

# 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://www.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://www.ada.org/CODA) for more information.