Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The AMP exam is a component of the National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA®) certification programs.

NELDA component exams

Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP)
Radiation Health and Safety (RHS®)
Infection Control (ICE®)
Exam Outline Overview

AMP Exam Weighting by Domain

I. Head, Neck and Oral Cavity (40%)
II. Tooth Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (60%)

AMP Exam Administration

- Number of Questions: 105
- Time for Exam: 80 minutes
- Tutorial Time: 5 minutes
- Comment Time: 5 minutes

DANB uses computer adaptive testing (CAT) to present questions to candidates. Each candidate starts with a question at or around the pass point. If the candidate gets a question correct, the next question will be slightly harder. If the question is incorrectly answered, the next question will be slightly easier. Question selection takes into account the content of the question, as each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain on the exam outline. Using this method of testing, DANB can more accurately pinpoint a candidate’s ability level. The average candidate will get around 50% of the questions correct and around 50% of the questions incorrect. The candidate’s score is based on the difficulty of the questions that were answered correctly.
AMP Exam Outline

DANB exams are created using the exam outline, which is reviewed annually by subject matter experts (e.g., Certified Dental Assistant™ [CDA®] certificants and dentists). The outline is developed using a content validation study (CVS), which includes a job analysis survey where practicing CDA certificants are surveyed about how often tasks are performed and how important competent performance of tasks is to the health and safety of the public. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB’s Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines. The AMP exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of anatomy, morphology and physiology.

Domain I: Head, Neck and Oral Cavity (40%)
- A. Anatomy and pathology of hard and soft tissue
- B. Circulatory and lymphatic system
- C. Landmarks (e.g., radiographic, bony, soft tissue)
- D. Muscular/skeletal system
- E. Nervous system
- F. Oral cavity anatomy
- G. Salivary glands
- H. Sinuses

Domain II: Tooth Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (60%)
- A. Classifications of occlusion
- B. Hard and soft tissue anomalies
- C. Permanent tooth anatomy and morphology
- D. Primary tooth anatomy and morphology
- E. Tooth anomalies
- F. Tooth numbering systems, including Universal and Palmer systems
AMP Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials (excluding the Additional/Optional Study Resources) to develop this exam. This list does not include all the available textbooks and materials for studying for this exam; these are simply the resources that exam committee subject matter experts determined as providing the most up-to-date information needed to meet or surpass a determined level of competency for this exam. Any one reference will likely not include all the material required to study to take the exam.

This list is intended to help prepare for this exam. It is not intended to be an endorsement of any of the publications listed. You should prepare for DANB certification and component exams using as many different study materials as possible.

Suggested References

Organizational References
   • DANB AMP Review
   • DANB AMP Practice Test
   • Glossary of Dental Terms
State Regulations

Each state’s dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at www.danb.org.