

# Dentists



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

**Data Sources**  
Bureau of Labor  
Statistics  
CareerInfoNet  
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The College  
Board  
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Dentists search for the culprits behind pain and disease. They remove tooth decay, fill cavities, repair fractured teeth and perform surgeries.

Like other health care professionals, dentists also work to prevent disease. They inspire their patients to do so as well, encouraging healthy diets and good oral hygiene.

If you are interested in a career where you clean and repair patients' pearly whites, a career as a **dentist** may be for you.

**Dentists prevent, diagnose, and treat health problems of the mouth. Most dentists are general practitioners, but some specialize in areas such as orthodontics (straightening teeth with braces) and endodontics (providing root canal treatment).**

## Are You Ready To...?

- Operate equipment including x-ray machines, drills, and scalpels
- Find and fill cavities
- Educate patients on dental care
- Wear masks, gloves, and safety glasses to protect against diseases
- Supervise a staff of technicians and assistants
- Oversee business and office tasks

## It Helps To Be...

Confident, quick, and steady with your hands. You should also be people oriented -- you'll need to communicate your skills and trustworthiness to patients. Good business skills are also important.

## A Day In The Life...

- Examine teeth, gums and related tissues, using dental instruments, x-rays and other diagnostic equipment, to evaluate dental health, diagnose diseases or abnormalities and plan appropriate treatments
- Formulate plan of treatment for patient's teeth and mouth tissue

## Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

**Median Hourly Wage: \$95.78**

*That comes out to more than  
\$199,217 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
634 Dentists.  
By 2026, we'll need 765.**

*Could you be one of the 131?*

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## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for dental assistants who have completed a **bachelor's degree and four years of dental school.**



## Top Industries for Dental Assistants

1. Offices of Dentists
2. Offices of Physicians

## Related Majors

- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Molecular Biology

## Related Industry Certifications

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

## Related Careers

- Dental Hygienists
- Dental Laboratory Technicians
- Optometrists
- Surgeons
- General Practitioners

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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