INTRODUCTION
Competence is an acceptable, measurable, defined level of special skill and knowledge derived from education, experience, role modeling, and overall socialization. To be competent, an entry-level dental assistant must perform at or above the acceptable, defined, program competencies.

DOMAINS (D)
The organization of the document flows from the general categories that comprise the central domains of the curriculum, to the specific behaviors that reflect the foundational abilities expected of students at the course level. The domains should be viewed as themes or broad categories of professional focus that transcend numerous courses and learning activities. The concept of domains is intended to encourage threads of consistency, emphasis and focus that develop and advance throughout the curriculum. In this document, domains are labeled:

I. Professionalism and Ethics
II. Dental Assisting Practice
III. Health Promotion and Community Involvement
IV. Professional Commitment and Advancement

Major Competencies (MC)
Within each domain, “Major Competencies” are listed. A “Major Competency” is defined as the ability to perform or provide a particular, complex service or task. The complexity of the service suggests that multiple and more specific abilities are required to support the performance of any “Major Competency”.

Supporting Competencies (SC)
The more specific abilities are considered subdivisions of the “Major Competency” and are termed “Supporting Competencies”. The acquisition and demonstration of a “Major Competency” requires a level of mastery of all “Supporting Competencies” related to that particular service or task. While less complex than a “Major Competency”, a “Supporting Competency” also...
REQUIRES “FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE”.

Foundational Knowledge (FK)

Foundational knowledge is the product of didactic laboratory and clinical sciences instruction which imparts the information and experience that are prerequisite for satisfactory mastery of “Supporting Competencies”.

The biomedical, dental, behavioral and clinical science all provide instruction at the foundational level and establishes the foundation for the entire dental assisting standards of practice. This education ensures an understanding of basic biological principles for student analysis and synthesis of the interrelations of the body systems when making decisions regarding oral health services within the context of total body health. These sciences provide the student with knowledge of oral health and disease as a basis for assuming responsibility for patient education, implementation of treatment procedures, and preparation of supportive services for patient treatment and care. Didactic, small group discussion, seminar and laboratory instruction provide information and psychomotor experiences that enable students to acquire and demonstrate competence in the clinical setting.

Domain/Program Competencies

The program competencies define a level of practice for the new graduate, rather than predict the higher level of practice that will be attained by dental assisting practitioners over their career. Supporting and foundational competencies are identified for each domain.

I. PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS (D)

A. Professional Behavior (MC)

Professional behavior encompasses many components including a team approach, positive verbal and nonverbal communication, interpersonal skills, attention to feedback, protocol adherence, thorough and complete documentation and time management. The dental assisting graduate must be able to practice using a team concept in a professional manner.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. ACCURATE, CONSISTENT AND COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION WHEN SERVING IN PROFESSIONAL ROLES (111, 110, 121, 120, 227, 228, SADAA);
2. COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY USING VERBAL, NONVERBAL WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS (110, 111, 112, 113, 211, 121, 115, 227, 120, 228).

B. Ethical Behavior (MC)

The dental assisting graduate must be able to discern and manage the ethical issues faced in dental assisting practice and dental treatment.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. INTEGRATE THE “ADAA CODE OF ETHICS” IN ALL PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS AND ADHERE TO LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATIONS FOR DENTAL ASSISTING ACTIONS AND SERVICE (110, 115, 120, 113, 211, 121, 228, SADAA);
2. SERVE ALL CLIENTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, APPRECIATING THE DIVERSITY OF THE POPULATION (110, 111, 113, 115, 211, 227, 120, 121);
3. APPLY PRINCIPLES OF RISK MANAGEMENT TO MANAGE PROFESSIONAL RISKS AND PREVENT LIABILITY (110, 111, 113, 115, 121, 120, 227, 228);
4. EVALUATE THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF ORAL HEALTH PRODUCTS, DENTAL
II. DENTAL ASSISTING CLINICAL PRACTICE STANDARDS (D)

The dental assisting graduate is a licensed health professional who provides supportive services under the direction and supervision of a licensed dentist as well as provides treatment services to patients as allowable by state regulations. The clinical standards of dental assisting practice apply principles from the biomedical, clinical and psychosocial sciences to diverse populations.

