

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

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

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
- Arm-Hand Steadiness

Skills You Need

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

Education & Training

Dental hygienists need at least **an associate's degree in dental hygiene**. They must be certified by the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry.

SD Employment & Wages

| 2012 Workers | 2022 Workers | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Average Annual Demand for Workers | Median Annual Wage |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 490 | 595 | 105 | 21.4% | 22 | \$58,900 |

Additional References

South Dakota Career InSite

www.sdjobs.org/careerinsite

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

| | Median Skill Level |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Applied Mathematics | 3 |
| Reading for Information | 5 |
| Locating Information | 4 |

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

Visit www.sdjobs.org/lmic/occprofiles to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends. Also available are explanations of the terms used for work interests, work values, abilities, and skills sections of occupational profiles.