Your Career Path to Becoming a CDT

Use this flowchart to develop your personal path to becoming a Certified Dental Technician (CDT). The National Board for Certification (NBC) is here to help you each step of the way. Contact the NBC at (800) 684-5310 or visit www.nbccert.org to learn more today!

START: Decide you want to become a dental technician.

Education
Graduate from an ADA-Accredited Program for Dental Laboratory Technology or complete the Department of Defense Laboratory Technician course.

Document at least two (2) years of training and/or experience after graduation.

Within one (1) year of graduation, pass the Recognized Graduate (RG) Exam. RG exam can substitute for Written Comprehensive exam.

From the date you earn your RG, you have four (4) years to pass the following exams:
- Written Speciality
- Practical

Pass the following exams:
- Written Comprehensive
- Written Speciality
- Practical Exam

From the date of passing the first exam, you have four (4) years to complete the remaining two exams.

Experience (go to page 2)
Graduate from a Non-ADA-Accredited Program for Dental Laboratory Technology.

Within one (1) year of graduation, pass the Recognized Graduate (RG) Exam. RG exam can substitute for Written Comprehensive exam.

Document at least three (3) years of training and/or experience in dental laboratory technology after graduation. After earning your RG, you have four (4) years to complete testing.

Pass the following exams:
- Written Specialty
- Practical

RG Continuing Education Requirements
In order to maintain your RG status, every year you must earn 6 hours of Continuing Education credits.
- 1 hour Regulatory Standards
- 5 hours of either Scientific or Professional Development

All technicians applying for the CDT examination must:
- Have a working knowledge of the English language.
- Be a high school graduate (or the documented equivalent).
- Be of satisfactory ethical and legal standing as defined by the NBC’s disciplinary standards.
- Meet the technical prerequisites required for testing.

Effective as of January 1, 2017
Once You’re a CDT

**Maintain Your CDT Designation**
In order to maintain your designation, every year you must earn 12 hours of Continuing Education credits.
- 1 hour Regulatory Standards
- 6 hours Scientific
- 5 hours Professional Development

**Become an Examiner:**
Apply with the NBC for this position after earning 10 years experience and at least 2 specialities.

** Become a Master CDT**
Earn the Master CDT status by passing the following exams in 5 out of the 6 specialty areas:
- Written Specialty Exam
- Practical Exam

**Apply with NBC for Technologist Designation**
- Must have proof of graduation from an ADA-Accredited dental technology program (including military).
  *In Addition, You must have one of the following:*
  - 5 years practical experience and an Associates degree
  - 3 years practical experience and a Bachelors degree
  - 7 years practical experience

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**Experience**
(from page 1)

Document at least five (5) years of training and/or experience in dental laboratory technology.
Includes formal apprenticeships and training courses.

Maintain Your CDT Designation
In order to maintain your designation, every year you must earn 12 hours of Continuing Education credits.
- 1 hour Regulatory Standards
- 6 hours Scientific
- 5 hours Professional Development

Once you’re a CDT

Pass the following exams:
- Written Comprehensive
- Written Speciality
- Practical Exam

BECOME A CDT!

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From the date of passing the first exam, you have four (4) years to complete the remaining two.

**Document at least five (5) years of training and/or experience in dental laboratory technology.**

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