li>• 25 hours of continuing education every 2 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dental Sedation Assistant Permit (DSAP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have 12 months DA work experience, RDA or RDAEF</li> <li>• 110-hour board-approved dental sedation assistant course</li> <li>• State-administered written exam</li> <li>• 25 hours of continuing education every 2 years</li> </ul>
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