

Dentist



What do they do?

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with patients' teeth, gums, and related parts of the mouth. They provide advice and instruction on taking care of the teeth and gums and on diet choices that affect oral health.

Where do they work?

Some dentists have their own business and work alone or with a small staff. Other dentists have partners in their practice. Still others work as associate dentists for established dental practices.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for a Dentist is \$164,010.



Education:

Dentists must be licensed in the state in which they work. Licensure requirements vary by state, although candidates usually must have a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry/Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree from an accredited dental program and pass written and clinical exams. Dentists who practice in a specialty area must complete postdoctoral training. Schooling typically takes 4 years for undergraduate degree and 4 years of dental school.

Dental Schools in Wisconsin:

Marquette University <https://www.marquette.edu/dentistry/>

Pre Dental Program: Wisconsin Lutheran College
<https://www.wlc.edu/pre-dental/>

High School students interested in becoming a Dentist should take courses in biology, chemistry and anatomy.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Dentists are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).



<http://www.ada.org/en/coda>

The sole national organization representing academic dentistry, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) <https://www.adea.org/>



Professional Association:

You can join the American Dental Assistant Association while attending school. You can learn more here:



<https://www.adausa.org/>

License:

All states require dentists to be licensed.

Licensure in Wisconsin is handled by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

You can find more information by going to their website and clicking Licenses/Permits/Registrations then Health Professions:

www.dsps.wi.gov

Dental Exams:

Dental Admission Test (DAT)

National Board Dental Examination- Written & Clinical



Examples of Dental Specialties:

- Dental Anesthesiology
- Dental Public Health
- Endodontics
- Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthodontics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for a Dentist is expected to grow 8 percent between 2020-2030, which is as fast as average across all occupations. The demand for dental services will increase as the population ages and as research continues to link oral health to overall health.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition, Dentist, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm> (visited September 08, 2021).

