

Dentistry

Individuals working in the field of dentistry focus on the prevention and treatment of mouth, gum, and tooth disease. This includes providing education about good oral health.

Careers within this section include:

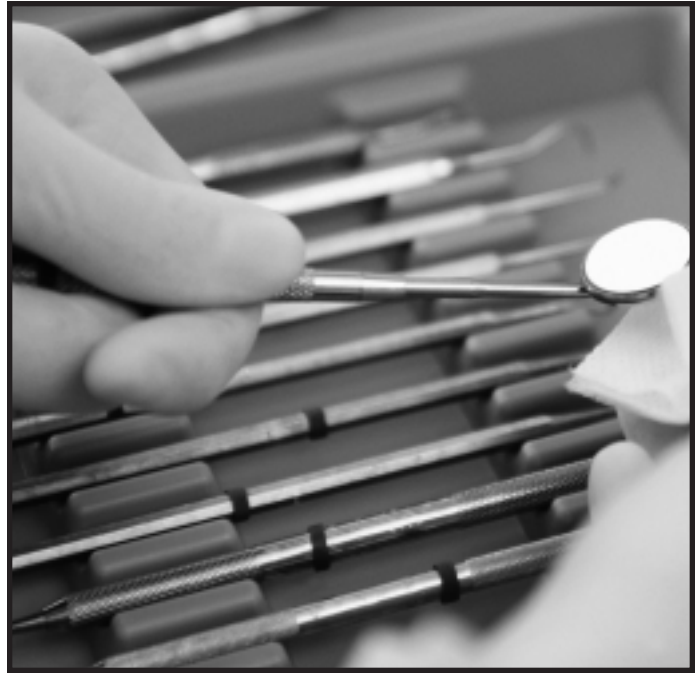
- **Dental Assistant**
- **Dental Hygienist**
- **Dental Laboratory Technician**
- **Dentist**

Dental Assistant



To be a successful Dental Assistant you should

- **Be cheerful; you're the patient's first impression of his or her visit to the dentist**
- **Have compassion and understanding for people with fears about dental appointments**
- **Be patient, calm, and flexible**
- **Be able to anticipate the dentist's needs**
- **Be able to sit still and remain alert for several hours through longer procedures**



What would I do?

Dental Assistants help dentists and dental hygienists provide care for patients. The duties of a dental assistant include greeting patients, taking and developing patient X-rays, taking patients' medical histories, sterilizing instruments, providing dentists with proper instruments, providing intra-oral care as allowed by state law, providing patient education, providing post treatment instructions, and helping in other day-to-day management of the dental office.

Some dental assistants process dental X-ray film and prepare materials for making impressions and restoration. They may also remove sutures, apply anesthetics to gums, or apply materials that prevent cavities.

Where would I work?

Dental Assistants may work in private dental offices, group offices, hospitals, community health agencies, or dental and dental hygienist schools.

What would I earn?

\$20,883–\$33,654

What do I need to know?

Many community colleges offer an accredited program, which takes nine to twelve months to complete.

What schools can I attend?

New Hampshire Technical Institute
31 College Drive
Concord, NH 03301-7412
(603) 271-6484
www.nhti.edu

Please contact your guidance office or career counselor for more information.

Where can I find more information?

American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Medical Technologists
710 Higgins Road
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(847) 823-5169
(800) 275-1268
www.amt1.com

Dental Assisting National Board
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1880
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 642-3368
(800) 367-3262
www.danb.org

National Association of Dental Assistants
900 South Washington Street, Suite G-13
Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 237-8616



Dental Hygienist



To be a successful Dental Hygienist you should

- **Enjoy working with people of all ages**
- **Be patient, flexible, and calm in stressful situations**
- **Be articulate and organized**
- **Work well as part of a team**
- **Be willing to follow strict safety and health guidelines**

What would I do?

Dental Hygienists examine patients' teeth and gums to evaluate their oral health. Working closely with Dentists, a Dental Hygienist's duties include taking, developing, and interpreting dental X-rays. They also remove tooth deposits, apply preventative materials to teeth (e.g. fluoride and sealants), update patient charts, and teach patients proper oral hygiene. Responsibilities can also include reviewing client medical/dental histories, performing soft tissue exams and oral cancer screenings, assessment of periodontal health, and providing nutritional counseling to ensure optimal oral health.

Where would I work?

Most Dental Hygienists work with dentists in private practice. Other may work in community health centers, hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, or nursing homes. Dental Hygienists may also be involved with education, public health, research, and sales and marketing.

What would I earn?

\$49,254–\$65,561

What do I need to know?

