

What can a career in Dental Hygiene offer you?

Service to Others • Future Opportunities • Variety and Responsibility



To request the brochure *Dental Hygiene: Something to Smile About—Careers in the Dental Profession* call **312.440.2390** or email skoogb@ada.org

What does a dental hygienist do?

- Performs patient screening procedures
- Teaches patients how to practice good oral hygiene
- Applies preventive materials such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth
- Counsels patients regarding good nutrition and its impact on oral health
- Removes calculus and plaque (hard and soft deposits) from the teeth

Where do dental hygienists work?

- Dental offices of general dentists and dental specialists
- Public health agencies, hospitals and community health clinics
- Public school systems, dental schools and dental hygiene education programs
- Dental equipment and product sales and research

What training is needed?

- Most training programs take at least two years to complete with graduates receiving associate degrees
- High school classes in mathematics, chemistry, biology, and English are often recommended
- There are approximately 300 ADA accredited dental hygiene education programs in community colleges, technical colleges, dental schools and universities in U.S.
- Other innovative training methods include electronic distance education and institutional based didactic coursework combined with community experience

What are future opportunities?

- Projected to be one of the 30 fastest growing occupations
- Flexible work schedules are often available in this high demand field
- Dental hygiene offers excellent career opportunities for nontraditional students including individuals who are over 23 years of age and those seeking a career change
- Compensation depends on responsibilities, geographic location and other factors