

# Is Dental Assisting Right for Me?

If you are a detail oriented, organized, multi-tasker who can work independently and enjoys helping people, explore your options as a dental assistant!

Dental assistants work in a variety of settings and have one of the most flexible and in-demand roles on a dental team. A dental assisting diploma takes less than one year to earn with immediate job opportunities available for graduates.



## MANY EMPLOYERS ARE OFFERING INCENTIVES

Check in your area for tuition reimbursement, scholarships and hiring bonuses that may be available.

## Where Can Dental Assistants Work?

Dental private practice • Orthodontics • Dental laboratory • Oral surgery  
Pediatric dentistry • Endodontics • Periodontics • Public Health Education

## There Are 14 Dental Assisting Programs Throughout Minnesota

- > Dental assistants teach patients proper preventative care during checkups
- > They assist dentists with procedures during routine cleanings, dental illness, or trauma
- > Dental assistants also ensure health and safety protocols are followed at all times

Find more resources and information at:

[www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/assistant](http://www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/assistant)



**\$28.31/HR\***  
Average salary in MN



Minnesota ranks #1 in the nation for dental assistant salaries.

**100%**  
Job placement rate



There is currently a shortage of dental assistants in every region of Minnesota.

**FAST TRACK**  
to employment



A diploma may be obtained in as few as 10 months.

Many dental assistants are employed within one year of entering a program.

\*US Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2022

# Your Path to Becoming a Licensed Dental Assistant In Minnesota

**LICENSED DENTAL ASSISTANTS (LDA)** can perform all basic functions and expanded functions of dental care. They can also apply for credentials (with additional education, training and testing) to perform restorative functions and anesthesia duties.

The pathway to becoming licensed in Minnesota starts with completing an accredited dental assisting program and then applying to become licensed dental assistant with the State of Minnesota.

**THE DENTAL ASSISTING NATIONAL BOARD (DANB)** is the nationally recognized certification organization for all dental assistants.

Learn about dental assistant opportunities, financial support for DANB certification fees, and more at: [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).

## To Earn Status as a Licensed Dental Assistant in Minnesota, Dental Assistants Must:

- > Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam
- > Graduate from a Minnesota CODA-accredited dental assisting program or graduate from a CODA-accredited program in a state other than Minnesota and, upon MN Board review of curriculum, complete additional coursework as necessary
- > Pass the Minnesota Dental Assistant State Licensing Exam
- > Pass the Minnesota Jurisprudence Exam
- > Apply for licensure to the MN Board of Dentistry\*

All licensed dental assistants must maintain a consecutive and current certificate in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) at the BLS level.



\*[mn.gov/boards/dentistry/new-applicant](http://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/new-applicant)

## JOB SATISFACTION

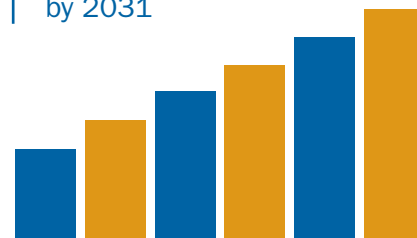
**65%** of CDA certificants report high or very high job satisfaction

**78%** of CDA certificants agree or strongly agree that dental assisting is a career

**53%** of dental assistants have received a raise within the last year

Source: DANB 2022 Satisfaction Survey, Released November 2022

**8% EXPECTED INCREASE**  
In Dental Assisting Jobs  
by 2031



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021