



## FAQs

Because there is a great deal of information and details related to regulation of dental assistants in California, we have addressed those frequently asked questions not only for the RDAEF2, but the other members of the dental TEAM. You will find these questions organized under their subject area.

### Unlicensed dental assistants and their requirements

***Are there any course requirements for me, as a dental assistant?*** A dental assistant may only expose dental x-rays after successfully completing a board-approved radiation safety techniques course. **In addition, a dental assistant must complete the following courses after 120 days of continuous employment to within a year of date of employment:**

- Course in basic life support sponsored by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross
- Dental Board approved course in infection control, which must be at least 8 hours in length\*;
- Dental Board approved course in the California Dental Practice Act.

\*At the Dental Board meeting in February 2010, the DB decided that the eight hour course requirement applies to those dental assistants who are hired in a dental office after January 1, 2010. If a dental assistant is working for a dentist in 2009, he/she does not have to complete this requirement until after he/she changes jobs and goes to work for a new dentist.

***Must a dental assistant maintain his/her basic life support certification?*** Yes, a dental assistant must maintain basic life support certification by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association.

***Once I have a radiation safety certification to take dental x-rays, must it be renewed?*** No, once you have completed a course, you need not renew this certification.

***My dentist wants my x-ray certificate for his files, what should I do?*** It is important that you keep this certificate forever. Make a copy and give the copy to your employer. Never give the original.

***What are the new requirements to become an RDA after 2010?*** Applicants via the work experience pathway must have **15 months** of work experience rather than 12 months. All



applicants must have completed a board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act, an 8-hour board-approved course in infection control, and a course in basic life support within five years prior to application. Individuals applying after January 1, 2010 must pass a written examination in Law and Ethics.

***How do I apply for the RDA exam?*** You must file an application with the Dental Board. You may do this by downloading an application from the [Dental Board](#) website.

***When is the RDA written exam scheduled?*** The written exam is now computerized and scheduled by appointment at designated testing sites. You may get a detailed explanation by going to the [Dental Board](#) website.

***When is the RDA practical exam scheduled?*** The practical exam is scheduled at designated testing sites periodically during the year. You may get the exam dates and location by going to the [Dental Board](#) website.

***When do I get my exam dates for the written RDA?*** You begin by filing your application with [Dental Board](#). After Dental Board determines that you are qualified to sit for the written exam, they will send you an acceptance letter providing detailed information on the exam and an "800" number to call to schedule your written exam in a testing location in your general area.

***Do I have to pass the written RDA exam before I am eligible to take the practical?*** If the DB determines that you are qualified to sit for the written exam, they will send you an acceptance letter providing detailed information on the exam and an "800" number to call to schedule your written exam in a testing location in your general area.

***Do I have to pass the written RDA exam before I am eligible to take the practical?*** No, you complete each exam separately. Passage of one is not a requirement for the other.

***I work in an orthodontic office and wish to become a Permitted Orthodontic Assistant...what must I do?*** Before a dental assistant is issued a permit, he/she must complete 12 months of work experience as a dental assistant; complete a Dental Board-approved OA course that may commence after 6 months of work experience; complete Dental Board approved courses in the California Dental Practice Act; infection control (8 hours); basic life support and pass a State written examination in orthodontic procedures. If you are a licensed RDA or RDAEF, you do not have to provide documentation of work experience or complete the 8 hour infection control. You must maintain the CE requirements as an RDA, which includes CPR certification and completion of a 4 hour IC/DPA courses.



***What does a dental assistant do to become permitted as a Dental Sedation assistant?*** A dental assistant must complete 12 months of work experience as a dental assistant; complete a Dental Board-approved DSA course that may commence after 6 months of work experience; complete a Dental Board approved courses in the California Dental Practice Act; infection control (8 hours); basic life support; and pass a State written examination in sedation procedures designated by Dental Sedation permit.

***I now possess a current RDAEF license...what must I do to perform the new duties to the new RDAEF2 category?*** I must successfully complete a minimum of a Dental Board 381 hour RDAEF2 course and pass a state administered practical examination.

***I am currently an RDA...what must I do to become an RDAEF2?***

- You must possess a current licensure as an RDA;
- Complete a board-approved course in the application of pit and fissure sealants;
- Complete [a Dental Board approved 410 hour EF course](#);
- Pass a written; simulated practical and clinical state DB examination administered.

***I am currently an RDAEF...what must I do to become an RDAEF2?***

- You must possess a current licensure as an RDAEF;
- Complete [a Dental Board approved 318 hour EF course](#);
- Pass a simulated practical state DB examination.

***What if I lose a course or program certificate from any of EFDA's courses what must I do?***

- Submit a \$25 MO or cashier's check for the processing of a new certificate.
- Send the payment and information on approximately when and where you took the course.

We will then issue you a duplicate certificate.

**Important Information:** for specific questions not answered on this site, you can also e-mail us at [efdaa4u@earthlink.net](mailto:efdaa4u@earthlink.net).