



## Careers in the Licensed Professions

# Dental Hygienist

**Dental Hygienists** practice in varied settings, under supervision and in collaboration with a dentist, providing preventative and therapeutic care to manage the risk of tooth decay and periodontal diseases for all populations. They **assess** patients' oral health needs, **plan** and **implement** treatment strategies, **evaluate** treatment outcomes, and **document** all services to the Dental Records.

### Examples of Services:

- take and analyze comprehensive health history and vitals,
- perform dental and periodontal risk assessments,
- expose diagnostic dental x-rays,
- provide counseling to improve oral health,
- remove tartar & plaque from the teeth, and
- apply cavity preventing agents.

### Professional Education

Earn a high school diploma, or the equivalent  
AND

Complete a Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA)  
accredited licensure qualifying program

### Examination

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

### Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$92,451 in NY
- Salary range: \$69,344 – \$97,508
- Projected growth: much faster than average

### Where Could I Work?

- Private and group practice
- Military
- College and Universities
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic and treatment centers
- Private Industry (ex. Colgate, Crest etc.)

### Academic Skills

- Dental anatomy
- Radiology
- Knowledge of dental materials

### Professional Skills

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

