

## Dental Hygienists



### OVERVIEW

Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop x rays, or apply fluoride or sealants. Belongs to the Health Science career cluster and Therapeutic Services career pathway.

### DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

**Work Interests** involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Realistic**—Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- **Social**—Involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people; providing service.
- **Conventional**—Enjoy following set procedures and routines developed through higher authority; includes working with data and details more than with ideas.

**Work Styles** depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Dependability**
- **Attention to Details**
- **Concern for Others**
- **Integrity**
- **Cooperation**

**Work Values** are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Relationships**—Provide service to others in non-competitive environment.
- **Support**—Management backing.
- **Independence** – Autonomy; working on your own.

**Aptitudes** reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Near Vision**
- **Problem Sensitivity**
- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**
- **Finger Dexterity**

### SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

#### Basic Skills:

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring
- Speaking
- Judgment and Decision Making

#### Technology Skills:

- Accounting Software
- Electronic Mail Software
- Medical Software
- Office Suite Software
- Spreadsheet Software

#### Knowledge:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Customer and Personal Service
- English Language
- Psychology
- Biology

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	2014-24 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,795,100	1,949,240	154,140	0.9	58,145
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	86,030	98,955	12,925	1.5	3,190
Dental Hygienists	2,065	2,320	250	1.2	60

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

## 2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Mean Wage	Mean Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Exp Wage	Exp Salary
Total All Occupations	20.93	43,539	10.09	20,991	26.35	54,813
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	34.33	71,400	17.33	36,038	42.83	89,081
Dental Hygienists	33.16	68,971	27.46	57,121	36.01	74,895

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Education

Associate's Degree

### Work Experience

None

### Job Training

Internship or Residency

An associate's degree or comparable postsecondary training (or even bachelor's degree at some research and/or teaching institutions) are required for most dental hygienist positions. Licenses, certificates, and/or commissions are required. Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections> , [https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_education\\_training\\_system.htm](https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm) ,

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level	Minimum Skill Level	Maximum Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3	3	4
Locating Information	4	3	4
Reading for Information	4	4	5
Applied Technology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business Writing	3	3	4
Workplace Observation	3	3	3
Listening for Understanding	3	2	3

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Dental Hygienists Employed?)

Ambulatory Health Care Services  
Self Employed  
Social Assistance  
Educational Services

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>



## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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