

# Choosing a Career in the Dental Profession

Service to Others • Professional Growth Potential • Variety and Responsibility

## DENTAL ASSISTANTS



Dental assistants are valued team members who help provide patient care and keep dental practices running efficiently.

### Duties

- Assisting the dentist during procedures
- Taking X-rays and/or impressions of patients' teeth
- Sterilizing equipment and instruments
- Teaching patients to brush and floss correctly
- Scheduling appointments, maintaining inventories and ordering supplies

### Work Settings

- Dental practices
- Public health settings and military facilities
- Dental schools and other educational programs
- Dental manufacturers or service providers

Search "dental assistant" at [ADA.org/CODA](https://ada.org/coda) for more information.

## DENTAL HYGIENISTS



Dental hygienists work with the dentist to meet patients' oral health needs.

### Duties

- Screening patients, reviewing health histories, performing oral cancer screenings
- Cleaning teeth
- Applying sealants and fluoride to protect tooth surfaces
- Educating patients about proper oral hygiene and how their diets affect their oral health
- Charting treatment performed on each patient

### Work Settings

- Dental practices
- Public health settings and military facilities
- Dental schools and other educational programs
- Dental manufacturers or service providers

Search "dental hygienist" at [ADA.org/CODA](https://ada.org/coda) for more information.

## DENTAL OFFICE MANAGERS



Dental office managers, or practice administrators, manage many of the duties that help make a dental practice a successful business.

### Duties

- Managing the practice's daily operations, including marketing and communications
- Interviewing, coaching and supervising staff
- Making sure the practice complies with federal, state and local regulations
- Managing patient financial accounts

### Work Settings

- Dental practices
- Dental manufacturers or service providers

Search "dental office manager" for more information.

## DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS



Dental laboratory technicians work in partnership with the dentist to meet patients' oral health needs.

### Duties

- Partnering with dentists to improve patient's health and appearance
- Combining artistry with technology to create customized replacements for patients' teeth

### Work Settings

- Privately- or commercially-owned dental laboratories
- Dental offices, dental schools, hospitals, military facilities
- Dental manufacturers or suppliers

Search "dental lab technician" at [ADA.org/CODA](https://ada.org/coda) for more information.