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America's Career InfoNet

Occupation Profile



Selected Criteria:

Occupation: **Dental Hygienists**

State: **Oregon**

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DENTAL HYGIENISTS: OREGON

Occupation Description

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.

Career Video



View career video with one of the following:



Real
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[Additional videos](#) and more information available on CareerOneStop.

State and National Wages



[Wage Table](#)



[Hourly Wage Chart](#)



[Yearly Wage Chart](#)

Location	Pay Period	2008				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$21.24	\$26.55	\$32.00	\$37.98	\$43.98
	Yearly	\$44,200	\$55,200	\$66,600	\$79,000	\$91,500
Oregon	Hourly	\$32.29	\$34.33	\$36.98	\$39.72	\$42.70

Yearly	\$67,200	\$71,400	\$76,900	\$82,600	\$88,800
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[Occupation Wages FAQs](#)

[Median Wage by Occupation Across States](#)
[Compare Wages by Occupation and Local Area](#)
[Compare Wages by Metropolitan Areas](#)

National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey](#)

State Data Source: [Oregon Occupational Information Center](#)

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State and National Trends

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2006	2016		
Dental hygienists	167,000	217,200	+ 30 %	8,210
Oregon	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2006	2016		
Dental hygienists	3,030	3,960	+ 31 %	120

¹Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

[Occupation Trends FAQs](#)

[Employment Trends by Occupation Across States](#)
[Compare Employment Trends by Occupation](#)
[Employment Trends by Industry and Occupation](#)

National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#)

State Data Source: [Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Labor Market Information System](#)

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Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

The most important knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) are listed for **Dental Hygienists**.

Knowledge:

- **Medicine and Dentistry** - Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
- **Customer and Personal Service** - Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- **English Language** - Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- **Psychology** - Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- **Education and Training** - Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.

Skills:

- **Active Listening** - Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Speaking** - Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Reading Comprehension** - Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Active Learning** - Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- **Time Management** - Managing one's own time and the time of others.

Abilities:

- **Oral Comprehension** - The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- **Oral Expression** - The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- **Problem Sensitivity** - The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- **Finger Dexterity** - The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.
- **Near Vision** - The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Dental Hygienists.](#)

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Tasks and Activities

Occupation specific tasks and the most important generalized work activities are listed for **Dental Hygienists**.

Occupation Specific Tasks:

- Administer local anesthetic agents.
- Apply fluorides and other cavity preventing agents to arrest dental decay.
- Chart conditions of decay and disease for diagnosis and treatment by dentist.
- Clean calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments.
- Conduct dental health clinics for community groups to augment services of dentist.
- Examine gums, using probes, to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease.
- Expose and develop x-ray film.
- Feel and visually examine gums for sores and signs of disease.
- Feel lymph nodes under patient's chin to detect swelling or tenderness that could indicate presence of oral cancer.
- Maintain dental equipment and sharpen and sterilize dental instruments.
- Maintain patient recall system.
- Make impressions for study casts.
- Place and remove rubber dams, matrices, and temporary restorations.
- Provide clinical services and health education to improve and maintain the oral health of patients and the general public.
- Record and review patient medical histories.
- Remove excess cement from coronal surfaces of teeth.
- Remove sutures and dressings.

Generalized Work Activities:

- **Documenting/Recording Information** - Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.
- **Performing for or Working Directly with the Public** - Performing for people or dealing directly with the public. This includes serving customers in restaurants and stores, and receiving clients or guests.
- **Assisting and Caring for Others** - Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
- **Getting Information** - Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.

- **Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates** - Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.

Detailed Work Activities:

- administer anesthetics
- administer injections
- administer medications or treatments
- analyze dental data
- analyze medical data
- collect clinical data
- collect dental laboratory diagnostic data
- communicate technical information
- follow clinical radiation safety procedures
- follow dental or medical office procedures
- follow dental or medical x-ray procedures
- follow infectious materials procedures
- follow patient observation procedures
- identify body response variations
- inventory medical supplies or instruments
- maintain dental or medical records
- make presentations on health or medical issues
- observe patient condition
- operate dental equipment
- perform dental hygiene procedures
- prepare patient for dental work
- record medical history or data
- set up dental equipment
- understand technical operating, service or repair manuals
- use clinical sterilizing technique
- use darkroom procedures in radiology or medical or dental lab setting
- use dental treatment procedures
- use emergency medical procedures
- use hazardous materials information
- use interpersonal communication techniques
- use knowledge of dental terminology
- use knowledge of medical terminology
- use quality assurance techniques
- use sanitation practices in health care settings
- work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Dental Hygienists](#).

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Tools and Technology

Dental Hygienists [View Detailed Report](#)

Tools:

- **Dental lasers** - Caries detection aids, Dental lasers, Neodymium-doped Yttrium Aluminum Garnet Nd:YAG dental lasers
- **Dental probes** - Calculus explorers, Caries explorers, Nabers furcation probes, Periodontal probes
- **Dental scalars or accessories** - Autoscalars, Cavitron equipment, Curettes, Hand scalars, Hollow handle scalars
- **Dental x ray units** - Dental x ray machines, Digital dental x ray units, Panoramic dental x ray units, Portable dental x ray units
- **Teeth cleaning devices or accessories** - Air-driven dental polishers, Air/water syringes, Dental polishers, Motor-driven dental polishers

Technology:

- **Accounting software** - Dental billing software

- **Electronic mail software** - Email software
- **Internet browser software** - Web browser software
- **Inventory management software** - Inventory management software
- **Medical software** - Dental charting software, Dental clinical records software, Dental digital radiology software, Dental imaging software, Dental intra-oral imaging software

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Dental Hygienists](#).

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Education and Training

Occupation: Dental Hygienists

Most Common Educational/Training Level: Associate degree

Related Instructional Programs: Dental Hygiene/Hygienist

Distribution of Educational Attainment

Occupation	Percent of 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%
Health Technologists and Technicians	20.1%	57.1%	22.7%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	9.9%	31%	59.1%
Total, All Occupations	38.8%	29.1%	32.1%

Find [colleges, training schools and instructional programs](#) for this occupation.

Find education and training programs where you can earn a certificate, diploma, or award in less than 2 years with the [Short-Term Training Finder](#).

Access additional [Education Resources](#) in the Career Resource Library.

Use the [Financial Aid Advisor](#) to help find funds for financing education.

WIA Eligible Training Provider List: <http://egov.oregon.gov/WORKSOURCE/>

Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#) (Education/Training Level, Educational Attainment); [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (Typical Instructional Programs)

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Related Occupation Profiles

Occupations with similar skill requirements

- [Dental Assistants](#)
- [Dentists, General](#)
- [Orthodontists](#)
- [Prosthodontists](#)
- [Radiologic Technologists and Technicians](#)
- [Respiratory Therapists](#)
- [Surgical Technologists](#)

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Web Resources

The following resources are related to occupations in the job family
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical

[Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners](#)

[Health Technologists and Technicians](#)

[Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations](#)

Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners

- [AIDS Care Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Ambulatory Care Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Art Therapist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Audiologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Audiology](#), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- [Becoming a Veterinarian](#), American Veterinary Medical Association
- [Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Certified Nurse-Midwives and Licensed Midwives](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists](#), American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- [Chiropractor](#), Princeton Review
- [Chiropractors](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Chiropractors](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Chiropractors and Doctors of Chiropractic](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Coroners](#), Learn More Resource Center
- [Correctional Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Cytotechnologist \(CT\)](#), American Society for Clinical Pathology
- [Dentist](#), American Dental Association
- [Dentist](#), Princeton Review
- [Dentists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Dentists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dentists](#), Job Futures
- [Denturists](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Dietetics](#), American Medical Association
- [Dietitians and Nutritionists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Dietitians and Nutritionists](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Doctor of Optometry](#), Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
- [Educational Audiologist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Emergency Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Enterostomal Therapy Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Genetics Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Hospice Nurse](#), Princeton Review
- [Hospice/Palliative Care Nurses](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Infection Control Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Intravenous Therapy Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Kinesiotherapist](#), American Medical Association
- [Labor and Delivery Staff Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Long-Term Care Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Managed Care Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Medical Careers](#), Association of American Medical Colleges
- [Medicine and Health](#), WetFeet.com
- [Music Therapist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Nephrology Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Nurse](#), Princeton Review
- [Nurse Executive](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Nursing](#), WetFeet.com
- [Nutritionist](#), Princeton Review
- [Occupational Health Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Occupational Therapist](#), Princeton Review
- [Occupational Therapist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Occupational Therapists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Occupational Therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Occupational Therapists](#), CareerZone
- [Occupational Therapy Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Oncology Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Oncology Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Ophthalmic Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Optometrist](#), Princeton Review
- [Optometrists](#), California Occupational Guide

- [Optometrists](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Optometrists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Orthopaedic Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Orthoptist](#), American Medical Association
- [Otorhinolaryngology Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Pediatric Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Perianesthesia Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Perinatal Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Perioperative \(O.R.\) Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Pharmaceuticals](#), WetFeet.com
- [Pharmacist](#), Princeton Review
- [Pharmacists](#), Job Futures
- [Pharmacists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Pharmacists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physical Therapist](#), Princeton Review
- [Physical Therapist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Physical Therapists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physical Therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Physical Therapists](#), CareerZone
- [Physical Therapy Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Physician](#), Princeton Review
- [Physician Assistant](#), Princeton Review
- [Physician Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Physician Assistants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Physician Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physicians and Surgeons](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physicians and Surgeons](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Podiatrists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook 2002-03
- [Podiatrists and Doctors of Podiatric Medicine](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Primary Care and Office Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Psychiatric Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Radiation Therapists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Radiologic Technology Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Reconstructive Surgical Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Recreational Therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Registered Dietitian](#), American Dietetic Association
- [Registered Nurses](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Registered Nurses](#), Job Futures
- [Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Rehabilitation Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Respiratory Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Respiratory Therapist](#), American Association for Respiratory Care
- [Respiratory Therapists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Respiratory Therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Respiratory Therapy Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [School Counselor](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [School Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [School Nurse](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Speech Language Pathologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Speech Therapist](#), Princeton Review
- [Speech-Language Pathologist](#), The Council for Exceptional Children
- [Speech-Language Pathologists](#), CareerZone
- [Speech-Language Pathologists](#), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- [Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Staff Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Subacute Care Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Telephone Triage or Advice Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Transplant Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Trauma Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Veterinarian](#), Princeton Review
- [Veterinarians](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Veterinarians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Veterinarians and Veterinary Inspectors](#), California Occupational Guide

Health Technologists and Technicians

- [Biological Technologists and Technicians](#), Job Futures
- [Blood Bank Technology-Specialist](#), American Medical Association
- [Cardiovascular Technologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Clinical Laboratory Science Professional](#), American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- [Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Cytotechnologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Dental Hygienist](#), American Dental Association
- [Dental Hygienists](#), CareerZone
- [Dental Hygienists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dental Hygienists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Dental Related Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Diagnostic Medical Sonographers](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Diagnostic Radiologic Technologists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dietetics](#), American Medical Association
- [Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dispensing Opticians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Electrocardiograph Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic](#), American Medical Association
- [Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics](#), CareerZone
- [Health Information Management Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Histotechnician \(HT\)](#), American Society for Clinical Pathology
- [Laboratory Assistants and Laboratory Technicians \(Except Health\)](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses](#), CareerZone
- [Licensed Vocational Nurses](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical Appliance Technicians](#), Learn More Resource Center
- [Medical Laboratory Technician \(MLT\)](#), American Society for Clinical Pathology
- [Medical Records and Health Information Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical Records and Health Information Technicians](#), CareerZone
- [Medical Records and Health Information Technicians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Technologist \(MT\)](#), American Society for Clinical Pathology
- [Neonatal Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Nuclear Medicine Technologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Nuclear Medicine Technologists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Ophthalmic Dispensing Optician](#), American Medical Association
- [Ophthalmic Medical Personnel](#), Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology
- [Ophthalmic Professions](#), American Medical Association
- [Opticians](#), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- [Opticians, Dispensing](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Optometric Technician and Optometric Assistant](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Orthotist and Prosthetist](#), American Medical Association
- [Orthotists and Prosthetists](#), Learn More Resource Center
- [Paramedic](#), Princeton Review
- [Perfusionist](#), American Medical Association
- [Pharmacy Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Pharmacy Technicians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Psychiatric Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Radiologic Technologists](#), CareerZone
- [Radiologic Technologists and Technicians](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Radiologic Technology Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Registered Dietetic Technician](#), American Dietetic Association
- [Surgical Technicians](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Surgical Technologist](#), American Medical Association
- [Surgical Technologists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Surgical Technology](#), Association of Surgical Technologists
- [Veterinary Technicians \(Animal Health Technicians\)](#), California Occupational Guide

Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

- [Athletic Trainer](#), American Medical Association
- [Dialysis Technician](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical and Health Services Managers](#), Learn More Resource Center

- [Music Therapist](#), American Medical Association
- [Therapeutic Recreation Specialist](#), American Medical Association
- [Women's Health Nurse Practitioner](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow

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