



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 – 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.

Realistic - Enjoy work activities that involve practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Social - Enjoy working with, communicating with, and teaching people. They like helping or providing service to others.

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
- Arm-Hand Steadiness

Skills You Need

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or any problems.
- Service Orientation – Actively looking for ways to help people.

SD Employment & Wages

| 2016 Workers | 2026 Workers | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Average Demand for Workers | Average Annual Wage |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 840 | 930 | 90 | 10% | 100 | \$38,030 |

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Prepare medical instruments or equipment for use.
- Clean medical equipment.
- Assist practitioners to perform medical procedures.
- Maintain medical records.
- Operate medical equipment.
- Interview patients to gather medical information.
- Record vital statistics or other health information
- Explain technical medical information to patients.

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.

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

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org