



# Careers in the Licensed Professions

## Registered Dental Assistant

A **Registered Dental Assistant** is a healthcare professional who works closely with a dentist(s) and dental teams to provide patient care and support in a dental setting. They play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation of dental procedures and helping to create a comfortable environment for patients chairside. Registered Dental Assistants can:

- Provide patient education
- Take patient medical histories
- Take patient vital signs
- Place and remove rubber dams
- Select and pre-fit temporary crowns
- Perform certain orthodontic functions
- Take dental impressions
- Take dental x-rays
- Assist in sterilization processing
- Prepare patients
- Set-up dental procedure
- Pass instruments
- Prepare dental materials
- Remove sutures and periodontal dressings

### Professional Education

Earn a high school diploma, or the equivalent  
AND

Complete a licensure-qualifying program in dental assisting or an equivalent program as determined by the Department

### Examination

Dental Assisting National Board or New York Professional Dental Assisting examination

### Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$48,372 in NY
- Salary range: \$37,914-\$56,116
- Projected growth: much faster than average

### Where Could I Work?

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

### Academic Skills

- Radiology
- Dental anatomy
- Knowledge of dental materials

### Professional Skills

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

