



NDAEB • BNEAD



SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

What this means for . . .

Accredited Dental Assisting Programs:

The exam and certification process remain unchanged; Graduates must successfully pass the NDAEB written examination. Programs are strongly encouraged to ensure every graduate registers for the NDAEB examination



From the NDAEB

The NDAEB is implementing a revised Certification process for all Candidates.

Effective January 2026 ALL candidates who do not graduate from a (CDAC) Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, ACCREDITED or grandfathered* dental assisting program must successfully complete the Clinical Practice Evaluation prior to sitting to write the NDAEB Theory exam.

In addition, all Dental Assisting programs MUST receive CDAC accreditation by December 31, 2030 to maintain their eligibility to participate in NDAEB written examinations. Graduates from all non-accredited dental assisting programs after January 1, 2031 will not have automatic eligibility to participate in NDAEB testing.

There will be no change or effect for CDAC Accredited Dental Assisting Programs or graduates of Accredited Dental Assisting Programs.

ANNOUNCEMENT



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT *continued*



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSISTING EXAMINING BOARD

What this means for . . .

Future/New Dental Assisting Programs:

Graduates will need to successfully complete the Clinical Practice Evaluation, followed by the written theory examination. In order to receive their NDAEB certificate, until such time as the DA program is accredited. Programs are strongly encouraged to ensure every graduate registers for the NDAEB Clinical Practice Evaluation followed by the NDAEB written examination



Why Are We Making This Change

We must enhance the fairness of our certification process to ensure that all candidates who do not complete a CDAC accredited DA Program are treated equally and fairly.

We have a long-established two-part certification process for candidates which was established to meet the needs of dental assisting regulators. The process assures a reasonable expectation of safe hands for candidates from non-accredited DA Programs who are pursuing certification and seeking licensure as a dental assistant in Canada. Currently these candidates complete our theory exam and then are expected to complete our CPE if they require licensure in any of the 8 provinces which regulate DA. All provinces, except Quebec, require DA to hold our National Board Certificate prior to entering practice.

Currently candidates sit our theory exam and, if successful, the next step varies:

- Graduates of CDAC accredited DA Programs receive our National Board Certificate and may apply for licensure in regulated provinces.
- Graduates of Canadian non-accredited DA Programs receive our National Board Certificate but have a further requirement to complete our CPE, if they wish to apply for licensure in a regulated province.
- Graduates of international education programs must successfully complete the CPE to receive our National Board Certificate and apply for licensure in a regulated province.



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT continued



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSISTING EXAMINING BOARD

What this means for . . .

Current Non-Accredited Dental Assisting Programs:

For DA programs deemed 'Exam Eligible' by the NDAEB prior to December 31, 2024, they will be grandfathered and the exam and certification process remains unchanged until January 1 2031. However:

- DA programs must be accredited by CDAC by December 31, 2030
- DA programs which are not accredited by December 31, 2030, will not be eligible to have candidates sit for the NDAEB examination and their candidates will be unable to obtain a license to practice

Programs are strongly encouraged to ensure every graduate registers for the NDAEB examination.

Currently graduates of non-accredited DA Programs are passing the theory exam and receiving our National Board Certificate, but not completing the CPE. This is particularly true in Ontario where there are no regulatory guidelines or licensure compelling them to do so. The assurance of safe hands that is required by regulators who are committed to a national standard, and to labour mobility, is lost. This contrasts with internationally trained candidates who cannot receive our National Board Certificate without completing the CPE.

It has been our long-standing recommendation that candidates choose to enroll in a CDAC accredited DA Program. Currently graduates of non-accredited DA Programs in Canada have a 20% lower pass rate on our exam on average than those from CDAC accredited DA Programs. By choosing CDAC accredited DA education, candidates can avoid the extra step of completing our CPE and ensure labour mobility across Canada. We will now require all DA Programs in Canada to be CDAC accredited, or (for new DA Programs) to be on the path to accreditation.



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT continued



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSISTING EXAMINING BOARD



The NDAEB Two Part Certificate implementation plan has 5 core strategies to facilitate smooth implementation.

1. ***Grandfather existing DA programs *Delay the implementation of the CPE requirement from January 2026 for 5 years (6.5 years total from announcement) FOR ALL EXISTING Canadian, exam eligible DA PROGRAMS.**

- A. In Canada, Non-Accredited DA programs have previously had their curriculum assessed by third party psychometricians and by the NDAEB to determine exam eligibility. We would grandfather these programs (5 years after the implementation date) i.e. until December 31, 2030)
- B. **Graduates of grandfathered non-accredited dental assisting programs are not required to complete the CPE during the grandfather period of January 2026 to December 31, 2030**

2. **Make Accreditation of DA programs mandatory for NDAEB Exam Eligibility beginning in 2030**

Beginning in 2030 and announced in June 2024, the NDAEB shall make a requirement that in order for a DA school to be deemed 'exam eligible' and for its graduates to be exempt from the CPE and eligible to participate in NDAEB written examination, it must be accredited by CDAC. At the time of implementation DA Programs will not maintain automatic eligibility for their candidates to write the exam unless they are accredited.

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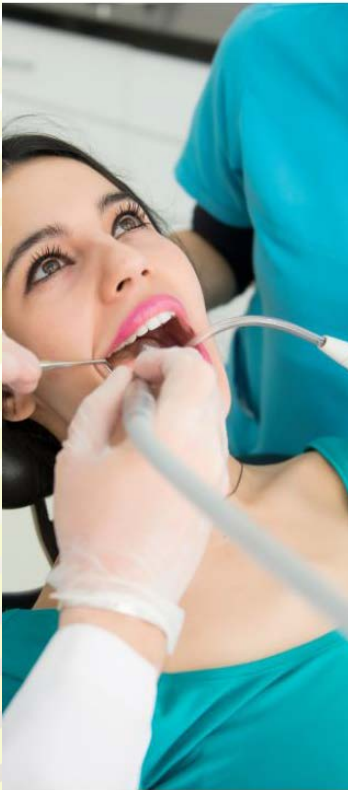


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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT continued



NATIONAL DENTAL ASSISTING EXAMINING BOARD



3. *Requiring applicants from other ‘non-accredited’ dental assisting programs to take the clinical evaluation first and if successful, the written examination subsequently.*

3.1 All candidates graduating from non-accredited dental assisting schools (or deemed substantively equivalent) will be required to take the NDAEB clinical practice evaluation or NDAEB approved education in lieu program effective January 2026*. (* unless the program is eligible for grandfathering, see number 2 above)

4. *Granting the NDAEB certificate to all candidates and applicants at the same point in the certification process (after passing the written examination).*

1.1. Effective January 2026* the NDAEB certificate will be granted to all successful candidates only upon completion of the Written Examination.

NOTE: It is worth noting that the only change to the certification process in the 8 regulated provinces is that the CPE will precede the written exam for graduates where it is applicable

Questions and concerns maybe directed by email to “New Certificate Process” c/o office@ndaeb.ca

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