

Dental Hygienist

PANHANDLE

Average Wage
\$23.13

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
5

Employment in
2004 2014
150 200

TEXAS

Average Wage
\$30.46

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
465

Employment in
2004 2014
8,950 12,850

UNITED STATES

Employment in
2006
166,380

Female 97%
Minority 8%

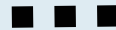
EMPLOYMENT CODES

OES 32908

*O*NET* 29-201.00
Dental Hygienists

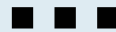
JOB DESCRIPTION

Perform dental prophylactic treatments and instruct groups and individuals in the care of the teeth and mouth. May specialize in providing clinical services and health education in program designed to improve and maintain oral health of school children.



SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED

- ◆ Good manual dexterity to use dental instruments in a patient's mouth with little room for error
- ◆ Ability to work well with others
- ◆ Knowledge in biology, chemistry, mathematics



Dental hygienists work under the supervision of a licensed dentist. Duties may include cleaning and polishing teeth, taking X-rays, tending sutures, performing fluoride treatments, and administering pit and fissure sealant. Hygienists also instruct patients on proper oral health care and preventive dentistry. At times, the hygienist may be called upon to schedule appointments and to act as office manager.

Flexible scheduling is a distinctive feature of this job. Full-time, part-time, evening, and weekend work is widely available. Dentists frequently hire hygienists to work only 2 or 3 days a week, so hygienists may hold jobs in more than one dental office. Hygienists work in clean, well-lighted offices. Important health safeguards include strict adherence to proper radiological procedures, and use of appropriate protective devices when administering anesthetic gas. Hygienists also wear safety glasses, surgical masks, and gloves to protect themselves from infectious diseases.

PANHANDLE AREA PUBLIC TRAINING PROVIDERS

Training Provider	Direct	Related	Education Offering
Amarillo College Amarillo, Dumas, Hereford	√		A.A.S. (Associate in Applied Science Degree), Dental Hygiene Major
		√	Certificate of Completion (Dentist Aide)

For information on Panhandle Area private training providers, please refer to the Resource Index.

LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

Required: State of Texas Licensure (must pass Western Regional Examining Board Dental Hygiene Exam or meet alternative credentialing requirements)

HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT LEVELS BY INDUSTRY

Dentist Offices/Clinics	96%
Physicians Offices	1%
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	1%
Federal Government	1%
Self-employed/Unpaid Family Workers	1%

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Dental Association,
211 E. Chicago Ave., Suite 1814, Chicago, IL 60611-2678, (312) 440-2500, <http://www.ada.org>

American Dental Hygienists' Association, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3400, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 440-8900, <http://www.adha.org>

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, 333 Guadalupe St., Tower 3, Suite 800, Austin, Texas, 78701, (512) 463-6400, <http://www.tsbde.state.tx.us>

For additional website sources, please refer to the Resource Index.

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