

# Iowa 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 [Iowa Dental Board](#) for additional information.

## Immediate Eligibility & Scope of Practice



Is dental assisting certification REQUIRED for entry level? NO

Entry Level Iowa Dental Assistant Job Title: Dental Assistant Trainees<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>

**Within 12 months:** Obtain and maintain ongoing BLS (Basic Life Support) CPR, Pass Iowa-approved exams in Infection Control, Jurisprudence, and Dental Radiology.<sup>3</sup>

**Note:** Infection control and jurisprudence exams must be completed within 12 months or trainee status becomes void, and trainee cannot be employed as IA dental assistant. Dental radiology is required for dental assistants who will expose radiographs. The trainee may choose to go on and become a registered dental assistant (RDA) without dental radiology privileges. An RDA who passes the radiology exam is known as a QDA, or Qualified/Registered Dental Assistant, and can expose radiographs.<sup>4</sup>

**Can I take dental X-rays?** YES, a Dental Assistant Trainee can earn XDA-status, or non-registered dental assistant qualified in dental x-rays, after passing an IA-Approved radiation examination. After becoming a registered dental assistant, they will be a QDA.<sup>4</sup>

**What else can an IA Dental Assistant Trainee do?** Each state develops their own State Practice Act which defines the allowable duties by title. Iowa allows DA Trainees the same privileges as RDA status during 12-month training period.<sup>5</sup>

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

Iowa Registered Dental Assistant (RDA or QDA)<sup>6</sup>

- Statement of competency by supervising dentist<sup>7</sup>
- Pass Iowa Infection Control, Jurisprudence, and Radiology
- Maintain BLS CPR

Expanded Functions<sup>8</sup>

- Complete one year of clinical practice as an Iowa RDA
- Graduate from ADA-Accredited school OR be certified as a DANB CDA

### Links/Resources

1. [Dental Assistant Trainees](#)
2. [\\*AMT RDA Certification Disclaimer: This is an accredited AMT-certification. This does not equate to the RDA designation as defined in Iowa.](#)
3. [Approved Examinations \(\(650-11.8\(3\)\)](#)
4. [Radiology Requirements](#)
5. [IA State Dental Practice Act](#)
6. [IA Registered Dental Assistant \(\(650-11.8 \(153\)\)](#)
7. [Statement of Competency](#)
8. [Expanded Functions](#)



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