



THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A
BETTER TIME TO CONSIDER
A CAREER IN THE

DENTAL PROFESSION



LEARN ABOUT PURSUING A CAREER IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS AT EXPLOREHEALTHCAREERS.ORG

Find out about degree requirements, industry salaries and financing a health profession education for careers that include dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians. Go to ExploreHealthCareers.org for:

Searchable databases

- Discover more than 250 U.S. summer and academic year enrichment programs.
- Find money to pay for a health science degree through more than 200 scholarships, loans and fellowships exclusively for students pursuing careers in the health professions.
- Sort career options by salary and years of required education.

Advice on how to prepare to become a health professional

- Information on the dos and don'ts when applying to college.
- Guidance to help students assess their skills and interests.
- Suggestions for making the most of a shadowing experience.

Timely resources on health policy issues

- Diversity in the health professions.
- Humanism in health care.

How-to articles

- Finance a health science education.
- Manage a career change.
- Prepare for a health career in high school.
- Minimize college debt.

WWW.EXPLOREHEALTHCAREERS.ORG



INSPIRE, INFORM, GUIDE—ADEA GoDENTAL

ADEA GoDental is an initiative of the American Dental Education Association that provides students interested in pursuing careers in dentistry and dental hygiene with the information and guidance they need to apply to programs, matriculate and eventually fulfill their career goals. ADEA GoDental aspires to meet the evolving oral health needs of a diverse society. The website is a joint initiative involving ADEA, health professions advisors, dental schools and their administrators, current students and practitioners.



WWW.GODENTAL.ORG

ADEA GoDental will...

- Inspire students with blog posts by current students, dentists, admissions officers and other key mentors about their personal experiences in dentistry and dental hygiene.
- Inform students about the practice options and specialties available in dentistry and dental hygiene.
- Guide students through the application process by offering resources to help them best prepare to apply and complete their applications, both academically and financially.



DENTISTRY DEFINED

The dental profession is the branch of health care devoted to maintaining the health of the teeth, gums and other tissues in and around the mouth. Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians make up the dental team and work together to improve patient lives by bettering their oral and general health.

What is a Dentist?

A dentist is a doctor, scientist and clinician dedicated to the highest standards of health through prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases and conditions.

What does a Dentist do?

- Evaluates the overall health of their patients while advising them about oral health and disease prevention.
- Performs clinical procedures, such as exams, fillings, crowns, implants, extractions and corrective surgeries.
- Identifies, diagnoses and treats oral conditions.
- Performs general dentistry or practices in one of nine dental specialties.

What is a Dental Hygienist?

A dental hygienist is a preventative oral health professional who assesses oral tissues and overall patient's health by determining the presence or absence of disease.

What does a Dental Hygienist do?

- Educates patients regarding oral hygiene and preventive oral and general health care.
- Removes plaque deposits and stains from teeth and applies cavity-preventive agents, such as fluoride.

- Provides clinical and laboratory diagnostic tests, such as X-rays, for other health professionals to interpret.

What is a Dental Assistant?

A dental assistant is supervised by a dentist and performs many supportive and skilled tasks, from patient care to administrative duties to laboratory functions.

What does a Dental Assistant do?

- Assists the dentist during dental procedures, such as diagnostic, operative and preventive procedures.
- Performs office duties, such as scheduling appointments, keeping treatment records and supplies.
- Maintains a sterile environment for infection control.

What is a Dental Laboratory Technician?

A dental laboratory technician manufactures corrective devices and replacements for natural teeth.

What does a Dental Laboratory Technician do?

- Uses impressions taken and prescribed by a dentist to create full or partial dentures, crowns and bridges.
- Works with a variety of materials to create tooth replacements that are both attractive and functional.

	Dentist	Dental Hygienist	Dental Assistant	Dental Laboratory Technician
Education	A dental degree is awarded as either the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.). It is awarded to students who complete a three- or four-year program at an accredited dental school after receiving a bachelor's degree.	Most dental hygiene programs take at least two years at the college level to complete an associate degree. Additional education is available for hygienists who would like to receive a bachelor's or master's degree.	Accredited dental assisting programs are a minimum of one academic year at community and technical colleges. College-level education is encouraged, yet careers can begin with on-the-job training in laboratories or dental offices.	While there are some DLT education programs in community and technical colleges, careers can begin without college-level courses through on-the-job training in laboratories or dental offices. College level education is encouraged.
Years in School (beyond HS)	7 or 8 years	2 - 6 years	1 - 2 years	0 - 2 years

Dental School Finances

The cost for a dental degree (D.D.S./D.M.D) depends on many factors, but the bottom line is that while dental school is expensive, it is a great investment. Many students depend on a variety of financing options, such as loans, scholarships and loan-forgiveness programs. The return on investment is rewarding as dentists rank among the top wage earners in the nation.

