

## Dental Hygienist

**Median hourly  
earnings: \$36.12**

**Median annual  
earnings: \$76,320**

### Occupation Description

Dental Hygienists clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. They may educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop X-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.

### General Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required for Success on the Job

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Biology
- Speaking
- Reading Comprehension
- Manual Dexterity

### Education and Training Needed

- Most Common Educational/Training Level: Associate's degree

### Training Providers

#### [Howard University – College of Dentistry](#)

Office of Continuing Dental Education,  
Howard University College of Dentistry,  
600 "W" Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20059  
(202) 806-0079

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#### [Northern Virginia Community College – Medical Education Campus](#)

6699 Springfield Center Drive  
Springfield, VA 22150-1913  
(703) 822-6570

#### **Associate in Applied Science – Dental Hygiene**

The curriculum is designed to prepare selected students to serve in a dynamic and growing health profession as valuable members of the Dental Health team. At the successful completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take the National Board and Regional Board Examinations in Dental Hygiene leading to licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (R.D.H.). 64 credit hours are required for completion (72 with 8-credit NAS prerequisite).