

# Dental Assistants

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Florida does not license dental assistants and there is no examination requirement. However, prior to the performance of expanded duties as defined by rule of the Board, the dental assistant must possess formal training. Please review the following excerpt from the Florida Administrative Code:

## **64B5-16.002 Required Training**

(1) Formal training which is required for the performance of certain remediable tasks consists of a dental hygienist's or dental assistant's successful completion of an expanded duty course or program which meets one of the following requirements:

(a) The course or program is administered or was developed as a part of the regular curriculum at a school of dentistry, dental hygiene or dental assisting accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, its successor agency or any other nationally recognized accrediting agency; or

(b) The course or program has been approved by the Board for the purpose of providing expanded-duties training for dental hygienists and dental assistants;

(2) For the purpose of positioning and exposing radiographs by dental assistants, formal training may consist of having received certification as a dental radiographer pursuant to Rule 64B5-9.011, F.A.C.

Rules 64B5-16.005 and 16.006, Florida Administrative Code, defines Remediable tasks (expanded functions) delegable to dental hygienists and dental assistants and the level of supervision required.

If you have formal training from an ADA accredited school in another state, you are eligible to practice Dental Assisting and Radiography in Florida.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Can I transfer my dental assisting license from another state to Florida?**

**A:** No. Florida does not offer reciprocity and does not license Dental Assistants; therefore you cannot transfer a Dental Assistant license from another state.

**Q: I have a Dental Assistant National Board Certification (DANB). Can I use this to practice Dental Assisting in Florida?**

**A:** No. The rule was amended April 27, 2009 to delete the DANB credential.

**Q: Are dental assistants required to complete continuing education (CE) requirements?**

**A:** There is no Board of Dentistry requirement for a dental assistant to obtain CE credits.

**Q: I have worked for many years as a dental assistant in another state. Will this on-the-job training fulfill the Florida requirements for expanded duties?**

**A:** No. Although you may perform *very* limited duties as a dental assistant in Florida, in order to perform the expanded duties allowed by rule, you must have the formal training as stated above.

**Q: I graduated from a dental assisting program in another state that was accredited by the ADA's Commission on Accreditation. What must I do now to practice in Florida?**

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**A:** Obtain a job based on your ADA credentials, and post your diploma in a conspicuous place in the dental office.

**Q: What is the procedure to be certified in Radiography through the Department of Health?**

**A:** You may obtain a Radiography certification through the Department of Health by filling out the application upon completion of three months of on-the-job training through assisting in the positioning and exposing of dental radiographic film under the direct supervision of a Florida licensed dentist and documentation of successful completion of a Board approved course which meets the requirements of Rule 64B5-9.011, Florida Administrative Code. The fee for the certification is \$35.00, payable to the Department of Health.