Allied Dental Education Finances

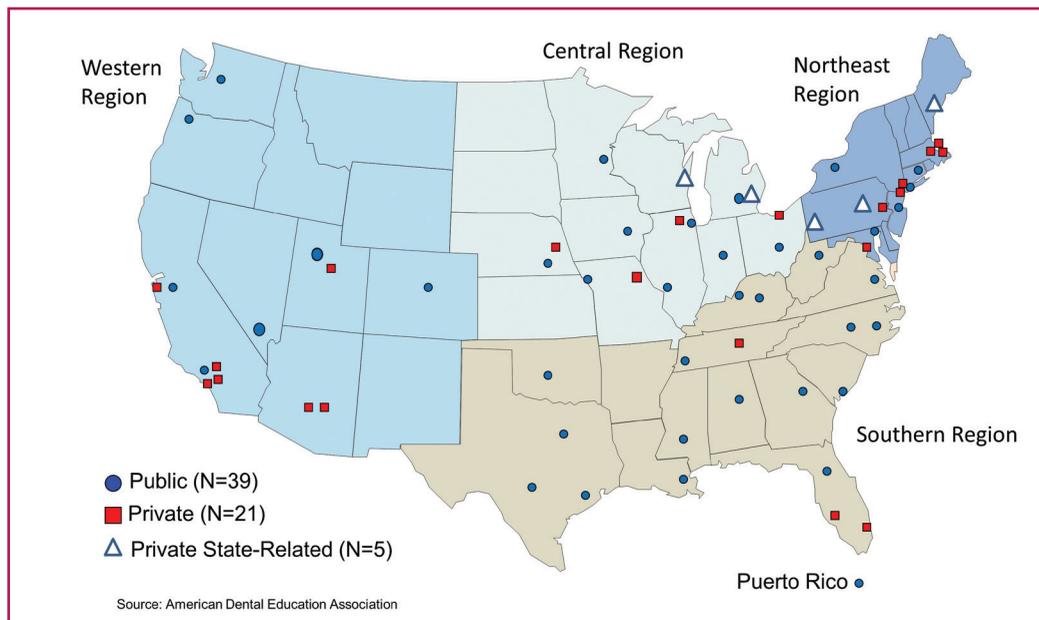
College tuition costs depend on the level and type of program. Average salary will

depend on a professional's schedule, skills and responsibilities associated with a specific position and geographical location of employment. For specific information, please visit www.explorehealthcareers.org

Work Environment

Professionals in dental careers have flexibility in determining the number of hours per week they choose to work. There are a variety of work environments available, such as independent offices, corporate practices, academic centers, the military and more.

DENTAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES



Alabama	Maine	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
California	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Colorado	Michigan	Puerto Rico
Connecticut	Minnesota	South Carolina
District of Columbia	Mississippi	Tennessee
Florida	Missouri	Texas
Georgia	Nebraska	Utah
Illinois	Nevada	Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Washington
Iowa	New York	West Virginia
Kentucky	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Louisiana	Ohio	

There are more than 60 dental schools in 38 states. Learn more about all the U.S. dental schools at www.adeaaadsas.org or purchase the most recent edition of the *ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools* at www.adea.org/officialguide/

To learn more about allied dental education programs, please visit www.adeadhas.org



The American Dental Education Association is The Voice of Dental Education. Its members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools and many allied and advanced dental education programs, corporations, faculty, students, residents and fellows. ADEA's mission is to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the improvement of health of the public. ADEA's activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty development, meetings and communications, such as the esteemed *Journal of Dental Education*, as well as its four application services:

ADEA AADSAS

(Associated American Dental Schools Application Service)
www.adeaaadsas.org

ADEA PASS

(Postdoctoral Application Support Service)
www.adeapass.org

ADEA DHCAS

(Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service)
www.adeadhcas.org

ADEA CAAPID

(Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists)
www.adeacaapid.org