

Registered Dental Assistant

Associated Industries: Business, Management, & Administration | Health Science

Description and Labor Market Information

A Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) or Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification prepare holders for work in a dental office performing a variety of tasks such as performing certain supportive procedures, preparing procedural trays, helping to retract oral tissues, and removing debris during dental procedures. A license is not required to work as a dental assistant in Hawai'i but validates skills. The exams consist of three components: General Chairside Assisting (GC), Radiation Health and Safety (RHS), and Infection Control (ICE).

This credential was associated with 3 occupations that were identified as well-paying and in demand. Overall, those occupations represent 4,318 positions with 479 annual openings within the state and median hourly earnings of \$24.99.

Sample Occupations

Dental Assistants

Median Hourly Earnings: \$18.16
 Typical Entry Level Education Requirement: Postsecondary nondegree award
 Total Positions: 1,718
 Annual Job Openings: 203

Medical Secretaries

Median Hourly Earnings: \$19.96
 Typical Entry Level Education Requirement: High school diploma or equivalent
 Total Positions: 1,609
 Annual Job Openings: 200

Dental Hygienists

Median Hourly Earnings: \$36.86
 Typical Entry Level Education Requirement: Associate's degree
 Total Positions: 991
 Annual Job Openings: 76

Certifying Entity Information

Dental Assisting National Board

Website: www.danb.org

Phone: (800) 367-3262

Local Availability:

Pearson Professional Center

Kapiolani Community College

Exam Details

Age Requirement: N/A

Coursework/Hours to Complete: None

Length of Certification Validity: 1 year, with annual education and renewal fee

Exam Cost: \$450 for three tests together, \$270 if each test taken individually

Exam Time: up to 1 hour, 30 min.

Number of Questions: 120 + 100 + 100

Pass Rate: N/A

PROMISING CREDENTIALS IN HAWAII

This project has been a joint effort between Kamehameha Schools, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, University of Hawaii P-20, and the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation.

Students in Hawaii can earn hundreds of industry-recognized credentials right now. Thousands of students are investing time and resources to achieve these credentials with the hope they will lead to a career that enables them to live and thrive in Hawaii. But how effective are these programs at preparing Hawaii students for future careers and long-term success?

Promising Credentials in Hawaii, a first-of-its-kind analysis for our state, looks at whether the credentials students can earn actually matter in the real world to local employers.

Through intensive labor market analysis and outreach to local Hawaii businesses, this project has identified **137 Promising Credentials** that are associated with in-demand, living wage occupations throughout the state. The process began with identifying **274 Promising Occupations** that met wage and demand thresholds. A list of corresponding credentials for the 274 occupations was then compiled using job postings data. Finally, Hawaii employers from across the state completed surveys and participated in focus groups to narrow the list of nearly 2,000 credentials down to the 137 credentials they say matter most when making hiring and promotion decisions.

The resulting Promising Credentials were identified as relevant in hiring and promotional decisions for multiple in demand and well-paying occupations within the state. A detailed one-page summary of each of these Promising Credentials has been organized for student, school, and community use.

The comprehensive report and associated data can be found at www.HawaiiCareerPathways.org.