



Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists provide treatments to prevent cavities and gum diseases. They perform these and other services as supervised or delegated by a licensed dentist. Examples of services:

- remove tartar and plaque from teeth
- apply topical medications and other treatments
- take diagnostic dental X-ray films
- polish teeth and apply cavity-preventing agents
- counsel patients about oral health and hygiene
- take medical histories and maintain dental records

Education

High school diploma, or the equivalent, AND completion of a [Department-registered](#) dental hygiene licensure program, or a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association.

Examination

Written: National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and
Clinical: The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments clinical dental hygiene examination.

► Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$74,820 in the U.S., \$78,550 in NY
- Salary range: \$59,170-\$86,830
- Projected growth: much faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Private and group practice
- Military
- College and universities
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health centers
- Industry

Your Interests and Abilities

- Preparation in the sciences
- Analysis and reasoning
- Hands-on experiences

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Attention to detail
- Communication
- Manual and technical dexterity

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!
Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a dental hygienist about what they do and how they got started!