

## Health Science Cluster



*Planning, managing and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development.*

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# Dental Assistants

The dentist has just sutured (stitched up) a patient's gums and wants you to clean the area with a handheld suction device and a water-spray. Next you're off to remove sutures from a patient in another room. After that, you'll sterilize dental instruments for still another procedure.

If you are interested in a career where you prepare patients for treatment and make sure they're comfortable throughout a procedure, a career as a **dental assistant** may be for you.

**Dental assistants work side by side with dentists to perform a wide range of patient care, office, and laboratory duties. Responsibilities range from preparing trays of instruments to making temporary crowns.**

### Are You Ready To...?

- Work *chairside* with a dentist as a third hand and sometimes a second set of eyes
- Protect yourself from patients' infectious diseases by wearing gloves, masks, and special clothing
- Perform office work
- Chat with patients
- Take x-rays
- Make casts of teeth

### It Helps To Be...

Reliable, able to work well with others, and quick and agile with your hands.

### A Day In The Life...

- Prepare patient, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, or assist dentist during dental procedures.
- Record treatment information in patient records.
- Expose dental diagnostic x-rays.
- Pour, trim, and polish study casts.

### Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

**Median Hourly Wage: \$20.36**

*That comes out to more than  
**\$42,344** a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
1,492 Dental Assistants.  
By 2026, we'll need 1,781.**

*Could you be one of the 289?*

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# Dental Assistants

## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for dental assistants who have completed an **accredited dental-assisting program**.



## Top Industries for Dental Assistants

1. Offices of Dentists
2. Offices of Physicians

## Related Majors

- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Medical Assisting
- Pre-dentistry

## Related Industry Certifications

- Advanced Orthodontics
- Basic Dental Radiography
- Diabetes and Periodontal Health
- Gingival Health
- Home Irrigation Therapy
- Tooth Whitening
- Certified Dental Assistant
- Certified Dental Technician

## Related Careers

- Dental Hygienists
- Dental Laboratory Technicians
- Dentists
- Medical Assistants
- Pharmacy Technicians
- Physical Therapist Assistants

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

[http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/  
CareerPlanning.aspx](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx).

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