

What is a Dentist? A dentist is an accredited medical professional who specializes in the care of teeth, gums, and mouths. As with most medical professions, a keen eye for detail, comprehensive medical understanding, manual dexterity, and strong interpersonal skills are important. Dentists deal with procedures that involve actual manipulation of the teeth or gums. Dentists have also evolved to provide some cosmetic care. Problems dealing with the jaw or any invasive oral procedure are usually undertaken by an oral surgeon, and dental hygienists and dental assistants do much of the routine dental cleanings, maintenance, and X-rays. A significant part of a dentist's job involves educating patients about ways to preserve a healthy mouth, and the best dentists are skillful communicators.

What is a Dental Hygienist? Dental hygienists are licensed oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases-both to protect teeth and gums, and also to protect patients' total health. They are graduates of accredited dental hygiene education programs in colleges and universities, and must take a written national board examination and a clinical examination before they are licensed to practice. In addition to treating patients directly, dental hygienists may also work as educators, researchers, and administrators.

What is a Dental Assistant? A dental assistant is just as the name sounds. Their prime responsibility is to be of aid to the dentist, performing office and laboratory duties and assisting the dentist with patient care. Those looking to become a dental assistant should enjoy performing a wide variety of tasks. Most Dental Assistants receive training from dental-assisting programs offered by community and junior colleges, trade schools, technical institutes, or the Armed Forces. After completion of a training program, students can pursue certification, which includes a written exam.

What is a Dental Laboratory Technician? Dental laboratory technicians make and repair orthodontic devices such as dentures, bridges, crowns, and braces. They use precision instruments and equipment such as small hand drills, in an effort to create practical and esthetically pleasing dental replacements. Using their artistic ability, dental laboratory technicians create these devices using materials such as gold, silver, porcelain, plastics, and stainless steel. They seldom interact with patients, but instead work closely with, and under the direction of, a licensed dentist. They must be able to follow detailed written instructions so that the final product will enable the patient to regain normal function.

Contact information

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MONTANA AHEC

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Pathways to Oral Health Careers for Montana



*Connecting students to careers, professionals
to communities & communities to better health.*



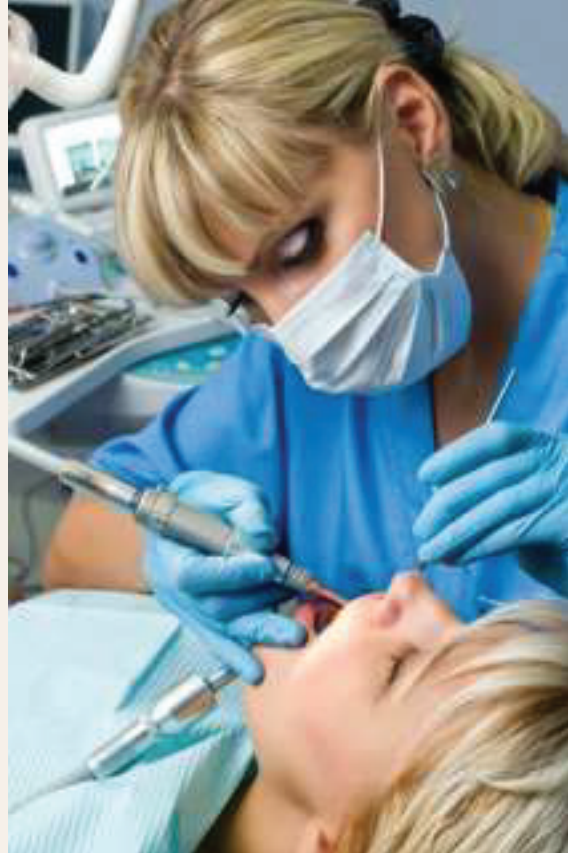
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A career in the oral health industry can be rewarding, challenging and exciting! The abundance of programs and lack of dentists, dental hygienist, dental assistants, and dental laboratory technicians make for a very stable career with an excellent outlook. This brochure is designed to educate students, teachers, counselors, and parents about the different oral health program options in the Midwest and western states. If you are interested in an oral health career, you should begin laying the proper groundwork at the high school level. Math and science courses are highly encouraged to get you on the right oral health care track. If you would like more information about your oral health options, go to: www.HealthCAREMontana.org, www.ExploreHealthCareers.org, www.MedicalHelpNet.com.

