

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.