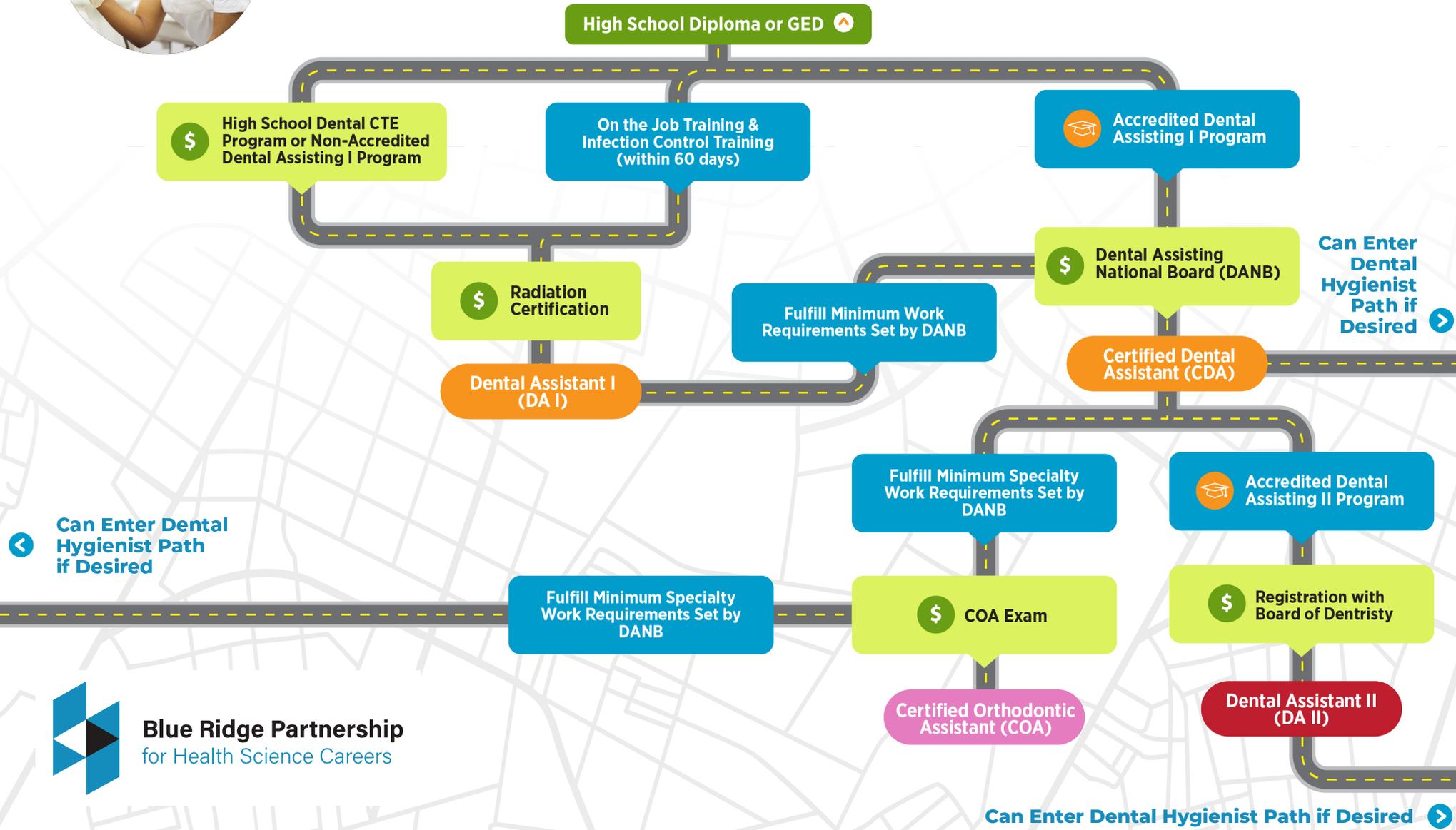


Start Your Career Path as a Dental Assistant

Updated 4.22.24



An important member of the dental office, dental assistants provide patient care, take x-ray images of the mouth, handle scheduling and prepare rooms for dental examinations. *Remember, no career path is the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.*



= Certification Required = Education Required = Fee Payment Required

Reach out to a counselor at your highschool, local community college, or four-year college or university. For more information, visit: virginiahealthcareers.org



As a dental hygienist, you will play an essential role in helping patients maintain good oral health. Performing regular cleanings and offering helpful tips for effective home care are among the key duties in your job description. *Remember, no career path is the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.*



Blue Ridge Partnership
for Health Science Careers



= Certification Required



= Education Required



= Fee Payment Required

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As a dentist you will examine, treat and maintain the teeth, gums and other hard and soft tissues of the mouth and surrounding structures. They instruct patients about good oral health practices in order to prevent gum disease and tooth loss. *Remember, no career path is the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.*

High School Diploma or GED 

 Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree

 Bachelor's Degree (BS)

*Students are encouraged to consult the professional school of their choice to ensure all application requirements or pre-requisites have been fulfilled. For example, some schools do not require DAT and others may limit community college credits.

 Dental Admission Test (DAT) – Soph. or Jr. Year of Undergrad*

 Dental School Application Fee. Summer of Jr. or Sr. Year of Undergrad

 Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DDS or DMD)

 Integrated Clinical Boards & National Boards

 Licensure Fee

Dental Residency

During Dental School, determine if you would like to do an optional residency. If so, pay application fee, apply and interview.

Residencies can last 1-6 years depending on your chosen specialty.

Dental Residency

Dental Practice

 Optional Specialty Exam(s)

Specialty Practice



= Certification Required



= Education Required



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