Most Dental Hygienists complete a two-year program and receive a certificate or an associate's degree. Some hygienists obtain a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene or a master's degree in public health. The latter two degrees are required for teaching or research careers. To be licensed, each state requires a hygienist to complete an accredited program and pass both a written and clinical exam.

What schools can I attend?

New Hampshire Technical Institute
31 College Drive
Concord, NH 03301-7412
(603) 271-6484
www.nhti.edu

Please contact your guidance office or career counselor for more information.

Where can I find more information?

American Dental Association
Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Dental Hygienists' Association
444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-8900
(800) 243-2342
www.adha.org

New Hampshire Dental Hygienists' Association
www.members.tripod.com/nhdentalhygiene

Dental Laboratory Technician



To be a successful Dental Laboratory Technician you should

- **Have manual dexterity and mechanical aptitude**
- **Be artistically inclined and like to do things with your hands**
- **Be patient**
- **Be able to sit in one place for long hours**
- **Take orders well and understand instruction**



What would I do?

Dental Laboratory Technicians make and repair dental appliances such as dentures, crowns, bridges, and braces. Using materials such as gold, silver, stainless steel, porcelain, and plastic, technicians fill dentists' prescriptions for dental appliances. They may specialize in orthodontic appliances, crowns and bridges, partial and complete dentures, or ceramics.

Where would I work?

Most Dental Laboratory Technicians work in commercial laboratories, which are usually small, employing fewer than five technicians. However, there are some large laboratories which may employ more than 50 technicians. Also, some technicians may work in dentists' offices, hospitals, the military, or their own homes.

What would I earn?

\$25,000–\$50,000

What do I need to know?

Prior to taking the national exam to become certified, Dental Laboratory Technicians attend a two-year program at a community or technical college to receive a certificate or an associate's degree. Dental Laboratory Technicians may also become certified by completing a five-year apprenticeship program prior to passing the national exam.

What schools can I attend?

At the current time there are no academic institutions in New Hampshire offering a program for Dental Laboratory Technicians. In the past, New Hampshire students have attended out-of-state schools such as Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA.

Please contact your guidance office or career counselor for more information.

Where can I find more information?

American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

National Association of Dental Laboratories
1530 Metropolitan Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 205-5626
(800) 950-1150
www.nadl.org

National Board for Certification in
Dental Laboratory Technology
1530 Metropolitan Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 205-5626
(800) 950-1150
www.nadl.org/html/certification.html



Dentist



To be a successful Dentist you should

- **Enjoy working with people**
- **Have excellent communication and people skills**
- **Be able to work independently**
- **Be detail oriented**
- **Have excellent visual perception and steady hands**
- **Be able to perform under pressure**

What would I do?

Dentists evaluate the oral health of their patients, integrating oral health care with total health care. Dentists have earned either the degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). They replace missing teeth and diagnose and treat tooth decay and periodontal disease. They help prevent dental disease, malocclusions, and oral-facial anomalies. Dentists also provide early detection of oral cancer and systemic conditions of the body that often first manifest themselves in the mouth.

Although 80% of dentists are general practitioners, others practice in one of nine areas of specialization: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral pathology, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and public health dentistry. The field of dentistry has evolved to encompass treatment of jaw and joint problems, snoring, nutritional counseling, forensic victim identification, and lip and skin problems.

Where would I work?

Most dentists work in private practice or with a dental group. Some dentists work in hospitals, teaching institutions, research facilities, uniformed services, or in federal, state, and local departments of health.

What would I earn?

\$41,200–\$115,200

What do I need to know?

Most dental school students have a bachelor's degree, although dental school may consider applicants with less than four years of undergraduate course work if they have high grade-point averages. The dental school curriculum is four years in length, preparing individuals for entry into practice. Some dental graduates immediately pursue advanced general dentistry or specialty education, ranging from one to five additional years. To be licensed, Dentists must graduate from an accredited dental school and pass a national written exam and a state or regional practical exam.

What schools can I attend?

At the current time there are no dental schools in New Hampshire. For a listing of dental schools nationwide, please contact the American Dental Education Association (see next page). For undergraduate preparation, the following schools offer pre dental advising and specific courses required for admission to dental schools:

Dartmouth College
6016 McNutt Hall
Hanover, NH 03755
(603) 646-1110
www.dartmouth.edu

University of New Hampshire
4 Garrison Avenue
Durham, NH 03824
(603) 862-1360
www.unh.edu

Please contact your guidance office or career counselor for more information.

Where can I find more information?

American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Dental Education Association
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-2212
(202) 667-9433
www.adea.org

Commission on Dental Accreditation
American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 1814
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

National Dental Association
3517 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(202) 588-1697
www.ndaonline.org