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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>1st Semester</th>
<th>2nd Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Pre-Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>Oral Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Techniques I</td>
<td>Periodontology 1</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>Clinic I</td>
<td>Preventive Concepts</td>
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<td>Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Case &amp; Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Dentistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Postsecondary</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>1st Semester</th>
<th>2nd Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>Techniques IV</td>
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<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>Community Health</td>
<td>Clinic III</td>
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<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

For Sources/References: See page 04.
How can I grow my career?

Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Dental assistant
- Dental hygienist
- Dentist

The career ladder

Dental Assistant
- Supervised work experience
- Certificate, Dental assistant (optional)
- Certificate, Dental radiographer assistant (in many cases)
- $33,690 annual salary

Dental Hygienist
- Supervised background
- Clinical Experience
- Associate or bachelor’s degree, dental hygiene
- $65,510 annual salary

Dentist
- Supervised background
- Internship
- Doctoral degree, dentistry
- $158,460 annual salary

Sources/References:
CareerOneStop
Occupational Employment Statistics
O*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information