

The field of dentistry offers many opportunities for rewarding careers. Professional oral health care requires a team effort to ensure success. The core of the oral health care team is comprised of dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians.

The knowledge, talents and skills of each of the team members are critical in providing the services necessary for total oral health care. These services include oral health education, disease prevention, disease detection, diagnosis and treatment, aesthetic improvement, and surgical restoration.

Dental professionals treat people, not just teeth and mouths. Good oral health is an essential component of the total health of a person. Dental professionals interact with people of all ages and personalities from a wide range of cultures. Their skills in working with people, as well as their dentistry and teaching skills, can have a lifelong positive impact on the total health of the people who use their services.

Many other career paths, in addition to the traditional private dental practice, are open to trained dental professionals. These include careers in community health departments and other public health agencies, hospitals, military, dental research, and in industry, such as dental product development and sales.

The path is open to a challenging and rewarding career; a path that could be yours.

Sources for Dental Careers Information:

NC Dental Society
1600 Evans Road
Cary, NC 27513
(800) 662-8754
www.ncdental.org

American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Dental Education Association
1400 K Street, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-7201
www.adea.org

North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC)
Campus Box 7165, 145 N. Medical Drive
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7165
(919) 966-2461
www.nchealthcareers.com/

NC Health Careers Access Program at UNC-CH:
http://nchcap.unc.edu/

NC Oral Health Section - Careers in Dental Health:
www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/oralhealth/services/careers.htm

For more information on educational opportunities in North Carolina for your career in dentistry, contact the admissions office at:

Alamance Community College
PO Box 8000
Graham, NC 27253-8000
(336) 578-2002
www.alamancecc.edu/

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
340 Victoria Road
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 254-1921
www.abtech.edu/

Cape Fear Community College
411 N. Front Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 251-5100
www2.cfcc.edu/

Catawba Valley Community College
2550 Highway 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7000
www.cvcc.edu/index.cfm

Central Carolina Community College
900 S. Vance Street #220
Sanford, NC 27330
(919) 775-2122
www.cccc.edu/

Central Piedmont Community College
PO Box 35009
Charlotte, NC 28235
(704) 330-2722
www.cpcc.edu/

Coastal Carolina Community College
444 Western Blvd.
Jacksonville, NC 28546
(910) 455-1221
www.coastalcarolina.edu/

Durham Technical Community College
PO Drawer 11307
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 686-3300
www.durhamtech.edu/

East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine
1851 MacGregor Downs Road
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 737-7000
http://www.ecu.edu/dentistry/

Fayetteville Technical Community College
PO Box 35236
Fayetteville, NC 28303-0236
(910) 678-8400
www.faytechcc.edu/

Forsyth Technical Community College
2100 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197
(336) 723-0371
www.forsythtech.edu/

Guilford Technical Community College
PO Box 309
Jamestown, NC 27282
(336) 334-4822
www.gtcc.edu/

Halifax Community College
P.O. Drawer 809
Highway 158 & College Drive
Weldon, NC 27890
(252) 536-4221
www.halifaxcc.edu/

Martin Community College
1161 Kehukee Park Road
Williamston, N.C. 27892-4425
(252) 792-1521
www.martincc.edu/

Miller-Motte College
3901 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 732-2820
www.miller-motte.edu/

1021 WH Smith Blvd. Ste. 102
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 215-2000

5000 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28405
(910) 392-4660

Montgomery Community College
1011 Page Street
Troy, N.C. 27371-8387
(910) 576-6222
www.montgomery.edu/

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
PO Box 1595
Salisbury, NC 28145-1594
North Campus (704)637-0760
South Campus (704)788-3197
http://www.rccc.edu/

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill School of Dentistry
103 South Building, Campus Box 9100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
(919) 962-1365
www.dentistry.unc.edu/

Wake Technical Community College
9101 Fayetteville Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 662-3400
www.waketech.edu/

Wayne Community College
Caller Box 8002
Goldsboro, NC 27533-8002
(919) 735-5151
www.waynecc.edu/

Western Piedmont Community College
1001 Burkemont Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655-4511
(828) 438-6000
www.wpcc.edu/

Wilkes Community College
PO Box 120
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
(336) 836-6100
www.wilkescc.edu/

