

HB2996- Make the ethical choice for the good of the public. Keep the exam requirement.

Whether taking an x-ray image of a *tooth or a toe* dental offices are *no different than medical* offices; **Public Health** demands that there must be a standard maintained for the continued safe use of x-ray generating equipment.

Solution & Opportunity: Adding a dental radiology module to High School Health Careers classes would actively prepare students to enter the dental workforce with a technical health certification (after examination) ready to begin a job dental assisting. Offices should be able to offer advancement for their staff by supporting the cost of certification as an incentive and benefit.

This certification is **NOT a barrier** for an untrained person to apply for an opportunity to be trained on the job as a dental assistant in the state of Oregon, per Oregon Board of Dentistry Chapter 818 Division 42. [Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules](#). This exam allows a dental assistant to take dental x-rays. The assistant can still perform tasks listed under their scope.

Eliminating the examination requirement for radiologic proficiency leads to two important outcomes amongst others:

1. **Inconsistent and unregulated training** of dental assistants with potential for decreased quality of training **can lead to dangerous situations** for patients and staff alike.
2. **Removing certification requirements removes an opportunity to advance in the career of dental assisting.** Already a career with limited upward mobility, gaining a radiology proficiency allows for advancement.

(The average age of a dental assistant is 37! Dental assisting is a career!)

<https://www.zippia.com/dental-assistant-jobs/demographics/>

So, *WHAT IS learned in a dental radiology class?*

First “Dental radiography requires sophisticated equipment to produce an X-ray image, while the principles of physics AND geometry are used to acquire accurate images with minimal distortion” The Art of Dental Radiography - Dimensions of Dental Hygiene | Magazine Objectives for classes usually include things such as the following:

- Characteristics and qualities of the X-ray tube and the beam (how the machine works and why the tube length matters)
- Production and properties of X-rays (how they are produced)
- Safe adjustment of the Milliampere-seconds and Kilovoltage Peak for x-ray production.
- Radiation biology and protection (safety for you and your patient, Health history concerns of the patient that impact x-ray protocol)
- Appropriate selection of the different radiographic types and techniques
- Proper X-ray sensor placement within the oral cavity
- Placing and exposing dental images on manikins
- Characteristics and evaluation of all dental radiographs including panoramic radiographs. Identifying anatomical landmarks for accurate imaging.
- Quality assurance, recognizing and correcting errors for both film and digital images.
- Infection control during radiographic procedures

- Legal and ethical issues in radiography.