



CAREER PATH

# Health

CAREER CLUSTER  
Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY  
Therapeutic Services



## DENTAL HYGIENIST

Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop X-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.

### Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a dental hygienist are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

*(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)*

### Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Dental hygienists	2.9%	63.8%	33.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	9.9%	31.0%	59.1%
Health Technologists & Technicians	20.1%	57.1%	22.7%

Most Common Educational Level: Associate degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit [www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm](http://www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm)

### National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$25.62	\$31.12	\$36.96
	Yearly	\$53,300	\$64,700	\$76,900
Missouri	Hourly	\$25.24	\$29.92	\$35.19
	Yearly	\$52,500	\$62,200	\$73,200

Based on (\*) lower 25% and (\*\*) upper 25% percentile of wages

### National and State Employment Trends

Dental Hygienist	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	167,000	217,200	+ 30%	8,210
Missouri	1,980	2,830	+ 43%	100

\*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

### Educational Opportunities

*Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit [www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)*

#### Missouri Southern State University

Joplin, MO  
(417) 625-9300  
[www.mssu.edu](http://www.mssu.edu)

#### Ozarks Technical Community College

Springfield, MO  
(417) 447-7500  
[www.otc.edu](http://www.otc.edu)

#### Saint Louis Community College

- Forest Park  
Saint Louis, MO  
(314) 644-9100  
[www.stlcc.edu](http://www.stlcc.edu)

#### State Fair Community College

Sedalia, MO  
(660) 530-5800  
[www.sfccmo.edu](http://www.sfccmo.edu)

#### University of Missouri

- Kansas City  
Kansas City, MO  
(816) 235-1000  
[www.umkc.edu](http://www.umkc.edu)



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