

Dental Assisting Structure and Educational Requirements

With the passage of AB 2637 in 2008, beginning January 1, 2010, dental assisting scope of practice, and educational and licensing requirements, will change. In addition to modifications in the existing Dental Assistant, Registered Dental Assistant, and Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions categories, two new specialty permits in Orthodontic Assisting and Sedation Assisting will be created. RDAs and RDAEFs may obtain the new specialty permits by completing educational requirements and passage of a written examination. Of particular importance are new responsibilities of dentists in the employment of unlicensed dental assistants.

Dental Assisting Categories		
<p style="text-align: center;">Dental Assistant (DA)</p> <p>(Responsibility of Employer DDS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 12 months, must complete DBC-approved course in (1) CA Dental Practice Act [2 hours] and (2) Infection Control [8 hours] • Obtain and/or maintain basic life support certification 	<p style="text-align: center;">Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All course and BLS requirements for DA • Completion of RDA education program <u>or</u> 15 months of dental assisting work experience • Passage of DBC administered written and practical examination • Passage of DBC administered law and ethics examination • 25 hours of qualifying continuing education in each 2-year license renewal cycle 	<p style="text-align: center;">Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of all RDA requirements • Completion of RDAEF postsecondary program • DBC administered written and practical examinations • 25 hours of qualifying continuing education in each 2-year license renewal cycle

Specialty-Specific (Add-On) Permits	
<p style="text-align: center;">Orthodontic Assistant Permit (OAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-months DA work experience or RDA / RDAEF license • Completion of 84-hour DBC-approved orthodontic assistant course • Passage of DBC administered written examination • 25 hours of qualifying continuing education in each 2-year renewal cycle 	<p style="text-align: center;">Dental Sedation Assistant Permit (DSAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-months DA work experience or RDA / RDAEF license • Completion of 110-hour DBC-approved sedation assistant course • Passage of DBC administered written examination • 25 hours of qualifying continuing education in each 2-year renewal cycle