

# Dental Assistants

SOC: 31-9091 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

<b>\$47,300</b> Median Salary	<b>381,900</b> Employment	<b>+6.0%</b> Growth Rate
----------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 48.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.  
This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■ Work-Life Balance

**7.4/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.8/10	Investigative	6.0/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	8.4/10
Enterprising	4.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Detail oriented, Dexterity, Interpersonal skills, Listening skills, Organizational skills

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Dental Assistants typically perform the following tasks: • Prepare patient, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, or assist dentist during dental procedures. • Record treatment information in patient records. • Assist dentist in management of medical or dental emergencies. • Order and monitor dental supplies and equipment inventory. • Expose dental diagnostic x-rays. • Provide postoperative instructions prescribed by dentist. • Instruct patients in oral hygiene and plaque control programs. • Take and record medical and dental histories and vital signs of patients. • Apply protective coating of fluoride to teeth. • Schedule appointments, prepare bills and receive payment for dental services, complete insurance forms, and maintain records, manually or using computer. • Make preliminary impressions for study casts and occlusal registrations for mounting study casts. • Pour, trim, and polish study casts. • Fabricate temporary restorations or custom impressions from preliminary impressions. • Clean and polish removable appliances. • Clean teeth, using dental instruments. • Fabricate and fit orthodontic appliances and materials for patients, such as retainers, wires, or bands.

---

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O\*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm>