

# Is Dental Hygiene Right for Me?

Are you interested in patient care and dental health? If so, a career in dental hygiene could be a good fit for you!

Dental hygienists are highly educated and skilled health care professionals that play an essential role in helping patients maintain good oral health. In a dental office, the dentist and dental hygienist work together to meet the oral health needs of patients. One of the most enjoyable aspects of a career in dental hygiene is working with people and providing a valuable health care service to patients.



## Job Duties of a Dental Hygienist

- › Perform preventative procedures to remove tartar, stains, and plaque
- › Apply sealants and fluoride to protect teeth
- › Take x-rays
- › Assess the patients' health and work with the dentist to deliver overall patient care
- › Document patients' care and treatment plans
- › Educate patients about oral hygiene techniques

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Dental Hygienists [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm), September 2022

## Where Can Dental Hygienists Work?

- › Private Dental Practice
- › Academic Institutions
- › Public Health
- › Research Teams
- › Large Group Practices
- › Other Community Settings

To find more resources and information visit:

[www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/hygienist](http://www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/hygienist)

Or scan the QR code:



# Your Path to Becoming a Licensed Dental Hygienist In Minnesota

## Employment Outlook & Statistics

Dental hygiene is projected to be one of the 30 fastest growing occupations in future years. Due to the success of preventive dentistry in reducing the incidence of oral disease, the expanding older population will retain their teeth longer and will be even more aware of the importance of regular dental care. With the emphasis on preventive care, dentists will need to employ more dental hygienists than ever before to meet the increased demand for dental services. (Source: American Dental Association)

## Academic Requirements

In Minnesota, there are currently 9 dental hygiene education programs in community colleges, technical colleges, and universities. They offer associate and baccalaureate programs. Additionally, dental hygienists may pursue a master's degree for alternative career options in dentistry including research, clinical practice in school health programs, and academia.

To work as a dental hygienist in Minnesota, an individual must have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program, pass a national written board and practical examinations, and be licensed with the state of Minnesota.

**\$38.38/HR\***  
Average salary in MN



This equates to \$79,820 annually.

**9%\***  
Projected job growth from 2021 to 2031



This is faster than the average for all occupations.

**2-4 YEARS**  
of higher education



There are associates in science and baccalaureate programs available.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2021

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR A CAREER AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
[www.ada.org/resources/careers/dental-team-careers](http://www.ada.org/resources/careers/dental-team-careers)

AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION  
[www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)

MINNESOTA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
[mn.gov/boards/dentistry/new-applicant](http://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/new-applicant)

MINNESOTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
[www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/hygienist](http://www.mndental.org/careers/dentistry/hygienist)