

# Dental Hygienists



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

**Data Sources**  
Bureau of Labor  
Statistics  
CareerInfoNet  
CareerClusters  
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Board  
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You're probably aware that going to the dentist isn't most people's idea of a pleasant experience, but as a dental hygienist, you can help patients enjoy and even avoid a trip to the dentist. Dental hygienists are responsible for helping patients keep their teeth and gums clean and disease free. The more thorough and effective the hygienist, the more likely it is the patient can steer clear of unpleasant dental procedures.

If you are meticulous and a people person, a career as a **dental hygienist** may be for you.

**Dental hygienists focus on preventive dental care. They remove deposits from teeth, apply fluoride, take x-rays, examine patients' teeth and gums, and check for mouth diseases.**

## Are You Ready To...?

- Use a variety of tools to clean and examine teeth
- Record your observations
- Educate patients about dental care
- Wear safety glasses, gloves, masks, and special clothing to protect yourself and patients from disease
- Probably work part-time or at more than one dental office
- Take both written and hands-on, practical exams to earn your state license

## It Helps To Be...

Good with your hands and able to put people at ease.

## A Day In The Life...

- Clean calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments.
- Record and review patient medical histories.
- Examine gums, using probes, to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease.
- Feel and visually examine gums for sores and signs of disease.

## Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

**Median Hourly Wage: \$39.80**

*That comes out to more than  
\$82,780 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
865 Dental Hygienists.  
By 2026, we'll need 1,025.**

*Could you be one of the 160?*

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## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for dental hygienists who have an associate's degree in **dental hygiene**.



## Top Industries for Dental Hygienists

1. Offices of Dentists
2. Offices of Physicians
3. Employment Services

## Related Majors

- Dental Hygiene
- Nursing (RN)
- Nutrition Sciences
- Physician Assistance
- Pre dentistry

## Related Industry Certifications

- Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training: Preventing Disease Transmission
- Certified Dental Technician
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Associate Fellow
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support

## Related Careers

- Clinical Laboratory Technologists
- Dental Laboratory Technicians
- Dentists
- Health Educators
- Physical Therapist Assistants
- Dental Assistants
- Physician 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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