

For the next several weeks, we are focusing on careers in Healthcare.

Combining medical technology and the human touch, the healthcare industry diagnoses, treats, and administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people—from newborns to the terminally ill.



Careers in Healthcare

The type of work

- Clean calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments.
- Record and review patient medical histories.
- Examine gums to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease.
- Provide clinical services or health education to improve and maintain the oral health of patients or the general public.
- Feel and visually examine gums for sores and signs of disease.
- Expose and develop x-ray film.
- Chart conditions of decay and disease for diagnosis and treatment by dentist.
- Maintain dental equipment and sharpen and sterilize dental instruments.

Quick Facts



As one of the largest industries in 2008, healthcare provided 14.3 million jobs for wage and salary workers. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations are healthcare related. Healthcare will generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population. A wide variety of people with various educational backgrounds are necessary for the healthcare industry to function. The healthcare industry employs some highly educated occupations that often require many years of training beyond graduate school. However, most of the occupations in the healthcare industry require less than four years of college.



Dental Hygienist

Leigh Ann Faight, RDH
Registered Dental Hygienist
Thomas G Leatherman, DDS, Lorain, OH

Dental hygienists remove soft and hard deposits from teeth, teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene, and provide other preventive dental care. They examine patients' teeth and gums, recording the presence of diseases or abnormalities.

Q How did you become interested in your particular field?

A I started in dentistry as a trained orthodontic assistant. It was at this job that I realized my love for helping and serving others. My love for healthcare and dental hygiene developed from this job. I attended Lorain County Community College and graduated with my dental hygiene degree in 2006.

Q How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

A It took a lot of hard work and dedication to get where I am today. I earned my first position as an RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist) following a 3 month externship with a wonderful dentist who became a great mentor and friend of mine. We later traveled together with a team to Cap Haitian, Haiti to offer dental services to those in need.

Q What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

A Becoming an RDH requires a commitment to earning your college degree through a 2 or 4 year accredited dental hygiene program. Post graduate studies and continuing education programs are required. Additional certifications in local anesthesia, nitrous oxide administration and general supervision practice are encouraged.

Q What is the best part of your job?

A My patients and the care they entrust with me are the best parts of my job.

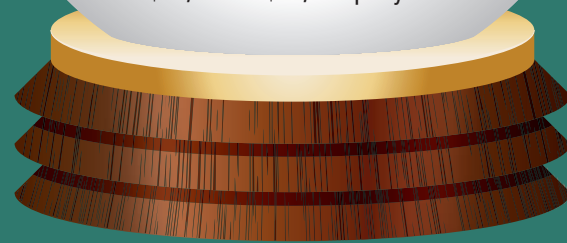
Q Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

A Being a dental healthcare provider is a wonderful profession that requires compassion and commitment to serving others.



THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

Dental hygienists held about 174,100 jobs nationwide in 2008, with approximately 7,100 in Ohio. Dental hygienists rank among the fastest growing occupations. Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 36 percent through 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Job prospects are expected to be favorable in most areas, but competition for jobs is likely in some areas. Full-time Dental Hygienists can make anywhere from \$45,000 to \$75,000 per year.



Pathways to success:

A high school diploma and college entrance test scores are usually required for admission to a dental hygiene program. High school students interested in becoming dental hygienists should take courses in biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Some dental hygiene programs also require applicants to have completed at least one year of college. Specific entrance requirements typically vary from one school to another. In 2008, there were 301 dental hygiene programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Most dental hygiene programs grant an associate degree, although some also offer a certificate, a bachelor's degree, or a master's degree. A minimum of an associate degree or certificate in dental hygiene is generally required for practice in a private dental office. A bachelor's or master's degree usually is required for research, teaching, or clinical practice in public or school health programs. Dental hygienists must be licensed by the State in which they practice. Nearly all States require candidates to graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass both a written and clinical examination.



What Employers look for in individuals:

- Medicine and Dentistry - 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 - 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 - structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Psychology - 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 - principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.

Sponsors



Elyria City School District



Sources: Occupational Information Network, O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>