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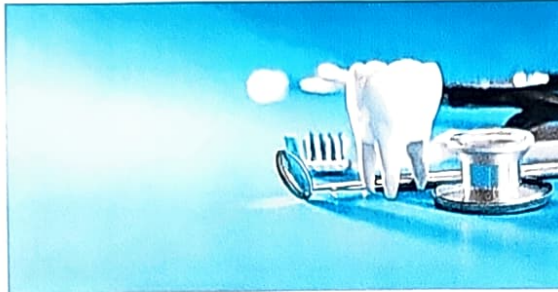
# Why become a Dental Assistant?

- Interest in patient care, health, and science
- Hands-on career that requires strong communication skills, attention to detail, and team work
- Stepping stone for advancing into other dental careers

# How do you become a Dental Assistant?

- Wisconsin technical colleges offer dental assisting programs.
- The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development offers a youth apprenticeship dental assisting track for high school students.
- Dental practices may hire dental assistants with no experience and provide them with on-the-job training.

# Why Choose a Career in Dental Medicine?



Dentists are often the first health care professionals to recognize and identify a wide variety of diseases, ranging from hypertension to oral cancer. They diagnose and treat problems affecting the teeth, gingival tissue, tongue, lips and jaws. These oral diseases often reveal other health issues that may require a follow up with the patient's primary physician.

Dentists provide services that improve patients appearance and self confidence through a wide variety of cosmetic dental procedures. These services can make patients feel better about their smiles. To repair, restore and maintain dentition (teeth) gingival (gums) and oral tissues that have been lost or damaged by accidents, diseases, dentists perform trauma surgery, dental implants, tissue grafts and laser surgery.

The work of a dentist extends beyond the dental chair. Patient education is as important as the actual dental procedures as dentists teach good oral habits to promote good health. Dentists educate the public on the importance of oral health and disease prevention. They interact with people of all ages, cultures, and personalities, They interact with people of all ages, cultures , and personalities. The dentist;s typical day is diverse and interesting .

A good dentist also possesses creative talent. Dentists are artists and in order to brighten one tooth or resign an entire jaw, dentists must have the artist's sense to envision the aesthetic end result to help their patients look their best.

Dentists provide an essential health care service. They are highly respected within the community. Dentists are skilled, civic-minded individuals who work with community leaders,educators, other health professionals and government officials. They often volunteer services to school health programs, the elderly, handicapped or disadvantaged citizens, and non-profit organizations demonstrating a selflessness that is a hallmark of professionalism.

A career in dentistry is personally fulfilling. To serve the present and future oral health needs of their patients, dentists enjoy the challenge of a lifetime of learning. Today's dentists are the cutting edge of modern technology, making the practice of dentistry even more exciting and rewarding.

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## **The path to becoming a Dentist**

*Doctorate Degree—> 8 years of school*

### **Undergraduate programs:**

- There are many programs that offer pre-dental tracks to prepare students for dental school, but they are not required for entry into dental school.

### **Dental Programs:**

- Individuals take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) during the second semester of their junior undergraduate year, or during the summer between junior and senior years.

### **Licensing and Dental Specialities:**

- Graduates must pass a written and practical exams to receive a state license to practice.
- Additional education is required to become a dental specialist, such as an orthodontist, periodontist, endodontist, or oral surgeon.

### **Continuing Education**

30 credit hours of continuing education related to the practice of dentistry or the practice of medicine. The 30 credit hours of continuing education shall include not less than 25 credit hours of instruction in clinical dentistry or clinical medicine