



**Dental Assistant**: *An in-demand, entry level, and rewarding role in the healthcare field*

# The Massachusetts Dental Society

- The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) is a professional organization for dentists in Massachusetts, representing more than 5,000 members (approx. 80% of dentists in MA) who serve millions of patients and their communities annually.
- The MDS is the leading authority on oral health, advocating for patient access to high quality care in the Commonwealth.



# About Dental Assisting

- Dental assistants play a valuable role in dental offices
- Practice owners are dedicated to providing competitive wages and benefits reflecting that value
- Dental assistants help patients by providing in-person oral health services
- The role provides job security, flexible hours, ongoing professional development, and a career ladder





# What Dental Assistants Do

- Help make patients comfortable before, during, and after treatment
- Work closely with dental hygienists, dentists, front office staff and other members of the dental team
- Prepare and organize dental instruments needed by dentists to work on a patient
- Take X-rays and impressions (certification required)
- Take medical history and provide post-operative instructions
- Schedule appointments

# Career Training & Pathways

- Training as a dental assistant doesn't have to be like pulling teeth. In Massachusetts, there are four tiers of dental assistants based on the training you do.
  1. **On-the-job trained (OJT) dental assistant** – receives training in a dental office directly from a licensed, supervising dentist
  2. **Formally Trained Dental Assistant** – receives formal training in a dental assisting program at a college or university for at least one year
  3. **DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)** – receives DANB-approved training in dental assisting and goes on to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)
  4. **Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)** – receives DANB-approved training, holds a CDA, and completes a formal training program in expanded functions



Get Involved  
&  
Keep in  
Touch

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Dental practices and their patients are impacted  
by these workforce shortage challenges:



Unfilled  
Positions



Longer  
Wait Times



Scheduling  
Stresses



Delays in Providing  
Patient Care

The Massachusetts Dental Society's Dental Practice  
and Benefits Committee is leading a multifaceted campaign to  
spread awareness and engage key audiences to attract talent:



Campaign  
Website



Direct Outreach  
to High School  
Guidance Counselors



Paid Advertising  
on Search and  
Social Media



Influencer  
Engagement

Visit: <https://massdentalassisting.org/> to learn more, upload  
your resume, and view open positions.