

# 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.



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[Oral Health Workforce Webpage](#)  
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