

HOW TO BECOME A



DENTAL HYGIENIST



THE JOB

Dental hygienists work with dentists to inspect and clean patients' teeth. As advocates for oral health, hygienists educate patients about the importance of preventive care.

DAILY DUTIES

PATIENT SCREENINGS



- assess oral health
- review health history
- oral cancer screening

PATIENT CLEANINGS



- remove calculus
- remove plaque
- floss

APPLY TREATMENTS



- sealants
- fluorides

MAKE IMPRESSIONS



- impressions are models dentists use to evaluate patient treatment needs.

EDUCATE PATIENTS



- brushing & flossing
- nutrition

PERFORM X-RAYS



- dental x-rays help dentists detect deeper issues

PLAN YOUR CAREER PATH

START



obtain a DEGREE

Dental hygienists must hold an associates degree. Many community colleges and dental schools offer 2-year dental hygiene programs.



get LICENSED

Eligibility requirements vary by state, but hygienists must hold postsecondary credentials from accredited programs. Other requirements include CPR certification, transcripts and letters of recommendation.



research & APPLY

Apply for RDH positions that interest you! Look for leads through your entry-level program, local jobs fairs or online research.



HYGIENIST!

STATS



95% are female²

200,000+ jobs in 2014³



requires a 2YR degree



85% report overall job satisfaction⁴



average SALARY



71K⁵

JOB



PERKS

voted



in 2015⁶

FLEXIBLE

HOURS



SOURCES

- 1 <http://www.eda.org/education-careers/careers-in-dentistry/dental-team-careers/dental-hygienist>
- 2 http://www.eda.org/GoDental/Future_Dental_Hygienist/Dental_hygiene_by_the_numbers.aspx
- 3 <http://www.bls.gov/osh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>
- 4 <http://www.dentistryiq.com/articles/2014/05/rdh-career-decision-satisfaction.html>
- 5 <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/dental-hygienist-salary>
- 6 <http://money.usnews.com/money/feature-articles/2015/01/13/the-best-jobs-of-2015>
- 7 http://study.com/how_to_become_a_dental_hygienist.html

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