



Education Requirements

Dental Assistant

Many dental assistants are trained on the job, although most choose to enroll in a dental assisting program. Many states require that a prospective registered dental assistant graduate from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Dental Hygienist

An associate's degree is the typical level of education for these professionals; a state license also is required.

Dentist, General

Once students graduate from dental school, they must be licensed.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Oral and maxillofacial surgeon's complete dental school, a general surgery internship for one year, and then complete an additional three years of specialized training.

Prosthodontist

After obtaining a Doctor of Dentistry degree, completing a residency in prosthodontic dentistry to specialize in this area is required.

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key

SALARY

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$25,000 or lower |
| \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$25,001 to \$39,999 |
| \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$40,000 to \$59,999 |
| \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$60,000 to \$99,999 |
| \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$100,000 or higher |

JOB OUTLOOK

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | 4.9% increase or lower |
| ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | 5% - 9.9% increase |
| ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | 10% - 14.9% increase |
| ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | 15% - 19.9% increase |
| ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | 20% increase or higher |

EDUCATION

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 | Postsecondary non-degree award or Associate's degree |
| 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 | Bachelor's degree |
| 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 | Master's degree |
| 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 | Doctoral or professional degree |

Data for salary, job outlook and education infographics were compiled from Missouri 2012-2022 Occupational Projections, published online by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. When positions in this publication were not directly comparable to a position in MERIC's data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data for salary, job outlook, and education were used.



dental

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dental

Dental professionals may help people by cleaning teeth and checking for any sign of disease. They may educate patients on brushing and flossing, develop X-rays, or help treat diseases of the mouth. They also assist the dentist by setting up equipment and keeping records.

dental assistants





Salary Growth Education

- assist the dentist and keep patient records
- set up the patient and dental equipment
- instruct patients in proper teeth cleaning
- monitor supplies and inventory
- may clean and polish hand-held dental instruments

dental hygienists





Salary Growth Education

- clean teeth and remove stains and deposits from teeth, apply fluoride or sealants on teeth
- examine teeth and gums for signs of disease
- educate patients on brushing and flossing
- take and develop X-rays
- sharpen and sterilize dental equipment

Key is located on reverse.

dentists, general





Salary Growth Education

- care for teeth, gums, muscles and bones within or supporting the mouth
- provide routine procedures such as filling cavities, cleaning and repairing teeth
- may perform surgeries within or around the mouth to promote dental health, improve appearance and prevent disease

oral and maxillofacial surgeons





Salary Growth Education

- diagnose and treat diseases, injuries, and defects in the mouth, jaws, neck, face and skull regions
- perform treatments for impacted teeth, reconstructive surgery, lip reconstruction and insertion of dental implants

career spotlight

MEGAN, CDA, EFDA, DENTAL ASSISTANT



I love working in a fast-paced environment. There is always something to do, from sterilization to cleaning rooms. No patient or procedure is the same so you have to think and act fast and even anticipate. Patients compliment my work sometimes, too, and that makes me feel great. I love making people feel confident about their smiles and showing the home care that they can do. I work for a great doctor and office staff that make my job enjoyable.

career spotlight

ERIC, D.D.S.

One of the things I enjoy about being a dentist is that I get to genuinely help people. There are people I meet at the right time in their life and can inspire some pretty significant changes with. I have experienced patients completing a total transformation before my eyes. That is an amazing experience. I enjoy that I get to fix things. I am constantly challenged in this career with new problems and finding new and unique solutions to them. Lastly, I get to be my own boss which took time to achieve but it gives me the autonomy and freedom to do what I know is right in my heart, and I would not have it any other way.

prosthodontist





Salary Growth Education

- specialize in crowns, bridges and dentures and other methods to replace missing teeth
- construct oral prostheses to correct natural and acquired deformation of mouth and jaws to restore and maintain oral function, such as chewing and speaking, and to improve appearance



did you know?

U.S. News ranks dentists as #1 and dental hygienists as #5 on their list of 100 Best Jobs for 2015. This ranking is based upon 10-year growth volume, median salary, job prospects, employment rate, stress level and work life balance.