

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

Dental Hygienist

Standard Occupational Code 29-2021.00

What They Do

Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop x-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.

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:

Social (Helpers)- like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping and curing people. They are good with words.

Realistic (Doers) – prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional - Enjoy following a set of procedures and routines with a clear line of authority to follow. May include working with data and details more than ideas.

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.

Independence – Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

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

- Near Vision
- Problem Sensitivity
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Finger Dexterity

Skills You Need

- Speaking
- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Judgement and Decision Making
- Monitoring
- Service Orientation

Education & Training

Dental Hygienist positions require the minimum of an associate degree in dental hygiene. These programs generally take three years to complete. Many employers prefer candidates with a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, which takes four years to complete. Dental Hygienists in South Dakota must be licensed. For more information, visit the South Dakota Department of Health website at <http://doh.sd.gov>.

SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
594	691	97	16.3%	20	\$57,354

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Preferred Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Mathematics	3
Reading for Information	4
Locating Information	4
Business Writing	3
Workplace Observation	3
Listening for Understanding	3

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

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

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

Provided By

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

Visit 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. Updated February 2017.