



Certified Dental Technician (CDT) Certification

The Certified Dental Technician (CDT) certification, offered by the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology, represents a mark of professional excellence in dental laboratory technology. This credential demonstrates a dental technician's proficiency in the specialized knowledge and skills needed in dental prosthetics and laboratory operations.

Benefits of Becoming a CDT

Enhanced Credibility and Professional Recognition:

The CDT certification distinguishes technicians as highly skilled professionals who meet national standards in dental technology. It is a credential that validates expertise in one or more specialties, including crown and bridge, ceramics, complete dentures, partial dentures, orthodontics and now digital workflow.

Certified Dental Technicians gain recognition as experts in their field, often respected by both peers and employers for their commitment to quality and professionalism.

Increased Job Opportunities and Marketability:

Some employers in commercial dental labs, in-house labs, and educational institutions prefer or require CDT-certified candidates, which can increase job prospects. CDT certification can make dental technicians more competitive in the job market, setting them apart from non-certified candidates.

Higher Earning Potential:

CDTs often have access to higher-paying roles within dental laboratories, as the certification reflects a commitment to quality and advanced skills. Certification can also position technicians for promotions or salary increases within their current organizations.

Professional Development and Continuous Learning:

CDT certification requires ongoing education to maintain the credential, encouraging CDTs to stay up-to-date on the latest technologies, materials, and industry best practices. This continuous learning often leads to broader knowledge and expertise, which can be leveraged for advancement or specialization within the field.

Career Advancement Opportunities for CDTs:



National Association of Dental Laboratories

Specialization and Leadership Roles:

Certified Dental Technicians have opportunities to specialize in various fields, such as ceramics, implants, or CAD/CAM technology. This specialization can lead to roles such as Lead Technician or Department Supervisor within larger dental laboratories. CDTs are often considered for senior roles where they supervise other technicians, oversee quality control, and ensure compliance with industry standards.

Educational and Teaching Positions:

Some CDTs choose to transition into education, teaching dental technology students or training new technicians in labs. Certification is highly valued in educational roles, where it provides credibility and authority. Educational positions can include roles in dental technology schools, dental colleges, and continuing education programs offered by dental associations or product manufacturers.

Roles in Research and Development:

With a growing focus on new materials and digital technologies, CDTs are well-positioned to work in research and development for dental product companies. These roles allow CDTs to contribute to innovations in the field, working alongside scientists and engineers to test and refine new dental materials, equipment, and software.

Technical Sales and Support:

CDTs with strong communication skills may pursue roles in technical sales or support, providing product demonstrations, training, and customer support for dental labs adopting new technologies or materials. These roles are common in companies specializing in CAD/CAM systems, dental materials, and 3D printing equipment, where CDT expertise is essential for educating and supporting clients.

Starting a Private Dental Laboratory:

Certification can provide a strong foundation for technicians interested in launching their own dental laboratories. Being a CDT offers credibility and may help attract clients who seek quality, certified work.

Ultimately, achieving CDT certification is an investment in a dental technician's career that can lead to enhanced job opportunities, increased earning potential, and various pathways for career advancement. This certification signals a dedication to quality, precision, and professionalism, positioning certified technicians as leaders in the field. Learn more about becoming a CDT at <https://nbccert.org/become-a-cdt>