

Become a Dentist

What do dentists do?

Dentists are doctors who provide oral health care through evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases of the mouth.

Responsibilities may include:

- Performing exams and evaluating X-rays to determine a patient's health.
- Creating treatment plans for patients to improve their oral health.
- Filling cavities or removing damaged teeth.
- Prescribing medications to improve patient health.
- Interacting with patients and instructing them on proper oral care.
- Measuring and fitting dental appliances.
- Referring patients to a specialist if needed.



Why become a dentist?

- Interest in patient care, health, and science
- Passion for disease prevention
- Variety of work settings such as private practice, universities, and public health.
- Option to specialize in areas such as orthodontics, endodontics, and pediatric dentistry.
- Potential to own or run a dental clinic

How do you become a dentist?

- Individuals typically complete three to four years of undergraduate education plus four years of dental school to become a dentist.
- Dental schools can award a doctorate of dental surgery (DDS) or a doctorate of dental medicine (DMD).
- Graduates must pass written and practical exams to receive a state license to practice.
- Additional education beyond dental school is required for dental specialties.



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