

Requirements for Dental Assistants in Florida



There is no licensure or registry for dental assistants in Florida, however, to perform dental radiography (see page 2) and the expanded functions allowable by law, dental assistants must have a certificate of formal training for delegable duties designated as requiring formal training. Formal training must have occurred in a course or program approved by the Florida Board of Dentistry.

Florida does NOT recognize any dental credentials earned in other states or countries. Dental assistants who possess a license, certification, or registration from another state or country, or those who hold the Dental Assisting National Board CDA credential, must still meet the Florida formal training requirement in a state-approved course or program.

CODA Pathway

Graduates from any CODA accredited program who received a certificate of competency from their CODA program verifying the assistant's formal training for any *Florida Expanded Function* specified in 64B5-16.005 (FAC), may post their certificate(s) and be legally assigned the listed duties, including dental radiography. ***This does not include any restorative functions listed in 64B5-16.0051 (FAC). All assistants regardless of educational background must meet the additional Florida-required training stipulations for performing the restorative functions listed in this section of the rule.***

Non-CODA Pathway

Experienced or new assistants who do not qualify by virtue of CODA program-issued certificates may enroll in a course or program approved by the Florida Board of Dentistry to earn the Florida required training certificates for expanded functions and dental radiography. Currently approved non-CODA courses and programs can be found on the Florida Board of Dentistry Website-Resources Tab-Helpful Links-List of Board Approved Expanded Duty/Dental Radiography Programs. <https://floridasdentistry.gov/resources/>

Certificates issued by all FL BOD approved courses or programs MUST list all expanded duties for which the assistant was trained. A copy of all formal training certificates must be posted in a conspicuous place in the practice where the duties are performed.

64B5-9.011 Radiography Training for Dental Assistants.

(1) Dental assistants may position and expose dental radiographic images only if they have been certified by the Department as dental radiographers or have graduated from a Board-approved dental assisting school or program.

(2) Dental assistants, who have not graduated from a Board-approved dental assisting school or program, may be certified as dental radiographers if they comply with the following requirements:

(a) Apply for certification on DH-MQA 1202, Dental Radiography Certification Application (Rev. 05/2022), incorporated herein by reference and available at <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-14663>, and available on the Department of Health's website at <http://floridadentistry.gov/licensing/dental-radiographer/>, and submit the nonrefundable fee prescribed by Rule 64B5-15.015, F.A.C.;

(b) Document having completed at least 3 months of continuous on-the-job training through assisting in the positioning of digital radiographic sensors and positioning and exposing of dental radiographic images under the direct supervision of a Florida licensed dentist; and,

(c) Document successful completion of a Board-approved course which meets the requirements of subsection 64B5-9.011(3), F.A.C., within 12 months of completion of the on-the-job training required by subsection 64B5-9.011(2), F.A.C.

(3) Only courses which provide training in the following areas may receive Board approval:

(a) Dental radiography practice and equipment;

(b) Radiation biology and radiation safety techniques;

(c) Hands-on instruction in the positioning of digital radiographic sensors and films through the use of appropriate mannequins that will provide the didactic objectives;

(d) Radiographic anatomy;

(e) Radiographic images, films, and processing;

(f) Intra-oral radiographic techniques;

(g) Supplemental techniques of dental radiography; and,

(h) Infection control and sterilization techniques.

(4) A dental assistant's certification as a dental radiographer must be conspicuously displayed to the public in any dental office where these services are performed.