

# Dental Assistants (SOC 31-9091)

Assist dentist, set up patient and equipment, and keep records.

Sample of reported job titles: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), Certified Registered Dental Assistant, Dental Assistant (DA), Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA), Expanded Function Dental Assistant, Oral Surgery Assistant, Orthodontic Assistant (Ortho Assistant), Orthodontic Technician, Registered Dental Assistant (RDA), Surgical Dental Assistant



## Job Responsibilities

- Prepare patient, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, or assist dentist during dental procedures.
- Record treatment information in patient records.
- Expose dental diagnostic x-rays.
- Take and record medical and dental histories and vital signs of patients.
- Assist dentist in management of medical or dental emergencies.
- Instruct patients in oral hygiene and plaque control programs.
- Fabricate temporary restorations or custom impressions from preliminary impressions.
- Make preliminary impressions for study casts and occlusal registrations for mounting study casts.
- Fabricate and fit orthodontic appliances and materials for patients, such as retainers, wires, or bands.
- Apply protective coating of fluoride to teeth

## New Hampshire Outlook

- Average Hourly Wage\*: \$22.84
- Estimated Employment 2016: 1,319
- Projected Employment 2026: 1,512
- Expected 10-Year Growth: 14.6%
- Projected Average Annual Openings: 172

## Top industries in NH for this occupation:

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Federal Government
- Hospitals
- State Government

\* Wage estimates based on surveys conducted from November 2013 to May 2016, aged to June 2017.

### Education and Training

Dental Assistants may attend a formal educational program, or may just learn on-the-job. Some states require that applicants complete a training program and pass an examination, while others do not. Employers may prefer to hire Dental Assistants that have completed a certification program.

In New Hampshire, Dental Assistants are not required to obtain a license. Certifications in Dental Assisting are available at educational institutions in the state.

### Interests (Holland Code): CRS

- **Conventional** — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.
- **Realistic** — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.
- **Social** — Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

### Career Cluster: Health Science

### Work Environment

Dental assistants work under the supervision of and work closely with dental hygienist in their day-to-day activities. Dental assistants wear safety glasses, surgical masks, protective clothing, and gloves to protect themselves and patients from infectious diseases. They also must follow safety procedures to minimize risks associated with x-ray machines. Most dental assistants work full time. However, nearly one in three assistants worked part time in 2016.

### Additional Information Sources\*\*

Dental Assistant National Board, Inc.  
<[www.danb.org/](http://www.danb.org/)>

### To Find a Job

Contact the nearest NH Employment Security office or go online to [www.nhes.nh.gov](http://www.nhes.nh.gov)

\*\* Inclusion of this information is intended to provide a convenient resource for research, but in no way constitutes an endorsement for any organization, nor is the list all-inclusive.

### Source:

NH Employment Projections, base year 2016 to projected year 2026  
Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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