



Dentist

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CODE 29-1021.00

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 - Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

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:

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

Achievement - Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Relationships - Allow 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 – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Judgement and Decision Making – Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Complex Problem Solving – Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

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

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Demand for Workers	Average Annual Wage
440	490	50	12%	20	\$135,290

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Read work orders or other instructions to determine product specifications or materials requirements.
- Apply parting agents or other solutions to molds.
- Inspect medical or dental assistive devices
- Mix ingredients or create specific finishes.
- Place materials into molds.
- Melt metal, plastic, or other materials to prepare for production.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetcenter.org