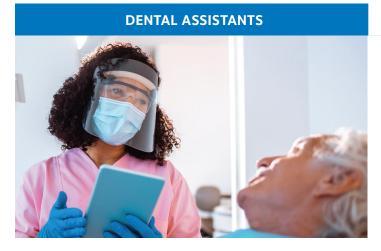
# **Choosing a Career in the Dental Profession**

Service to Others • Professional Growth Potential • Variety and Responsibility



Dental assistants are valued team members who help provide patient care and keep dental practices running efficiently.

#### Duties

- · Assisting the dentist during procedures
- Taking X-rays and/or impressions of patients' teeth
- · Sterilizing equipment and instruments
- Teaching patients to brush and floss correctly
- Scheduling appointments, maintaining inventories and ordering supplies

## Work Settings

- Dental practices
- · Public health settings and military facilities
- Dental schools and other educational programs
- Dental manufacturers or service providers

Search "dental assistant" at **ADA.org/CODA** for more information.

## DENTAL HYGIENISTS



Dental hygienists work with the dentist to meet patients' oral health needs.

### Duties

- Screening patients, reviewing health histories, performing oral cancer screenings
- Cleaning teeth
- Applying sealants and fluoride to protect tooth surfaces
- Educating patients about proper oral hygiene and how their diets affect their oral health
- Charting treatment performed on each patient

## Work Settings

- Dental practices
- · Public health settings and military facilities
- · Dental schools and other educational programs
- Dental manufacturers or service providers

Search "dental hygienist" at **ADA.org/CODA** for more information.

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