



# 2017 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Louisiana



## How to Use the Following Charts

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

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



Arizona		State approval 1/6/17	
<p><b>Education/Training/Credential Required</b></p> <p>To perform specified restorative functions in Arizona under the supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Registered Function or Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Functioning Certificate (see requirements to obtain certificate)</li> <li>Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program</li> <li>AND DANB's AMP, TMP and TAMP</li> <li>AND have the supervision of a licensed dentist, perform restorative procedures equivalent to the ASBDE criteria, obtain the preparation of the tooth by a licensed dentist and document these procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form</li> <li>AND be DANB for the Arizona Restorative Certificate</li> </ul> <p>To perform general polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona General Polishing Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) General Polishing Certificate</li> <li>AND be DANB for the Arizona General Polishing Certificate</li> </ul> <p>Functions in this state that require the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are indicated by the right arrow.</p>	<p><b>Job Title Assigned by State (A-Z)</b></p> <p>Registered Function (Restorative)</p> <p>Registered Function (General Polishing)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Central Dental Assistant</p>	<p><b>Proposed Restorative Job Titles</b></p> <p>Restorative</p> <p>General Polishing</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Central Dental Assistant</p>	<p><b>Radiography Requirements</b></p> <p>In order to legally operate under a job requirement and perform dental radiographic procedures in Arizona, a dental assistant must have a certificate in radiography. To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the national DANB Radiation Safety and Safety (RHS) exam</li> <li>AND be DANB for the Radiography Proficiency Certificate, issued by DANB</li> <li>AND be currently certified in another U.S. state with a Radiography Proficiency Certificate, issued by the ASBDE</li> </ul> <p>Restorative procedures require dental assistants to use the Active Clinical Radiography Proficiency Certificate, which is not a DANB certification. It is not possible to obtain the Active Clinical Radiography Proficiency Certificate.</p> <p>The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Dental Core Competencies Study conducted from 2012-2015.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 core competencies with a comprehensive range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that require the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are indicated by the right arrow.</p> <p>Functions listed with a left arrow are not specific to the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study, which will serve as a model career ladder for dental assistants.</p>

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

The numbers next to each task correspond to the 70 numbered tasks that were identified and used in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies 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.

See Appendix A for more information about the task numbering system.

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If your state's dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted below the chart. See Appendix B for more information about supervision.

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.

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Job Title  
According to  
State of LA

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)

Expanded  
Duty  
Dental  
Assistant  
(EDDA)

**Under Direct Supervision\***

- Any chairside dental act that a licensed dentist deems reasonable, using sound professional judgement. Such act must be performed properly and safely on the patient and must be reversible in nature.

Dental  
Assistant

**With Direct, On-Premises Supervision\***

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1, 2. Chart existing restorations and missing teeth, floss teeth and make preliminary inspections of the mouth and teeth with a mouth mirror and floss only</p> <p>13, 69. Remove sutures, post-extraction dressing and surgical ligature ties</p> <p>15. Place or remove ligatures, cut and tuck ligatures, remove tension devices and any loose or broken bands or arch wires</p> <p>18. Apply topical fluorides following prophylaxis by a dentist or dental hygienist</p> <p>22, 52. Take and develop dental radiographs and intraoral photographs (See "Radiography Requirements" on previous page)</p> | <p>24. Give intraoral instructions and demonstrations on oral hygiene procedures</p> <p>27. Apply and remove rubber dams</p> <p>30. Serve as the dentist's chair side assistant</p> <p>37. Take and record pulse, blood pressure and temperature</p> <p>39. Receive removable prostheses for cleaning or repair work</p> <p>42. Place or remove temporary orthodontic separating devices</p> <p>43. Place or remove preformed crowns or bands for determining size only when recommended by the dentist and only under his or her supervision</p> <p>44. Make preliminary study model and opposing model impressions</p> | <p>47, 54. Fabricate and remove interim crowns or bridges (interim meaning temporary while permanent restoration is being fabricated)</p> <p>54, 61. Remove cement from dental restorations and appliances, with hand instruments, limited to the clinical crown</p> <p>56. Apply non-aerosol topical anesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply desensitizing agents</li> <li>• Apply non-endodontic oxygenating agents</li> <li>• Make dental plaque smears</li> <li>• Place a removable retaining device in the mouth of a patient</li> <li>• Remove final impressions</li> <li>• Condition teeth prior to placement or orthodontics bands or brackets</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

\*Direct Supervision: A licensed dentist personally diagnoses the condition to be treated; personally authorizes the procedures; is in the dental office or treatment facility during the performance of the authorized procedures; and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the dental assistant, expanded duty dental assistant, or dental hygienist.

# Appendix A: Numbering System for Dental Assisting Functions

*The following list of 70 dental assisting tasks was developed by the ADAA/DANB Alliance as part of a study of dental assisting core competencies conducted between 2002 and 2005. These selected tasks were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.*

The **numbered functions** listed in the preceding state charts correspond to functions that were included in the DANB/ADAA core competencies study and use language directly from the state's dental practice act. The numbers are provided to facilitate comparison between and among states. Functions listed with **bullets** in the preceding charts are part of the state's practice act but are not specific matches to the functions that were included in the 2002-2005 study.

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

## Appendix B: 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 five levels of supervision for dental auxiliaries, including dental assistants, which it defines in its “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel,” (2010: 505) which is part of its *Current Policies*, last updated in 2015. Note that “allied dental personnel” refers to dental assistants, dental hygienists, community dental health coordinators and dental laboratory technicians.

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

**Personal supervision:** A type of supervision in which the 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 type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses and treatment plans 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 evaluates their performance before dismissal of the patient.

**Indirect supervision:** A type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed and treatment planned 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 type of supervision in which a dentist is not required to be in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are provided, but has personally diagnosed and treatment planned the condition to be treated, has personally authorized the procedures, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

**Public Health Supervision:** A type of supervision in which a licensed dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services, as specified by state law or regulations, when such services are provided as part of an organized community program in various public health settings, as designated by state law, and with general oversight of such programs by a licensed dentist designated by the state.

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

Because the study of dental assisting core competencies undertaken by the ADA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADA/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 ADA/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 the attached charts, if a state’s dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted in the footer of the second page of the state chart.**



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