



Dental Assisting Structure and Educational Requirements

As of January 1, 2010, dental assisting scope of practice will include 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 will change for registered dental assistants and registered dental assistants in extended functions. Dentist employers will also be responsible for ensuring that unlicensed dental assistants complete courses in the California Dental Practice Act and infection control (8-hour) within a specified time, and that dental assistants maintain certification in basic life support.

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

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