

Tennessee 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 [Tennessee Board of Dentistry](#) for additional information.

Immediate Eligibility & Scope of Practice



Is dental assisting certification REQUIRED for entry level? NO

Entry Level Tennessee Dental Assistant Job Title: Practical Dental Assistant/Registered Dental Assistant¹

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.²

By Day 1: To be considered a "Registered Dental Assistant", must obtain BLS (health care provider) CPR, complete the online/open book TN Board of Dentistry Ethics and Jurisprudence exam³, and apply for registration to TN Board of Dentistry (A Practical Dental Assistant has not yet completed these requirements and must work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist).⁴

Can I take dental X-rays? YES, after becoming a TN Registered Dental Assistant, and completing a TN Board-approved radiology certification course⁵ or passing the DANB Radiation Health Safety (RHS) certification.⁶

What else can I do as a TN Practical or Registered Dental Assistant? Each state develops their own State Practice Act which defines the allowable duties by title.⁷

Post-Graduate/In-Field Career Advancement Opportunities

Registered Dental Assistant Qualified to Perform Expanded Functions⁸

- Successfully complete additional state certifications in expanded functions
 - Coronal polishing
 - Sealant application
 - Nitrous Oxide monitoring
 - Restorative/Prosthetic functions
 - Dental radiology (if not earned previously)

Links/Resources

1. [Practical/Registered Dental Assistant](#)
2. [AMT RDA Certification Disclaimer: This is an accredited AMT-certification. This does not equate to the RDA designation as defined in Tennessee.](#)
3. [Jurisprudence Exam](#)
4. [TN Registration Application](#)
5. [TN Approved Radiology courses](#)
6. [Dental Radiology \(Rule 0460-04-11\)](#)
7. [TN State Dental Practice Act](#)
8. [RDA Expanded Functions \(Rule 0460-04.08\(2.a\)\)](#)



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