

# Pennsylvania 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 [Pennsylvania Board of Dentistry](https://www.pendental.org/) for additional information.

## Immediate Eligibility & Scope of Practice

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

**Entry Level Pennsylvania 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 taking and passing the DANB Radiation Health Safety (RHS) exam and completing 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition.<sup>3</sup>

**What else can I do as a PA 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

*Dental Assistant- Expanded Function<sup>5</sup>*

- Graduate from a Pennsylvania Board-approved program OR complete state certification including 200 hours of clinical and didactic instruction from at Board-approved dental assisting program
- Pass PA Board-acceptable written exam
- Complete 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition

### Links/Resources

1. [PA Dental Assistant](#)
2. [AMT RDA Certification Disclaimer: This is an accredited AMT-certification. This does not equate to the DA Expanded Function designation as defined in Pennsylvania.](#)
3. [Dental Radiography](#)
4. [PA State Dental Practice Act](#)
5. [Dental Assistant- Expanded Function](#)



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