



Explore a Career as a **DENTAL HYGIENIST**

What do Dental Hygienists do?

Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals who provide educational, clinical, research, administrative, and therapeutic services supporting total wellness through the promotion of optimum oral health. They clean teeth, examine patients for signs of oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventive dental care. Dental hygienists use many types of tools to do their job. They clean and polish teeth with hand, power, and ultrasonic tools. In some cases, they use lasers. Hygienists remove stains with an air-polishing device, which sprays a combination of air, water, and baking soda.

Dental Hygienists are in demand in Kankakee County!

Kankakee County employment of dental hygienists is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for dental hygienists as growing much faster than average.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a dental hygienist, but first you will need to earn an associate degree in dental hygiene. As part of your classroom training and laboratory work you will learn about teeth, gums, jaws, and other areas that may require dental work. To be a dental hygienist in the state of Illinois, you will also need to complete state licensure requirements.

As a Dental Hygienist you will:

- Apply preventive materials to teeth
- Conduct patient screening procedures such as assessment of oral health conditions, review of health history, oral cancer screening, head and neck inspection, dental charting, and taking blood pressure and pulse
- Remove tartar and plaque from all surfaces of the teeth
- Take and develop dental radiographs (x-rays)
- Teach patients appropriate oral hygiene strategies to maintain oral health

Dental Hygienist

Training Providers

The following certified training providers offer programs and certifications to train for a career as a dental hygienist:

- Prairie State College
- Parkland College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire dental hygienists in Kankakee County, including:

- Endodontic offices
- General dental practices
- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons
- Orthodontic offices
- Outpatient clinics
- Pediatric dentist offices
- Public health dentist offices

Wages & Openings

Dental Hygienist Employment Data for Kankakee County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$29.19
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$39.07
Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County	~10
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	303



Opportunities

After completing your degree, you will have many opportunities for additional certification and advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Dental Office Manager
- Dentist



Kankakee Workforce Services

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