

Become a Dental Hygienist

What do dental hygienists do?

Dental hygienists work with patients to provide preventive oral health care.

Responsibilities may include:

- Reviewing patient health and dental history.
- Removing plaque, tartar, and stains.
- Applying sealants and fluoride treatments.
- Screening for oral conditions such as tooth decay, gingivitis, periodontitis, and cancer.
- Taking and viewing dental x-rays.
- Educating patients on oral health, proper dental hygiene, and nutrition to prevent tooth decay.



Why become a dental hygienist?

- Interest in patient care, health, and science
- Passion for educating and disease prevention
- Variety of work settings with flexible schedules

How do you become a dental hygienist?

- Wisconsin technical colleges offer Associate degrees for dental hygiene.
- Bachelor's and Master's degrees in dental hygiene are available.
- A dental hygiene degree, written exams, and a clinical exam are required to receive a dental hygiene license in Wisconsin.

Continuing education

Wisconsin dental hygienists are required to complete continuing education hours to renew their licenses every two years.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Oral Health Program
[Oral Health Workforce Webpage](#)
P-03395 (05/2023)

This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$400,000 with 40% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](#).