What They Do
Examine, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums. May treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth. May fit dental appliances or provide preventive care.

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:

- **Investigative** – involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.
- **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:

- **Independence** – allow employees to work on their own and make decisions
- **Achievement** – results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Relationships** – all employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

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

- Finger Dexterity
- Problem Sensitivity
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
Skills You Need

- Critical Thinking
- Judgement and Decision Making
- Active Listening
- Complex Problem Solving
- Monitoring

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Skill Level</th>
<th>Applied Mathematics</th>
<th>Reading for Information</th>
<th>Locating Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

Education & Training

Dentists require a **doctoral or professional degree in dentistry or a related program**. Dentists are required to be licensed by the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry.

Where They Work

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

- Private Practice
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners

SD Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Workers</th>
<th>2024 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$136,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

- **Labor Market Information Center**
  [www.dlr.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.gov/lmic)
- **Career OneStop**
  [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- **O*Net Online**
  [www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)
- **mySkills myFuture**
  [www.myskillsmyfuture.org](http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org)

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.

Updated March 2017.