Dental Assistants

What They Do
Dental assistants provide patient care, take x rays, keep records and schedule appointments. They provide assistance to dentists and dental hygienists as needed. For example, they prepare patients for treatment, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays or assist dentist during dental procedures.

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:

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Relationships — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

Support — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

Working Conditions — Offer job security and good working conditions.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

• Oral Comprehension
• Near Vision
• Oral Expression
• Speech Recognition
• Written Comprehension
• Arm-Hand Steadiness
• Deductive Reasoning
• Inductive Reasoning

Standard Occupational Codes 31-9091

Career Cluster: Health Science

More South Dakota HOT CAREERS

Beyond the TOP 30
Basic Skills You Need
• Active Listening
• Reading Comprehension
• Speaking
• Critical Thinking
• Service Orientation
• Active Learning
• Monitoring
• Social Perceptiveness

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

- Applied Math  3
- Workplace Documents  4
- Graphic Literacy  4

*Using the median skill level.

Education & Training
Some postsecondary education in a dental assisting program is recommended for dental assistants.

Where They Work
The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of dental assistants:
• Ambulatory Health Care Services
• Federal Government

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>955</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>$39,532</td>
<td>$39,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional References
Labor Market Information Center
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online
www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture
https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/

Provided By
Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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