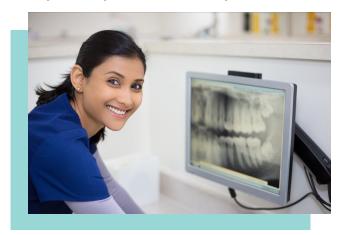
Become a Dental Assistant

What do dental assistants do?

Dental assistants help dentists by increasing productivity, safety, and efficiency.

Responsibilities vary every day and may include:

- Greeting and checking in patients.
- Preparing exam rooms and sterilizing instruments.
- Taking dental x-rays.
- Assisting the dentist with procedures.
- Giving patients post-treatment care instructions.





Why become a dental assistant?

- Interest in patient care, health, and science
- Hands-on career that requires strong communication skills, attention to detail, and team work
- Stepping stone for advancing into other dental careers

How do you become a dental assistant?

- Wisconsin technical colleges offer dental assisting programs.
- The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development offers a youth apprenticeship dental assisting track for high school students.
- Dental practices may hire dental assistants with no experience and provide them with on-the-job training.

Certified Dental Assistant

- Individuals may become certified by passing the Certified Dental Assistant exam offered through the Dental Assisting National Board.
- Certification can provide more knowledge, job satisfaction, and higher pay.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Oral Health Program
Oral Health Workforce Webpage
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