



LEARN TODAY DENTAL EDUCATION

# Dental Assistant Career Roadmap

From Entry-Level to Fully Expanded — in 12 to 18 Months  
Oklahoma & Missouri | Dental Board Approved Courses

## What You Will Achieve

Complete all 4 Expanded Function certifications  
Earn CPR/BLS + OSHA credentials your employer requires  
Reach the top 10% of dental assistant earning potential

Radiation Safety

Coronal Polishing

Sealant Placement

Nitrous Oxide

CPR / BLS

OSHA Compliance

Courses Currently Available in Oklahoma & Missouri

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This roadmap shows the exact sequence a dental assistant in Oklahoma or Missouri should follow to earn every expanded function certification recognized by the state dental board. Each stage shows which Learn Today courses apply. Share freely with dental assisting students, Facebook groups, and school programs.

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# Your 12-18 Month Roadmap

Follow these stages in order — each builds on the last

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## FOUNDATION

Start — Month 1

Entry-Level DA

### Enter the Dental Field

Every dental assistant career begins with foundational training and state registration. Oklahoma and Missouri both require formal education before you can practice chairside. This stage sets the professional foundation everything else is built on.

- Complete an accredited dental assisting program (Tulsa Tech, TCC, or equivalent)
- Earn your Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) CDA or RDA certification
- Obtain your Oklahoma or Missouri dental assisting license / registration
- Begin chairside work — build clinical hours and hands-on confidence
- Request your license number — you will need it for expanded function applications

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## STEP 1

Months 2 – 6

Certified &amp; Compliant

### Safety & Compliance Certifications

Before you can perform any expanded functions, most Oklahoma and Missouri practices require you to be radiation certified and CPR/BLS certified. OSHA training is mandatory for all employees annually. Get these done first — they open every door.

- Radiation Safety — required to expose and develop radiographs independently
- CPR / BLS (AHA Certified) — required for employment at virtually every dental practice
- OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen & Hazard Communication — required annually by federal law
- Keep certificates on file; most boards and employers check at renewal

**Learn Today Courses: Radiation Safety | CPR / BLS Training | OSHA Compliance Training**

Learn Today teaches all three — we come to your office or you join a scheduled class.

# Your 12-18 Month Roadmap

Stages continued from previous page

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**STEP 2** Months 6 – 12

Expanded Expanded Function I

## Expanded Function Certifications — Clinical

Coronal Polishing and Sealant Placement are the two most in-demand expanded functions for dental assistants in Oklahoma and Missouri. Both require hands-on clinical instruction from a licensed dental professional — exactly what Learn Today provides. These certifications directly increase your clinical value and hourly rate.

- Coronal Polishing — removes plaque and stain; assists the hygienist during prophylaxis appointments
- Sealant Placement — pit-and-fissure sealants; extremely high demand in pediatric dental offices
- Both require hands-on clinical instruction per Oklahoma and Missouri dental board rules
- Upon completion, submit your application to the State Dental Board to add to your license
- Update your resume immediately — these certifications are high-value differentiators

**Learn Today Courses: Coronal Polishing | Sealant Placement**

Hands-on clinical instruction included. Board-approved curriculum. Flexible scheduling.

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**STEP 3** Months 12 – 18

Fully Expanded Fully Expanded DA

## Advanced Expanded Functions — Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous Oxide Monitoring is the most advanced expanded function available to dental assistants in Oklahoma and Missouri. It is required before you can assist with any sedation case. Most practices require prior expanded function certifications before enrolling. Completing this final step makes you a fully expanded dental assistant — top of your field.

- Nitrous Oxide Monitoring — monitor and assist during N2O/O2 conscious sedation procedures
- Requires completion of Coronal Polishing and Sealant certifications first (most practices)
- Pharmacology, titration, monitoring protocols, and emergency response all covered
- Significantly expands career options: pediatric offices, oral surgery, sedation practices
- Dramatically increases your earning potential — top 10% of dental assistant wages

**Learn Today Courses: Nitrous Oxide Monitoring**

Combines didactic instruction with clinical hands-on practice. Board approved.

# What You Learn in Each Course

All courses taught by licensed dental professionals | Board Approved

## Radiation Safety

RADIATION

Required for independent radiograph exposure

**FOR:** Dental Assistants & Front Office Staff

**AVAILABLE IN:** OK, MO, TX, KS, NE, AR

- Radiation biology, physics, and safety principles
- X-ray equipment operation, settings, and troubleshooting
- Patient and operator protection — ALARA principle
- Film, digital sensor, and phosphor plate techniques
- Oklahoma & Missouri dental board CE requirements met
- Qualifies toward state licensure renewal CE hours

+ Expose and develop radiographs independently

## Coronal Polishing

CORONAL

Expanded function — assists hygienist during prophylaxis

**FOR:** Dental Assistants (OK & MO)

**AVAILABLE IN:** Oklahoma & Missouri only

- Oral anatomy, tooth morphology, and gingival assessment
- Polishing agents, abrasive selection, and cup technique
- Coronal polishing procedure step-by-step with live demonstration
- Hands-on clinical practice on a live patient required
- Infection control and charting documentation
- Meets Oklahoma and Missouri expanded function requirements

