

Dental Hygienist

About my job:

As a dental hygienist, I provide preventive dental care. I assess the oral cavity, remove deposits and stains from tooth surfaces, and educate patients about oral health.



What I do every day:

- Record and review patient medical histories; take blood pressure readings
- Assess the teeth and supporting structures
- Perform oral cancer screenings
- Remove deposits from tooth structures, using dental hygiene instruments
- Expose dental x-rays
- Educate patients on oral health and disease prevention

What makes my job great?

Job growth:

Dental hygienists have an excellent job growth in the state of Ohio, which is projected to have a growth rate of 20 percent between the years of 2012-2022.

Short-term training:

Dental hygienists need an associate degree in dental hygiene to practice.

Good pay:

The median salary for a full time dental hygienist in the state of Ohio is \$58,240. (That means that 50 percent of dental hygienists earn less than this number, and the other 50 percent earn more.)

Benefits:

Some dental hygienists work part time, so benefits may not be included with this position.

How can you become an dental hygienist?



Academic/training credentials:

An associate degree in dental hygiene is required, as well as a state license to practice dental hygiene.

Work experience/internships:

During the dental hygiene program, students must attain a certain number of clinical hours and pass a series of board examinations in order to be licensed.

Skills and requirements:

- Ability to reason, analyze, & use problem solving skills
- Excellent fine motor skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Thorough oral comprehension

Potential job titles:

- Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)

Where you can find jobs:

- Online job boards
- Career fairs
- Networking
- Social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter)
- Dental provider websites
- Department of Career Services at colleges

Potential local employers:

Local employers could include all dentist offices, some hospitals, and mobile dental units. With an advanced degree, dental hygienists may find employment in dental research, public health, clinical instruction, and as representatives/educators for dental companies.



Local educational opportunities

Technical prep:

- Auburn Career Center: Allied Health Program
- Lakeland Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene



Coursework per educational entity:

Secondary pathway:
Allied Health and Nursing

Postsecondary program:
Dental Hygiene

An Example of Course with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits

Secondary	7 8	English I	Algebra I	Physical Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Health Science & Technology		
	9 10	English II	Geometry	Biology	World History	Health (.5) PE (.5)	Principles of Allied Health	World Languages	
	11	English III	Algebra II	Chemistry	U.S. History	Dental Technology	Medical Terminology	World Languages	
	12	English IV	Trigonometry/Calculus	Anatomy & Physiology	U.S. Government	Dental Radiography	Oral Diagnosis & Treatment Planning		
Postsecondary	Year 1 1st Semester	College Seminar	Human Pathophysiology	Dental Anatomy & Physiology	Dental Hygiene Pre-Clinic	Intro to Dental Hygiene	Periodontology I	Preventive Concepts	Techniques I
	Year 1 2nd Semester	English	Intro to Microbiology	Techniques II	Clinic I	Oral Pathology	Periodontology II	Community Health Concepts	Dental Radiography
	Year 2 1st Semester	Interpersonal Communication	Community Health	Techniques III	Clinic II	Sociology	Pharmacology	Dental Materials	Pain Management
	Year 2 2nd Semester	Oral Communication	College Algebra	Techniques IV	Clinic III	Psychology	Dental Hygiene Case & Concepts	Humanities Elective	

High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses

High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (Including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses

Required Courses

Recommended Electives

Visit education.ohio.gov/CareerConnections for reference information.
Course titles and sequences will vary between schools.

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Ohio | Department of Education

Ohio
MEANS
Jobs.

Ohio | Board of Regents
University System of Ohio

How can I grow my career?



Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Dental assistant
- Dental hygienist
- Dentist

The career ladder



Sources/References:

Ohio Means Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook
CareerOneStop
Occupational Employment Statistics
O*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information