



CAREER PATH  
**Health**  
 CAREER CLUSTER  
**Health Sciences**  
 CAREER PATHWAY  
**Therapeutic Services**



# DENTIST

Diagnose and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums and related oral structures. May treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting vitality of teeth.

## Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a dentist 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 |
| Dentists, general                            | 0.0%  | 0.0%         | 99.5%                   |
| Health diagnosing and treating practitioners | 1.3%  | 11.4%        | 87.4%                   |
| Dental hygienists                            | 2.9%  | 63.8%        | 33.3%                   |
| Dental assistants                            | 33.6%   | 57.5%        | 8.9%                    |

Most Common Educational Level: First professional 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     | \$48.10   | \$66.17    | \$70.01+      |
|               | Yearly     | \$100,000 | \$137,600  | \$145,600+    |
| Missouri      | Hourly     | \$51.86   | \$70.01+   | \$70.01+      |
|               | Yearly     | \$107,900 | \$145,600+ | \$145,600+    |

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

## National and State Employment Trends

| Dentist       | Employment |         | Percent Change | Job Openings* |
|---------------|------------|---------|----------------|---------------|
|               | 2006       | 2016    |                |               |
| United States | 136,300    | 148,900 | + 9%           | 3,920         |
| Missouri      | 2,200      | 2,520   | + 15%          | 70            |

\*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)*

**Saint Louis University**  
 Saint Louis, MO  
 (314) 977-2222  
[www.imagine.slu.edu](http://www.imagine.slu.edu)

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



[www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)

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