

# South Dakota 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 [South Dakota State Board of Dentistry](https://www.sdbd.org/) for additional information.

## Immediate Eligibility & Scope of Practice



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

**Entry Level South Dakota Dental Assistant Job Title:** 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>

**Can I take dental X-rays? YES,** after completing a 16-hour SD-approved radiography training program or passing the DANB Radiation Health Safety (RHS) exam and applying to be a SD dental radiographer.<sup>3</sup>

**What else can I do as a SD 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

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

- Complete 3,000 hours of chairside dental assisting (within 5 years)
- Pass the DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam

### Links/Resources

1. [SD Dental Assistant](#)
2. [AMT RDA Certification Disclaimer: This is an accredited AMT-certification. This does not equate to the RDA designation as defined in South Dakota.](#)
3. [Dental Radiographer](#)
4. [SD State Dental Practice Act](#)
5. [Registered Dental Assistant](#)



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