

WHAT THEY DO

Diagnoses and treats diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth/gums and related oral structures. May treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting vitality of teeth. Belongs to the Health Science cluster and Therapeutic Services pathway.

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Science
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Monitoring
- Mathematics

Transferable (applicable in other careers):

- Diagnosing diseases and disorders
- Giving health care instructions
- Planning health care treatments
- Treating physical or mental problems
- Using medical or dental instruments to treat patients

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Equipment Selection
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Management of Financial Resources
- Service Orientation
- Time Management

Medium level

- Equipment Maintenance
- Management of Material Resources
- Management of Personnel Resources
- Negotiation
- Operations Analysis
- Persuasion
- Quality Control Analysis
- Social Perceptiveness
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/pubs/careers/cps>.



IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described The following categories describe the work interests (compatible with Holland's Model) of people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Investigative** – You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.
- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.
- **Social** – You are a "helper". You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Independence** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in this career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**
- **Numerical Aptitude**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Finger Dexterity**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	2010-20 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total All Occupations	1,717,020	1,948,700	231,680	1.3	64,525
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	81,850	100,305	18,455	2.3	3,500
Dentists, General	1,545	1,925	375	2.4	85

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

2012 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total All Occupations	18.90	39,295	9.30	19,341	23.69	49,272
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	31.16	64,824	15.94	33,163	38.78	80,655
Dentists, General	98.69	205,279	50.87	105,823	122.60	255,006

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Doctoral or Professional Degree	None	Internship or Residency

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require dentists to be licensed. To qualify for a license in most States, candidates must

- graduate from an accredited dental school and
- pass written and practical examinations.

Dental schools require a minimum of two years of college-level pre-dental education prior to admittance. Most dental students have at least a bachelor's degree before entering dental school, although a few applicants are accepted to dental school after two or three years of college, and complete their bachelor's degree while attending dental school. Dental school usually lasts four academic years. During the last two years, students treat patients, usually in dental clinics, under the supervision of licensed dentists. Most dental schools award the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). Others award an equivalent degree, Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD). The Iowa Dental Board website at <http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard/> provides specific licensure and support information for the state of Iowa.

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	4
Locating Information	5
Reading for Information	6

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>



PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Dentists Employed?)

Self Employed
Ambulatory Health Care Services
State Government
Hospitals

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit <http://iwin.iowaworkforce.org/> to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document under the **Publications** tab. Published 10/2013.