LEVEL UP 2026 - 2027

NYS SkillsUSA

DENTAL ASSISTING

PURPOSE

To evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of dental assisting.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with dental assisting as the occupational objective.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

NYS Health Care Attire:

- Official school clinical scrubs uniform with identification removed/concealed. Only plain white, collarless T-shirts may be worn under neath the scrub top is not visible from either the sleeve or the hem areas
- Health professional's white leather work shoes, white socks, or skin-tone seamless hose. Shoes must be "all-white" leather (no canvas), completely enclosed (no open toe or open heel). Athletic style shoes that meet the criteria are acceptable.
- Hair must be pinned up and off the collar. Away from the face and neck.
- Nails should be cleaned, short and without nail polish., No artificial nails (which can harbor bacteria) no heavy makeup, no heavy body scents
- Jewelry: Only one stud or small hoop earring in each ear is allowed. No facial piercings are allowed. All visible tattoos (including those on hands, arms and the neck or chest) must be covered. No facial or tongue rings allowed.
- Competitors should exhibit professional appearance and conduct during the contest.

Note: **Contestants must wear their contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting. Also bring #2 pencil, resume, and safety assurance form.**
PDT test will be given at orientation

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
   a. All instruments, equipment and materials required for the competition
2. Supplied by the competitor:
   a. Pencil #2
   b. Red and blue pencil
   c. Pen with black ink
   d. Masks, 10 pair gloves, safety glasses with side shield, goggles, or face shield
   e. Disposable gown (no lab coats)
   f. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See "Resume Requirement" below for guidelines.

RESUME REQUIREMENT

Competitors must create a one-page resume to submit at orientation.

DEVICES

Cell phones, smart glasses or other electronic devices not approved by the NYS Chairperson will be collected by the contest chair during the competition. Chairpersons will announce their acceptance by listing it on their standard or at the orientation meeting. In case of emergencies advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas.

If the competitor uses their device in a manner which compromises the integrity of the competition, the competitor's score may be penalized.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is defined by the ability to perform the procedures specified by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). Dental Assisting National Board | DANB and 2021 DANB Exam Content Validation Study Summary Reports.

Competitors may view the exam outline resource at the following link:
www.danb.org/Become-Certified/Prepare-for-DANB-Exams/Exam-Outlines.aspx

Additional Resource:
Modern Dental Assisting, 13th Edition, by Doni L. Bird, CDA RDA RDH MA and Debbie S. Robinson CDA MS

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The competition will include a written knowledge exam assessing knowledge of dental foundations, communication skills, safety, infection control and asepsis (core and advanced), ethics/law and employment skills. Competitors are required to take the NYS SkillsUSA professional development test at orientation.

SKILLPERFORMANCE

The competition will consist of simulated dental office situations and demonstrations.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Competitors will be rated on personal appearance, the degree of work skills and speed used in the performance of the assigned task. The use of safety measures and the degree of effective personal interaction with the patient will also be rated, when appropriate.
2. All procedures for the simulations will be selected from the latest edition of *Modern Dental Assisting* (Torres and Ehrlich) by Elsevier Publishing.
3. The skills included in the competition will be selected from the Standards and Competencies listed below and may involve total procedures or tasks that are a part of the procedures.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

DA 1.0 — Monitor and manage safety and infection control using procedures specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) for examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSAhealthoccupationstechnicalcommittee

1.1. Report and/or record safety hazards in the workplace
1.2. Apply principles of body mechanics
1.3. Perform maintenance on equipment to keep in proper working order

1.4. Demonstrate and maintain a safe client environment
1.5. Interpret and respond to medical emergency protocol
1.6. Verify identity of client
1.7. Use precautions in the presence of ionizing radiation
1.8. Manage hazardous materials and use standard precautions of the workplace following EPA, OSHA, CDC, and ADA guidelines.
1.9. Perform correct handwashing techniques
1.10. Use appropriate personal protective equipment
1.11. Identify modes of pathogen transmission
1.12. Apply principles of sterilization, disinfection and ultrasonic preparation for equipment, instruments, and supplies in the workplace

