

Dental Hygienist



What do they do?

Dental Hygienists clean and polish teeth, examine patients for oral disease and take x-ray images of the mouth and jaw. They work closely with both dentists and dental assistants.

A dental hygienist will work with patients every day. They also teach patients how to care for their teeth and gums.

Where do they work?

Almost all Dental Hygienists work in a dentist's office. More than half of all dental hygienists work part time.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Dental Hygienists is \$70,210.



Education:

Anyone wanting to work as a Dental Hygienist must complete an accredited two-year Associate's degree program.

Dental Hygienist training in Madison:

Madison College: www.madisoncollege.edu

High School students interested in becoming a Dental Hygienist should take classes in biology, chemistry and math.

If a Dental Hygienist was interested in continuing their education and going into research or teaching, they could complete a Bachelor's or Master's degree.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Dental Hygienists are accredited by the American Dental Association. Learn more about

www.naacls.org



Professional Associations:

Dental Hygienists can join both a national and state association:

American Dental Hygienists Association:

www.adha.org



Wisconsin Dental Hygienists Association:

www.wi-dha.com

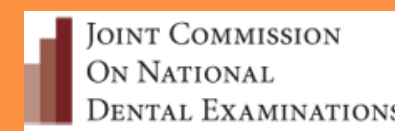


License:

After completing their education, graduates of a Dental Hygiene program must pass three areas of testing.

The national level exam is taken through the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. National Board Dental Hygiene Examination:

www.ada.org



Regional Dental Hygiene Exam:

At the regional level, the Central Regional Dental Testing Services also administers a dental hygiene exam.

www.crdts.org



At the state level, Dental Hygienists must also become licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Wisconsin Dental Hygiene Examination:

www.dsps.wi.gov/HOME



Potential for Advancement:

With additional education or work experience, a Dental Hygienist could go into:

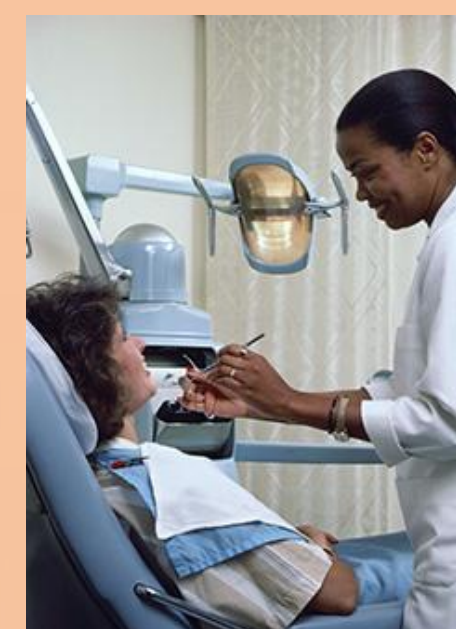
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| Dental Hygiene Instructor | Public Health Hygiene |
| Dental Laboratory Technician | Public School Hygienist |
| Dental Sales Representative | Dental Hygiene Administrator |

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Dental Hygienists is expected to grow 33 percent between 2012-2020, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Dental Hygienists:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>



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