+ Perform coronal polishing as a certified expanded function

## Sealant Placement

SEALANT

Expanded function — high demand in pediatric practices

**FOR:** Dental Assistants (OK & MO)

**AVAILABLE IN:** Oklahoma & Missouri only

- Pit-and-fissure anatomy and caries prevention science
- Isolation techniques — cotton rolls, Dri-Angles, dental dam
- Sealant materials overview: resin-based vs. glass ionomer
- Sealant placement procedure — hands-on with real patients
- Quality assurance, evaluation, and re-treatment protocols
- Meets Oklahoma and Missouri expanded function board standards

+ Place dental pit-and-fissure sealants independently

## Nitrous Oxide Monitoring

NITROUS

Advanced expanded function — sedation-assisted procedures

**FOR:** Dental Assistants (after core EFs completed)

**AVAILABLE IN:** Oklahoma & Missouri only

- Pharmacology and physiology of nitrous oxide and oxygen
- Equipment setup, scavenging systems, and leak checks
- Patient assessment, medical history review, contraindications
- Titration, monitoring levels, and patient communication during sedation
- Emergency response procedures and reversal protocols
- Required per OK/MO regulations for sedation-assisted roles

+ Monitor and assist with N2O/O2 conscious sedation

# What You Learn in Each Course

## CPR / BLS Training

American Heart Association certified — entire team

**FOR:** All Dental Team Members — all 6 states

**AVAILABLE IN:** OK, MO, TX, KS, NE, AR

- AHA-certified Basic Life Support (BLS) curriculum
- Adult, pediatric, and infant CPR techniques with hands-on practice
- AED (Automated External Defibrillator) operation and scenarios
- Two-rescuer CPR and bag-mask ventilation
- Medical emergency response for the dental office environment
- AHA BLS card valid for 2 years — required by most state dental boards

+ AHA BLS certified — every team member, every 2 years

## OSHA Compliance Training

Annual requirement — protect your practice and your team

**FOR:** All Dental Team Members — all 6 states

**AVAILABLE IN:** OK, MO, TX, KS, NE, AR

- Bloodborne pathogen standard, exposure control plan, and incident reporting
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and donning/doffing procedures
- Hazard communication standard (HazCom) and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- OSHA 300 log, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements
- Dental office-specific infection control standards (CDC, OSHA cross-referenced)
- Annual training required by law — documented completion protects your practice

+ OSHA Annual Compliance Completed — documented and on file

# Oklahoma & Missouri Requirements

Know exactly what your state requires before you start

## Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry

- Must hold active Oklahoma dental assisting license
- Coronal Polishing: 8-hour board-approved course + hands-on
- Sealant Placement: 8-hour board-approved course + hands-on
- Nitrous Oxide: board-approved course; prior EFs required
- Radiation Safety: required before independent radiographs
- CPR: current AHA BLS required for all license holders
- OSHA: annual training required per OSHA Standard 1910.1030
- Submit expanded function application to OSBD upon completion

Learn Today courses meet all Oklahoma Dental Board requirements

## Missouri

Missouri Dental Board

- Must hold active Missouri dental assistant registration
- Coronal Polishing: board-approved course required
- Sealant Placement: board-approved course required
- Nitrous Oxide Monitoring: board-approved course required
- Radiation Safety: required prior to independent radiographs
- CPR: current certification required for all registered DAs
- OSHA: annual bloodborne pathogen training required by law
- Apply to Missouri Dental Board to add expanded functions to permit

Learn Today courses meet all Missouri Dental Board requirements

## Expanded Functions Impact on Your Earning Potential

Certification Level	Typical Hourly Range (OK/MO)	Key Benefit
Entry-Level DA (no expansions)	\$14 – \$18 / hr	Chairside support, limited clinical scope
+ Radiation Safety	\$16 – \$20 / hr	Can expose radiographs independently
+ Coronal Polishing	\$17 – \$22 / hr	Assists hygienist; valued in busy practices
+ Sealant Placement	\$18 – \$24 / hr	High demand in pediatric and family offices
+ Nitrous Oxide Monitoring	\$20 – \$28 / hr	Opens sedation practices; top earning tier
Fully Expanded + CPR + OSHA	\$22 – \$30+ / hr	Elite clinical team member; maximum value

\* Hourly ranges are estimates based on Oklahoma and Missouri market data. Actual pay varies by practice, location, and experience.

READY TO START YOUR ROADMAP?

## Contact Learn Today — We Come to Your Office

Small class sizes | Flexible scheduling | Dental Board Approved | Oklahoma & Missouri

Call (918) 232-2836

Brook.LearnToday@gmail.com

Share this guide freely with dental assisting students, Facebook groups, and school programs.

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