DA 2.0 — Assess the client's condition following good practices based on guidelines as specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) for examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupations technical committee

2.1. Measure and record blood pressure, respirations, oral temperature, and pulse
2.2. Perform CPR for adult, child, and infant
2.3. Demonstrate knowledge of basic dental emergencies
2.4. Demonstrate knowledge of pre- and post-operative instructions

DA 3.0 — Apply preventive procedures using guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National BoardInc. (DANB) for examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSAhealth occupationstechnicalcommittee

3.1. Instruct client in use of dental floss and Bass tooth-brushing method
3.2. Identify food groups and their importance in relation to proper oral health
3.3. Assist with oral prophylaxis
3.4. Demonstrate proper oral appliance use and care
3.5. Demonstrate application of topical fluoride

DA 4.0 — Apply chair-side assisting procedures using guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) for examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupations technical committee

4.1. Demonstrate seating, dismissing, positioning client in treatment chair and placing of patient napkin
4.2. Demonstrate knowledge of operator and assistant working positions inside the treatment area
4.3. Demonstrate transfer of instruments to operator during various procedures such as sealants, operative or specialty
4.4. Demonstrate the use of various restorative materials and their applications during the chair-side procedure
4.5. Demonstrate use of high-volume evacuation
4.6. Identify and use instruments properly
4.7. Demonstrate and assist with area isolation and moisture control
4.8. Demonstrate knowledge of local anesthesia application and armamentarium
4.9. Demonstrate the use of various specialty materials and their applications during chair side procedures

4.10. Demonstrate field of operation during dental procedures using retraction, suction, irrigation, placing and removing cotton rolls, etc.
4.11. Identify features of rotary instruments
4.12. Demonstrate cleaning and polishing of removable appliances and prostheses

DA 5.0 — Apply dental laboratory procedures using various dental materials using the guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) for examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupations technical committee

5.1. Demonstrate mixing various gypsum products and construct study models
5.2. Demonstrate mixing various cements and demonstrate their applications
5.3. Demonstrate mixing various restorative materials along with their applications
5.4. Demonstrate and prepare various impression materials and their applications
5.5. Demonstrate and assist with oral sealants
5.6. Construct temporaries/provisionals using various methods
5.7. Construct mouth guard/bleaching tray/whitening tray using various methods

DA 6.0 — Apply radiology procedures using the guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) Examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupationstechnicalcommittee

6.1. Demonstrate knowledge of radiation safety
6.2. Demonstrate knowledge of intraoral and extraoral radiography films
6.3. Identify radiographic processing errors
6.4. Demonstrate mounting and labeling of intraoral radiographic films
6.5. Demonstrate knowledge of processing radiographic films either manually or automatically
6.6. Demonstrate knowledge of intraoral radiographic equipment such as "XCP"
6.7. Demonstrate knowledge of methods of exposing radiographs

DA 7.0 — Manage the office using guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) Examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupations technical committee

7.1. Complete written client materials such as registration, charts, and documents
7.2. Complete written office materials such as insurance forms, inventory, ordering supplies and recordkeeping procedures
7.3. Complete client oral charting (universal) from oral or written communication.
7.4. Complete various computer assignments including word processing, financial and/or office management software
7.5. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills with clients, families and staff using HIPAA regulations
7.6. Demonstrate various types of filing used to preserve client records
7.7. Demonstrate professional telephone etiquette
7.8. Record messages both written and verbally

DA 8.0 — Demonstrate employability skills using guidelines specified by the Dental Assisting National Board Inc. (DANB) Examinations and as determined by the SkillsUSA health occupationstechnicalcommittee

8.1. Apply ethical and legal standards using a state dental practice act
8.2. Prepare resume and job application
8.3. Participate in an interview for a job
8.4. Demonstrate ability to create a positive teamwork environment in the workplace
8.5. Demonstrate and exhibit professional appearance and conduct