



# STEM Careers

## 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.

Sources:

<https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1292.00>