

Explore a Career in Dentistry

Explore a career that combines science, creativity, and helping others!

What is Dentistry? Dentistry is the branch of medicine focused on the health of teeth, gums, and the mouth.

Why Become a Dentist?

- Help people smile and feel confident and be a respected healthcare professional
- Be your own boss and earn a great salary
- Use your hands creatively and enjoy a flexible lifestyle

How can you plan and prepare?

- Talk to your school guidance counselor
- Develop a curiosity about what causes disease and how cures are developed
- Take part in North Dakota HOSA-Future Health Professionals
- Join student organizations and health/science clubs
- Shadow a local dentist

How to Become a Dentist

1. Graduate high school or earn a GED – Focus on science and math
2. Earn a four-year college degree – Take pre-dental courses
3. Take the DAT – Dental Admission Test
4. Apply to dental school – Four more years
5. Optional: Specialize with additional training

Job Outlook and Salary

- Average annual salary of a dentist in North Dakota: \$212,380
 - North Dakota is in the top ten highest paying states for dentistry
- Job placement outlook for dentists in North Dakota
 - Nationally projected growth rate of 4% from 2024 to 2034; 4,500 openings each year on average over the decade

Education Costs (Estimates)

- Average first-year cost of dental school:
 - \$56,698 for residents
 - \$74,866 for non-residents
- Average resident first-year costs:
 - \$41,927 for public school
 - \$78,581 for private school

Dental Schools Near North Dakota

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Nebraska
- Marquette University – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Creighton University – Omaha, Nebraska
- Also available in Minnesota and Iowa

Paying for Dental School

- Loan repayment programs available in North Dakota (up to \$100,000 for service in rural areas)



Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences