

Step Up to the Future with

Dental Hygiene

Dental Hygiene Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Cabrillo College
Cerritos college
Chabot College
College of San Mateo
Diablo Valley College
Foothill College
Fresno City College
Oxnard College
Pasadena City College
Riverside Community College
Sacramento City College
Santa Rosa Junior College
Shasta College
Southwestern Community
College
Taft College
West Los Angeles College

Sources for Further Information About Dental Hygiene:

American Dental Association
www.ada.org/index.asp

**American Dental Education
Association**
www.explorehealthcareers.org

**Community College's Health
Program Directory**
[http://healthoccupations.org/
ccchealth/](http://healthoccupations.org/ccchealth/)

**American Dental Hygienists
Association**
www.adha.org/

**Career Voyages/Federal
Government**
[www.careervoyages.gov/health
care-videos.cfm](http://www.careervoyages.gov/health
care-videos.cfm)

U.S. Department of Labor
www.bls.gov

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9069.



**ECONOMIC &
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**
through the
CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

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Dental Hygiene



Step Up to the Future!

Facts About Dental Hygienists

Dental Hygiene ranks as one of the fastest growing occupations nationwide and future job prospects are expected to remain superb. With the success of preventive dentistry in reducing the incidence of oral disease, dentists will need to employ more hygienists to meet the demand for dental services, especially with the expanding older population. The US Department of Labor estimates a 30% job growth for this occupation till the year 2016. Within California, a 42% growth is projected by 2014.



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What Does a Dental Hygienist Do?

A Dental Hygienist is a licensed, preventive health professional who provides education, clinical and therapeutic services to the public in an effort to maintain and promote good oral health.

Dental Hygienists remove soft and hard deposits from teeth, teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene and provide other preventive dental care services. They will often take dental x-rays; examine patients' teeth and gums, recording the presence of disease in the mouth. In some states, hygienists also administer anesthetics and medications, place and carve filling materials, and smooth and polish metal restorations.

Personal Characteristics

- Desire to educate and help others.
- Good judgment and critical thinking skills.
- Calm, pleasant demeanor and emotional stability.
- Enjoys paying attention to detail.
- Tolerance for working with blood and oral secretions.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work in a team as well as independently.
- Good manual dexterity.
- Excellent eye hand coordination.
- Stamina; tolerance for doing repetitive motion activities, standing or sitting for long periods at a time.
- Good health. Clean, neat appearance.



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2008 Salary Information

Nationally, the median wage is \$30.19/hour, but salaries will vary according to the part of the country in which one is working.

In California, the median hourly rate is \$36.83, with larger metropolitan areas paying more. In San Francisco a Dental Hygienist may make as much as \$55–\$60/hour, while those who live in the San Joaquin Valley will earn less – about \$34.37/hour. Generally, benefits are not included and are negotiated on an individual bases with the employer.

For more information, contact your local chapter of the American Dental Hygienist Association or see web resources on next page.