

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Dental Assistant

Standard Occupational Code 31-9091.00

## What They Do

Assist dentists, set up equipment, prepare patient for treatment, and keep records.

## Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Conventional** – involve following set procedures and routines.

**Realistic** – involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

**Social** – involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

**Relationships** – allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

**Support** – offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Working Conditions** – offer job security and good working conditions

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Near Vision
- Oral Expression
- Speech Recognition
- Written Comprehension

## Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Reading Comprehension
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Service Orientation

## Education & Training

Dental assistants require a **Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Certificate**. They must also be registered by the South Dakota Board of Dentistry as a dental assistant.

## SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
780	900	100	16%	30	\$33,370

## Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.gov/mic](http://www.dlr.gov/mic)

Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

O\*Net Online

[www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)

mySkills myFuture

[www.myskillsmfuture.org](http://www.myskillsmfuture.org)

## Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3
Reading for Information	4
Locating Information	4

## Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of dental assistants are:

- Offices of Dentists
- Federal Government
- State Government
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Local Government

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit [www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic) and choose Career Exploration & Planning from the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

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