

# Explore a Career in Dental Assisting

Be the helping hands behind every healthy smile!

## What Do Dental Assistants Do?

Dental assistants support dentists and patients by:

- Assisting during procedures
- Taking X-rays and impressions
- Sterilizing instruments
- Teaching oral hygiene
- Scheduling appointments and managing supplies

## Is This Career Right for You?

You might enjoy dental assisting if you:

- Are organized and detail-oriented
- Like working with people
- Can multitask and work on a team
- Want a hands-on healthcare job

## How to Become a Dental Assistant

1. Graduate high school or earn a GED
2. Choose a path:
  - Certificate (under 1 year)
  - Associate's degree (about 2 years)
  - On-the-job training
3. Optional: Become a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in North Dakota

## Education Costs (Estimates)

- Certificate: \$3,000–\$15,000
- Associate's degree: \$6,000–\$30,000

## Job Outlook and Salary

- Starting salary in North Dakota: ~\$3,706/month
- High salary: ~\$4,333/month
- National average: \$3,221/month
- Job growth: 8% (faster than average)
- ~56,400 openings/year nationwide

## Local Programs

- North Dakota State College of Science – Wahpeton, North Dakota
- Bismarck State College
- Dakota College at Bottineau
- Also available in Montana, South Dakota, and Minnesota



Center for Rural Health

University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences