

ATTENTION: DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND COURSE PROVIDERS

This message is to notify you of changes to the requirements for dental assisting educational programs and courses effective January 1, 2025. The changes were made by the Dental Board of California's Sunset Bill, SB 1453 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024). The changes include:

STRICTER REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE INFECTION CONTROL COURSE

All unlicensed dental assistants must now complete a Board-approved 8-hour course in infection control prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials.

NEW CONTENT REQUIRED ON STUDENT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION

As of January 1, 2025, student certificates of completion must now include the following:

- o The participant's name.
- o The name of the course or program completed.
- o The name of the course or program provider.
- o The Board-issued approval number.
- o The date or date range of completion of the course or program.
- o The number of completed hours of the course or program.
- o The signature of the course or program provider, director, administrator, or their designee.

PLEASE NOTE: As of January 1, 2025, the Board will not accept certificates of student completion as evidence of successful completion of a Board-approved dental assisting educational program or course unless the certificate meets the above requirements.

NEW INFECTION CONTROL (IC) COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Implementation has been delayed. For more information, consult the materials of the Board meeting of November 7–8, 2024. Board-approved IC course providers are required to continue providing instruction pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 1070.6 until further notice.

NEW RADIATION SAFETY (RS) COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- o Use of analog film is no longer required.
- o Course content (curriculum) requirements have been modified.
- o Laboratory experience and clinical experience requirements have been modified.
- o Before a student performs procedures on patients, the student must show they have completed a Board-approved 8-hour infection control course and possess current, valid certification in basic life support (BLS).

o Course providers no longer have to provide the Board with lists of the students who have completed the course.

CHANGE TO PREREQUISITES TO ENROLL IN CORONAL POLISHING COURSE

To enroll in a coronal polishing course, students must show they have completed a Board-approved 8-hour infection control course and possess current, valid certification in basic life support (BLS).

NO WORK EXPERIENCE NEEDED TO ENROLL IN ORTHODONTIC ASSISTANT COURSE

Students no longer need 6 months of work experience as a dental assistant to enroll in an orthodontic assistant course. Nor do they need 12 months of work experience to apply for a permit.

PENALTIES FOR FALSELY CLAIMING BOARD APPROVAL

The Board may now cite and fine programs and courses that falsely claim to have Board approval.

To comply with the changes of SB 1453, you may be required to make major changes to your dental assisting program or course, defined as changes to program or course content, physical facilities, or faculty. If you make a major change, you must notify the Board of the change within 10 days of the change. (CCR, tit. 16, § 1070, subs. (b)(2).)

If you have questions regarding the information in this message, contact the Board's License and Program Compliance Unit at LPCU.DBC@dca.ca.gov