

Attention Dental Assisting Educational Program and Course Providers: New Requirements of SB 1453 Become Effective January 1, 2025

The Board's Sunset Bill, [SB 1453 \(Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024\)](#), makes several changes to the requirements for dental assisting programs and courses. Study the bill and prepare to comply with these changes. The changes include:

Changes in Allowable Duties

Providers should adjust the content and sequence of their curricula to changes in allowable duties. For example:

- Unlicensed dental assistants may now perform coronal polishing once they successfully complete a Board-approved course.
- Completion of a Board-approved pit and fissure sealants course is now required to apply for RDA licensure.

Stricter Requirement to Complete Infection Control Course

All 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

In addition to existing content, student certificates of completion must now include:

- The name of the course or program provider;
- The Board-issued approval number;
- The date of completion of the course or program or the date range of completion of the course or program (NEW);
- The number of completed hours of the course or program (NEW); and
- The signature of:
 - The course or program director, -or-
 - The course or program provider (NEW), -or-
 - The course or program administrator (NEW), -or-
 - Their designee.

New Infection Control (IC) Course Requirements

- 8-hour IC courses are now 6 hours of didactic instruction and 2 hours of laboratory instruction.
- Laboratory instruction may be delivered by video or video training tools.
- Course content (curriculum) requirements have been modified.

New Radiation Safety (RS) Course Requirements

- Use of analog film is no longer required.

- Course content (curriculum) requirements have been modified.
- Laboratory experience and clinical experience requirements have been modified.
- 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).
- 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.

New applications for dental assisting program and course providers will be available on the Board's [Educators](#) webpage on January 1, 2025. In the meantime, for more information on the changes made by SB 1453, contact the Board's License and Program Compliance Unit at LPCU.DBC@dca.ca.gov.