The WICHE & Minnesota Dental Programs

Although Montana may have a relatively limited selection of oral health programs available, Montana students' choices are far from limited! Through the WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) program, several out-of-state colleges offer in-state tuition for Montana residents that are interested in particular fields of study. These fields include dentistry, allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, veterinary medicine, optometry, occupational therapy, and podiatry. One student from the state of Montana is accepted into the dental portion of the WICHE program each year. The Minnesota Dental Program is another program that offers in-state tuition to Montana residents. This program accepts 2 pre-dental students a year. In order to qualify for these programs you must be a Montana resident and certified through the Montana University System by October 15th, the year before you will enroll in college. **For certification and more information about WICHE and the Minnesota Dental Program, see <http://mus.edu/psep>**





DENTIST

Salary Range: \$73,840 - \$187,200
Hourly Range: \$35.50 - \$90.00
Required Training: 6-8 years

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Salary Range: \$46,540 - \$96,280
Hourly Range: \$22.38 - \$46.29
Required Training: 2-4 years

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Salary Range: \$23,550 - \$47,580
Hourly Range: \$11.32 - \$22.88
Required Training: up to 1 year

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Salary Range: \$20,160 - \$55,270
Hourly Range: \$9.69 - \$26.57
Required Training: 2-4 years

West / Midwest Dental Region Pathways - Program Information

Program Information Abbreviation Key

DENTIST:.....DDS/DMD
 DENTAL HYGIENIST:.....DH
 DENTAL ASSISTANT:.....DA
 DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN:.....DLT

STATE & SCHOOL	DDS/ DMD	DH	DA	DLT
ARIZONA				
A.T. Still University	●			
Carrington College - Mesa		●	●	
Carrington College - Phoenix			●	
Carrington College - Tucson			●	
Mesa Community College		●		
Midwestern University- Arizona	●			
Mohave Community College		●	●	
Northern Arizona University		●		
Phoenix College		●	●	
Pima County Community College		●	●	●
Rio Salado College		●	●	
COLORADO				
Colorado Northwestern Community College		●		
Community College of Denver		●		
Front Range Community College			●	
IntelliTec Medical Institute			●	
Pickens Technical College			●	
Pikes Peak Community College			●	
Pueblo Community College		●	●	
University of Colorado	●			
IDAHO				
Carrington College - Boise		●	●	
College of Southern Idaho		●	●	
College of Western Idaho			●	
Idaho State University Health Sciences		●	●	
IOWA				
Carl Sanberg Community College				
Des Moines Area Community College		●	●	
Hawkeye Community College		●	●	
Iowa Central Community College		●		
Iowa Western Community College		●	●	
Kirkwood Community College		●	●	●
Marshalltown Community College			●	
Northeast Iowa Community College			●	
Scott Community College			●	
University of Iowa				
Vatterott College -Des Moines Campus	●		●	
Western Iowa Tech Community College			●	

STATE & SCHOOL	DDS/ DMD	DH	DA	DLT
MINNESOTA				
Argosy University		●		
Central Lakes College			●	
Century College		●	●	
Dakota County Technical College			●	
Hennepin Technical College			●	
Herzing University		●	●	
Hibbing Community College			●	
Lake Superior College		●		
Minneapolis Community & Technical College			●	
Minnesota State Comm and Tech College- Moorhead		●	●	
Minnesota State University -Mankato		●		
Minnesota West Community and Technical College			●	
Normandale Community College		●		
Northwest Technical College			●	
Rochester Community & Technical College		●	●	
South Central Technical College			●	
St. Cloud Technical and Community College		●	●	
University of Minnesota	●	●		
MONTANA				
Montana State University -Great Falls		●	●	
Salish Kootenai College			●	
NEBRASKA				
Central Community College		●	●	
Creighton University	●	●		
Kaplan University- Omaha			●	
Metropolitan Community College			●	
Mid-Plains Community College			●	
Southeast Community College			●	
University of Nebraska College of Dentistry	●	●		
NEW MEXICO				
Carrington College - Albuquerque			●	
Dona Ana Branch Community College		●	●	
Pima Medical Institute		●	●	
San Juan College		●		
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center		●		
NORTH DAKOTA				
North Dakota State College of Science - Wahpeton		●	●	



STATE & SCHOOL	DDS/ DMD	DH	DA	DLT
OREGON				
Blue Mountain Community College			●	
Central Oregon Community College			●	
Chemeketa Community College		●	●	
Concorde Career College			●	
Lane Community College		●	●	
Linn-Benton Community College			●	
Mt Hood Community College		●		
Oregon Health and Science University	●			
Oregon Institute of Technology		●		
Pacific University		●		
Portland Community College		●	●	●
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Lake Area Technical Institute			●	
University of South Dakota		●		
UTAH				
Bridgerland Applied Technology College			●	
Davis Applied Technology College			●	
Dixie State University		●		
Fortis College - Salt Lake City		●	●	
Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College			●	
Provo College			●	
Salt Lake Community College		●		
Utah College of Dental Hygiene		●		
Utah Valley University		●		
Weber State University		●		
WASHINGTON				
Bates Technical College			●	●
Bellingham Technical College		●	●	
Carrington College - Spokane			●	
Clark College		●		
Clover Park Technical College			●	
Columbia Basin College		●		
Eastern Washington University		●		
Lake Washington Institute of Technology		●	●	
Pierce College		●		
Renton Technical College			●	
Seattle Central Community College		●		
Seattle Vocational Institute			●	
Shoreline Community College		●		
South Puget Sound Community College			●	
Spokane Community College			●	
University of Washington School of Dentistry	●			
Yakima Valley Community College		●	●	
WYOMING				
Laramie County Community College		●		
Sheridan College		●		