Dental Hygienist

**Job Description:** Assess patients’ oral health problems and needs while providing oral hygiene care. Hygienists will also advise patients on proper maintenance and prevention practices.

**What does a Dental Hygienist do?**

* Examine patients gums visually and with tools for signs of disease
* Chart conditions of decay and disease for treatment by dentist
* Record and review patients’ medical histories
* Expose and develop x-rays
* Apply fluorides or other agents to prevent cavities and limit decay
* Maintain dental equipment and sharpen and sterilize dental instruments
* Administer local anesthetics to patients
* Feel lymph nodes to check for swelling or other signs of oral cancer
* Assist in conducting dental health clinics for community groups
* Provide services or health education to the general public

**Your Interests:**

* Are you interested in dental health?
* Do you like working with people?
* Are you coordinated and good with details?

**Outlook: Bright**

Average Salary - $37.06 hourly, $77,090 annual

Projected Job Openings – 15,100 over the next 10 years.

**Education/Program of Study:**

* Most occupations require an associate’s degree and clinical experience to become licensed.