



Registered Dental Assistant

Under the direct, personal supervision of a dentist, **registered dental assistants** perform a variety of support functions as part of the dental team. Examples of services:

- gather preliminary medical histories and vital signs
- patient education
- place and/or remove dressings and other materials during dental procedures
- apply topical cavity-preventing and desensitizing agents
- take dental impressions
- select and pre-fit provisional crowns and orthodontic bands

Education

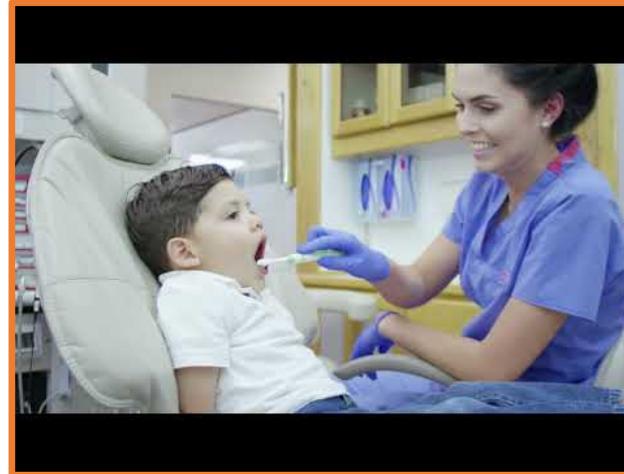
Earn a high school diploma, or the equivalent
AND
Complete a [Department-registered](#) dental assisting licensure program, or the equivalent.

Examination

Dental Assisting National Board or New York Professional Dental Assisting examination.

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

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$36,940 in the U.S., \$36,980 in NY
- Salary range: \$25,370-\$43,440
- Projected growth: much faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Private and group practice
- Military
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health centers
- Colleges and universities
- Anywhere a dentist works

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 registered dental assistant about what they do and how they got started!