



Dentist

Dentists diagnose and treat any disease, pain, injury, or deformity of the mouth, including the teeth, gums, jaws, and other areas of the head and neck. Examples of services:

- examine the mouth to diagnose problems
- prescribe and fit materials to repair, replace, or align teeth
- treat patients to prevent cavities and gum diseases
- administer anesthesia and other agents to relieve discomfort during dental procedures
- counsel patients about oral health and hygiene

Education

At least 60 semester hours of preprofessional education, including chemistry, biology, and physics, AND at least 4 years in a [Department-registered](#) dentistry licensure program, or the equivalent.

Experience

Complete an approved clinically based dental residency program of at least one year.

Examination

Parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination.

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

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$156,240 in the U.S., \$135,960 in NY
- Salary range: \$111,100-\$195,520
- Projected growth: much faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Private and group practice
- Hospitals
- Research facilities
- Military
- Colleges and universities
- Industry

Your Interests and Abilities

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

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Attention to detail
- Communication
- Management
- 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 dentist about what they do and how they got started!