Pathway to a Great Career



A Career in Dentistry

A Pathway to Healthy Smiles and a Bright Future



State of North Carolina • Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Oral Health Section
www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov • www.oralhealth.ncdhhs.gov
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Career	Functions	Academic Requirements	Educational Institutions	Additional Training	Licensure Requirements	Work Environment	NC Average Starting Salary (varies by region)	Professional Organizations
Dentist in Private Practice	Dentists examine patients, diagnose problems, and treat for diseased, injured or crooked teeth and diseased gums. Dentists fill cavities, treat gum disease, replace missing teeth or make custom dentures for the patient. They also teach patients proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.	Minimum of 96 semester hours of accredited college work required before entering dental school. Graduation from an accredited dental school, which usually takes four years.	UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	<u>UNC-CH School of Dentistry:</u> Specialty training available in Endodontics, Geriatric Dentistry, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology, Oral Surgery Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics <u>ECU School of Dental Medicine:</u> Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD), General Practice Residency, Pediatric Dentistry	Successful completion of an examination approved by the National Board of Dental Examiners and a state licensing examination. Specialties may require additional certification.	Work in their own private dental office, a dental or medical group, a hospital, institution, nursing home or the military. They usually work with a dental hygienist, dental assistant and office personnel.	General Practice entry: \$93,210* Statewide average for established practice: \$187,210* Specialists range higher	NC Dental Society, Old North State Dental Society, American Dental Association, American Association of Dental Schools, and various specialty societies.
Dentist in Public Health	Public health dentists examine the dental needs of people in the community. They plan programs to prevent dental diseases and to educate the community on proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.	Minimum of 96 semester hours of accredited college work required before entering dental school. Graduation from an accredited dental school, which usually takes four years.	UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	<u>UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health:</u> Master of Public Health <u>ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health:</u> Master of Public Health NC Oral Health Section: Dental Public Health Residency Program	Successful completion of an examination approved by the National Board of Dental Examiners and a state licensing examination. Completion of public health orientation by state dental public health organization.	Work in a public health setting, such as a clinic or a community-based education/prevention program. They often work with a public health dental hygienist and a public health dental assistant.	\$101,546 - \$195,716	NC Dental Society, American Dental Association, American Association of Dental Schools, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, NC Public Health Association
Dental Hygienist in Private Practice	Dental hygienists take patient histories, screen the teeth and gums, remove plaque and stains, apply fluoride, apply dental sealants, and take x-rays. They also teach patients proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.	High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.	UNC-CH School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College (Associate Degrees, Certificate Programs, and Bachelor's Degrees available)	<u>UNC-CH School of Dentistry:</u> Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Education (MSDH)	Successful completion of a National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a state licensing examination.	Work in a private dental office, a dental or medical group, a hospital, institution, nursing home or in the military under the supervision of a dentist. They usually work with a dentist, dental assistant and office personnel.	Entry: Level \$51,200* Statewide average for experienced: \$85,230*	American Dental Hygienists' Association, NC Dental Hygiene Association
Dental Hygienist in Public Health	Public health dental hygienists plan dental education and prevention programs for their communities. They do classroom dental screenings and education, and organize and participate in dental sealant promotions and adult education/promotion programs.	High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.	UNC-CH School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College (Associate Degrees, Certificate Programs, and Bachelor's Degrees available)	<u>UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health:</u> Master of Public Health <u>ECU School of Medicine-Department of Public Health:</u> Master of Public Health	Successful completion of a National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a state licensing examination. Completion of public health orientation by state dental public health organization.	Work in a public health setting, either a clinic or a community based education/prevention program. In a clinic; works under the direct supervision of a dentist.	\$42,667 - \$69,177	American Dental Hygienists' Association, NC Dental Hygiene Association, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, NC Public Health Association
Dental Assistant in Private Practice	Dental assistants assist the dentist at chairside, take dental x-rays, perform laboratory procedures, sterilize instruments and help manage the office.	<u>Certified Dental Assistant:</u> High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental assistant program. <u>Non-certified Dental Assistant:</u> on-the-job training in a dental office by a dentist (not eligible for certification).	UNC-CH School of Dentistry, Alamance Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Martin Community College, Miller-Motte College, Montgomery Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, Wilkes Community College		Certification Examination by the Dental Assisting National Board (Optional)	Work in a private dental office, a dental or medical group, a hospital, institution, nursing home or in the military under the supervision of a dentist.	Entry Level: \$27,190* Statewide average for experienced: \$48,480*	American Dental Assisting Association, North Carolina Dental Assistants' Association
Dental Assistant in Public Health	In a clinic, dental assistants assist the dentist at chairside, take dental x-rays, perform laboratory procedures, keep instruments sterile, and help manage the clinic. In the community, they do classroom dental education, adult education/promotion programs and assist with dental sealant promotions.	<u>Certified Dental Assistant:</u> High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental assistant program. <u>Non-certified Dental Assistant:</u> on-the-job training in a dental office by a dentist (not eligible for certification).	UNC-CH School of Dentistry, Alamance Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Martin Community College, Miller-Motte College, Montgomery Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, Wilkes Community College		Certification Examination by the Dental Assisting National Board (Optional)	Work in a public health setting, either a clinic or a community based education/prevention program. In a clinic, they work under the direct supervision of a dentist.	\$27,013 - \$40,224	American Dental Assisting Association, North Carolina Dental Assistants Association, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, NC Public Health Association
Dental Laboratory Technician	Dental laboratory technicians make and repair dentures, dental crowns, braces and other dental appliances using materials such as gypsum, acrylics, ceramics and metals.	High School graduation before working in a dental laboratory.	Durham Technical Community College		Examination by the National Board of Certification of the National Association of Dental Laboratories (optional)	Work in dental offices, commercial laboratories, research settings and dental schools.	Entry Level: \$25,980* Statewide level for experienced: \$58,810*	NC Dental Laboratory Association

*Salary range source for private practice: NC Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and NC Health Careers at the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC): <http://www.nchealthcareers.com/cfnc.htm>