

# California Dental Assistant Requirements

Certification or approved/accredited training is not required for entry-level Dental Assistant jobs. MedCerts graduates set themselves apart in a competitive job market by demonstrating to employers that they hold the knowledge and skills required for job - as proven through graduation and certification.

There are often additional job titles recognized by each state's board of Dentistry, each having requirements different from what is shown below. The most closely associated job title for qualified MedCerts graduates is shown within this document. For simplification and display purposes, the shortest or simplest pathway to eligibility as a MedCerts graduate is shown along with any additional requirements beyond program completion and/or certification.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the [Dental Board of California](#) for additional information.

## Immediate Eligibility & Scope of Practice



**Is dental assisting certification REQUIRED for entry level? NO**

**Entry Level California Dental Assistant Job Title: Unlicensed Dental Assistant<sup>1</sup>**

**Will I be eligible for certification after completing my program through MedCerts? YES** - MedCerts' Dental Assistant program has been reviewed and is approved by the American Medical Technologists (AMT) board, which upon completion qualifies the graduate to attempt the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Certification Exam.<sup>2</sup>

**By Day 120:** Obtain BLS CPR, CA-Approved Practice Act and CA-Approved Infection Control Courses.<sup>3</sup>

**Can I take dental X-rays? YES** - after completing a CA-Approved Radiation Health Safety Course.<sup>3</sup>

**What else can I do as a CA Unlicensed Dental Assistant?** Each state develops their own State Practice Act which defines the allowable duties by title.<sup>4</sup>

### Post-Graduate/In-Field Career Advancement Opportunities

*California Registered Dental Assistant<sup>5</sup>*

- Proof of Completion of CA-Approved Practice Act, ICE, and RHS courses
- 15 months & 1280 hours of Documented Work Experience<sup>6</sup>
- Complete CA-Approved Coronal Polish Course
- Complete CA RDA Law and Ethics Course
- Fingerprint clearance from both Dept. of Justice and FBI

### Links/Resources

1. [CA Unlicensed Dental Assistant](#)
2. [AMT RDA Certification Disclaimer: This is an accredited AMT-certification. This does not equate to the RDA designation as defined in California<sup>4</sup>](#)
3. [CA-Approved Courses](#)
4. [CA State Dental Practice Act \(Ch. 4 Dentistry\)](#)
5. [CA Registered Dental Assistant](#)
6. [Work Experience form/ Documented by supervising, licensed CA dentist](#)



This program is widely accepted in this state



This program has some state restrictions to consider before enrolling



This program has many restrictions or is not accepted in this state