A. Assessment (MC)

The dental assisting graduate must be able to systematically assist with and/or actively complete the collection, assessment and recording of data on the general, oral and psycho-social health status of clients using methods consistent with medico-legal ethical principles.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. ASSIST WITH AND/OR OBTAIN, REVIEW, UPDATE, INTERPRET AND IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR ASSESSMENT (DIAGNOSTIC) DATA PRIOR TO OR DURING DENTAL TREATMENT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DENTIST (110, 111, 211, 227, 120, 122);
2. RECOGNIZE PREDISPOSING AND ETIOLOGICAL RISK FACTORS THAT REQUIRE PREPARATION AND/OR INTERVENTION TO PREVENT AND CONTROL DISEASE (111, 112, 122, 227, 120, 122);
3. IDENTIFY CLIENTS AT RISK FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS TO MINIMIZE THOSE RISKS (111, 115, 121, 227, and 120).

B. Supportive and Clinical Practice Standards (MC)

The dental assisting graduate must be able to provide supportive functions under the direction of the dentist before, during and after treatment of the client as well as perform a variety of direct treatment procedures allowable by state regulations. These functions include educational, preventive and therapeutic services designed to assist the dentist and/or participate in completing treatment procedures to achieve the goals of the treatment plan and establish optimal oral health for the client.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. EDUCATE CLIENTS TO PREVENT AND CONTROL RISK FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CARIES AND OTHER ORAL DISEASES/CONDITIONS AND TO MAINTAIN RESTORATIONS AND FUNCTION. (111, 211, 121, 227, 120, 122, SADAA);
2. UTILIZE ACCEPTED INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES (110, 111, 113, 211, 121, 227, 120, 122, SADAA);
3. OBTAIN RADIOGRAPHS OF DIAGNOSTIC QUALITY (111, 121, 120);
4. PREPARE AND ASSIST WITH OR COMPLETE PAIN AND ANXIETY CONTROL STRATEGIES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER TREATMENT THROUGH USE OF ACCEPTED PHARMACOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL TECHNIQUES (110, 111, 121, 227, 120, 122);
5. APPLY CURRENT AND EFFECTIVE CONCEPTS OF CHAIRSIDE ASSISTING PRACTICES INCLUDING ERGONOMICS, FOUR-HANDED INSTRUMENT TRANSFER, OPERATORY MAINTENANCE, ISOLATION AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES, MANIPULATION OF MATERIALS/SUPPLIES AND PATIENT MANAGEMENT. (110, 211, 227, 120, 228, SADAA);
6. PREPARE AND PROVIDE PRE- AND POST-TREATMENT EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTIONS (110, 211, 227, 120, 122, SADAA);

7. PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE DENTAL TREATMENT SERVICES THAT CAN BE LEGALLY PERFORMED BY A LICENSED DENTAL ASSISTANT IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK (110, 111, 211, 121, 227, 120, SADAA)

8. PERFORM LABORATORY PROCEDURES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DENTIST AND MANAGE COMMUNICATION AND SCHEDULING OF LABORATORY CASES. (110, 211, 227, 120);

9. PARTICIPATE DURING THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN THE CLIENT CARE ENVIRONMENT (111, 211, 121, 227, 120);

10. PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF OFFICE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDING MAINTAINING SCHEDULING AND CLIENT FLOW, PROCESS TREATMENT TRANSACTIONS, AND MAINTAIN HIPAA AND CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS (115, 120, 228, SADAA).

C. Evaluation and Maintenance (MC)
The dental assisting graduate must be able to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented educational, preventive and therapeutic services and modify as needed.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. DETERMINE THE CLIENT’S SATISFACTION WITH THE ORAL HEALTH CARE RECEIVED (110, 227, 120, 122).

III. HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (D)

Trends toward consumerism, self-care, disease prevention, health promotion, and health lifestyles means that clients, wherever they might be, want and need information on oral health and disease. Teaching and health promotion strategies are involved in the full range of dental assisting actions directed toward helping diverse populations achieve oral wellness.

A. Education and Communication (MC)
The dental assisting graduate must be able to promote the values of oral and general health to the public and organizations outside the profession.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. IDENTIFY FACTORS THAT CAN BE USED TO MOTIVATE THE CLIENT FOR HEALTH PROMOTION, DISEASE PREVENTION AND/OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE (113, 211, 227, 120, 122);

2. EDUCATE OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT ACCESS AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN THE PROVISION OF ORAL HEALTH CARE (113, 211, 227, 120, 122, SADAA);

3. PRESENT EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION TO DIVERSE CLIENT POPULATIONS IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS USING APPROPRIATE TEACHING STRATEGIES (113, 211, 227, 120, 122).

B. Community Involvement (MC)
The dental assisting graduate must be able to collaborate with other dental professionals and/or initiate and assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention activities for diverse
populations in a variety of settings.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY ORAL HEALTH NEEDS AS WELL AS THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS (122, 120, SADAA)

IV. PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT AND ADVANCEMENT (D)

For professional advancement and lifelong learning, the dental assisting must be able to derive the relevance from rapidly changing information. Knowledge of the scientific method ensures that actions taken by the dental assistant are based on scientific evidence, not merely on ritual, tradition, intuition or personal preference.

A. Professional Commitment (MC)

The dental assisting graduate must be concerned with improving the knowledge, skills and values of the profession.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. ADVANCE THE VALUES OF THE PROFESSION THROUGH LEADERSHIP, SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS (110, 120, SADAA);
2. ASSUME THE ROLES OF THE PROFESSIONAL DENTAL ASSISTANT (CLINICIAN, EDUCATOR, RESEARCHER, CHANGE AGENT, CONSUMER ADVOCATE, ADMINISTRATOR) AS DEFINED BY THE ADAA (110, 111, 113, 211, 115, 121, 227, 122, 120, 228, SADAA).

B. Professional Advancement (MC)

The dental assisting graduate must pursue new knowledge on a continual basis due to the changing health care environment.

THE GRADUATE MUST BE ABLE TO: (SC)

1. ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING (110, 111, 112, 113, 211, 121, 227, 120, SADAA);
2. UTILIZE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE IN ORDER TO MAKE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS THAT ADVANCE THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL ASSISTING (110, 111, 112, 113, 211, 121, 227, 122, 120, SADAA).
EVALUATION OF PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

To assure the incorporation of emerging information and achievement of appropriate sequencing and the attainment of student competence, the program has developed an evaluation mechanism that relates program domains, competencies and foundational knowledge to all dental studies courses. The following table lists the major domains and the related courses.

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- DAS 110: Preclinical Dental Assisting
- DEN 111: Radiology I
- DEN 112: Oral Anatomy and Physiology I
- DEN 113: Barrier Precautions and Infection Control Measures
- DEN 211: Dental Materials
- SADAA: Student American Dental Assisting Association

### Spring Semester

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- DAS 115: Orientation to Clinical Dental Assisting Clinical Practice
- DAS 120: Clinical Dental Assisting Practice
- DEN 121: Radiology II
- DAS 122: Advanced Biomedical Sciences for Dental Assisting Practice
- DAS 227: Dental Specialties Procedures
- DEN 228: Dental Office Management
- SADAA: Student American Dental Assisting Association

STUDENT EVALUATION OF PROGRAM COMPETENCIES AND COURSES

At the completion of each semester, every student is required to complete an evaluation of the specific courses in that semester. Refer to the Course Related Program Competency document and follow the directions to complete the evaluation that will assess the effectiveness of all courses as they support the program’s goals and competencies. Points will be deducted from the final grade if the evaluation is not completed.