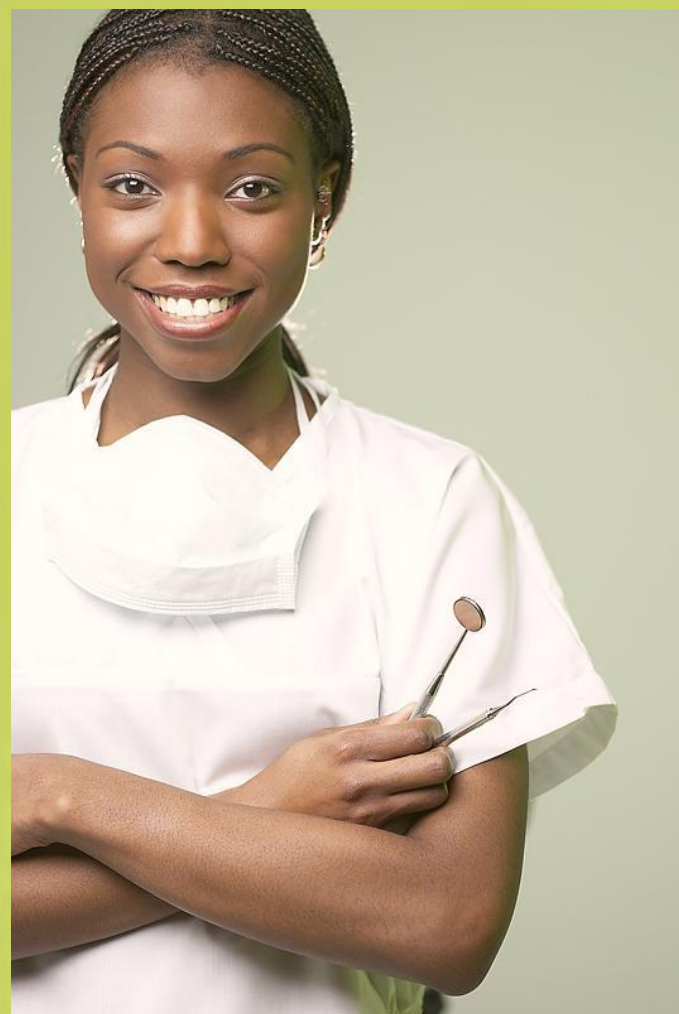


Dental Hygienist



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 works 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 \$74,820.



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 Area Technical College: www.madisoncollege.edu

High School students interested in becoming a Dental Hygienist should take classes in biology, chemistry and math. Dental Hygienists interested in continuing their education and going into research or teaching, 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 the ADA here:

www.naacls.org

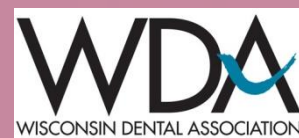


Professional Associations:

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.

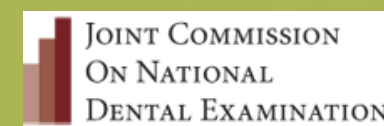
The national level exam is taken through the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. National Board Dental Hygiene Examination:

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:

Dental Hygiene Instructor
Dental Laboratory Technician
Dental Sales Representative

Public Health Hygiene
Public School Hygienist
Dental Hygiene Administrator

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Dental Hygienists is expected to grow 20 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, Dental Hygienists, www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm

