The TF exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Function Dental Assistant™ (CPFDA®) certification program.

**CPFDA component exams**
- Coronal Polishing (CP)
- Sealants (SE)
- Topical Fluoride (TF)

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Exam Outline Overview

TF Exam Weighting by Domain

I. Evaluation (20%)

II. Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

III. Procedure (40%)

IV. Administration (20%)

TF Exam Administration

- Number of Questions: 80
- Time for Exam: 60 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.
TF 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/CPFDA 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 TF exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of national practices for topical fluoride application.

Domain I: Evaluation (20%)

A. Review medical/dental history for any contraindication to a topical fluoride application.
B. Inspect the oral cavity to identify any abnormalities.
C. Identify and evaluate existing restorations.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

A. Select type of topical fluoride for application.
B. Prepare armamentarium for a topical fluoride application.
C. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) for the operator/patient for a topical fluoride procedure.

Domain III: Procedure (40%)

A. Apply topical fluoride.
B. Respond to an adverse reaction due to a topical fluoride application.
Domain IV: Administration (20%)

A. Record topical fluoride type and application in the clinical notes.
B. Maintain patient confidentiality according to HIPAA protocol.
C. Maintain safety data sheets (SDS) for topical fluoride products.
D. Maintain proper storage of topical fluoride materials.
E. Follow standard infection control precautions for application of topical fluoride.
F. Provide pre- and post-treatment instructions.
G. Educate a patient on the differences between topical and systemic fluoride.
H. Provide a patient with instructions regarding home use of topical fluoride.
TF Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials (excluding 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


Additional/Optional Study References

   - EFDA 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.