

Already got your attention?

Well, let's take a closer look at what dentistry has to offer YOU!

Variety – Dentistry is a rapidly changing, expanding profession involving detection of diseases, diagnosis, esthetic improvement, surgical restoration, and public education and prevention.

Creativity – Dentists are artists as well as scientists.

Prestige – Dentists provide an essential health care service, and are highly respected within the community.

Flexibility – Dentistry allows you to be your own boss and balance your personal life with your professional life.

Security – The average income of a dentist is in the highest 8% of U.S. family income, and the demand for dentistry continues to grow.

Personal Satisfaction – A career in dentistry is personally fulfilling. Dentists perform an important public service to help people maintain their health and appearance, and enjoy the challenge of a lifetime of learning.

So what are some key personal characteristics that will lead to success in dentistry?

Dentists should:

- possess high moral and ethical character
- be dedicated in maintaining high standards in the profession
- be devoted to the service of people
- be skilled in communication
- be a leader in the community
- enjoy independence
- like to work with their hands

Is dentistry sounding more and more like the career for you?

Let's delve deeper, and explore the many different careers within the dental profession.

Dental Laboratory Technician

- makes dental prostheses (replacements of natural teeth to restore tooth function and appearance)
- skilled in using small hand instruments, accuracy, artistic ability and attention to small detail

Dental Assistant

- increases the efficiency of the dentist in delivering quality health care
- assists in dental treatment procedures
- may serve as infection control officers, and may take x-rays

Dental Hygienist

- works with the dentist or on their own in a dental office
- provides dental hygiene care for patients via routine cleanings
- motivates and instruct patients on oral disease prevention and oral health maintenance

Dentist

- licensed to perform every area within dentistry to the degree in which they feel capable
- makes referrals to specialists (orthodontists, endodontists, oral surgeons, etc.)
- specializes in a number of dental fields, some of which require an additional 2-3 years of schooling

Bet you didn't know dentists could do so many different things.

Exciting, isn't it? So I guess now you're wondering how to get started? Not to worry! We've got a plan that will guide you from high school to college, to dental school, and further.

In high school, you need to begin thinking about college: a college education will help you take charge of your future. A college degree means more career opportunities and a greater earning potential; but, it takes some planning and preparation. Don't wait! Now is the time to take charge and aim high!

9th and 10th grade

- Develop an organization system to help you manage your time.
- Challenge yourself! Be sure the courses you sign up for are "college prep" or "advanced placement."
- Begin to explore careers and talk to people in jobs that interest you.
- Develop leadership skills! Get involved in school and community activities.
- In 10th grade register for the P-ACT (Preliminary American College Test) or PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test), which will familiarize you with the test format and identify areas of improvement.
- Participate in a research program at a college or university.
- Discuss college costs with your parents now. You can help too by starting to save. Scholarships are everywhere, ask and search websites.

11th grade

- Continue to take challenging courses and to explore careers on the web or at the local library.
- In October take the PSAT/NMSQT or P-ACT. Good scores may also lead to a scholarship.
- All colleges are not the same. Begin to shop around. Search websites for information about different colleges.
- Plan to attend at least one college fair in your area.
- Visit the counseling office often to see when representatives for the colleges you are interested in will be visiting your school.
- Take the SAT I and/or the ACT during the spring semester.
- Continue to check into scholarships.
- The summer before your senior year is a good time to visit your top three college choices.

12th grade

- Don't get Senioritis! Continue to excel in school.
- Utilize your resources: High School counselors, University Admissions, Multicultural Affairs Offices and the Internet can help you find answers to your questions.
- You can still take or retake the SAT I and ACT (early fall is best).
- Begin writing your personal statement for college applications and scholarships.
- Send your college applications in early and be sure to provide all requested materials.

College/Undergraduate Studies (the plan for aspiring dentists)

- During college, begin your preparation for dental school.
- Participate in a summer pre-dental program at a college or university.
- Collect recommendations as you progress through your college years.
- Search websites to find information about dental schools of interest.
- Prepare for and take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) a year before you anticipate entering dental school.
- Apply to dental schools via the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) a year before you anticipate entering dental school. If a particular school does not participate in AADSAS, obtain application materials directly from the school. Send in applications as early as possible.
- Prepare for and attend interviews.
- Await replies and select the dental school of your choice.

Did You Know...?

The University of Michigan School of Dentistry has a paid summer research program for high school students.

The Exploration of Science Program (EOS) selects five local high school students to work on a research project with a dental professor for six weeks during the summer.

For application and information, please visit:
www.dent.umich.edu/mac/services



So that's it!

Looks like a great deal of work? It's not really. Just take one step at a time and you'll be finished before you know it. If you've already missed some steps, don't panic. See your guidance counselor for alternatives. Don't be discouraged by what your friends may tell you. Get the facts!

A little DENTAL TRIVIA

(see back page for answers)

1. How many dental schools are there in the United States?
 - a. 56
 - b. 373
 - c. 10
 - d. 2,500
2. From what materials were George Washington's dentures mainly constructed?
 - a. Lead and ivory
 - b. Wood and human teeth
 - c. Rubber and bone
 - d. Silver and Gold
3. What is the official color of dentistry?
 - a. Lilac
 - b. Gold
 - c. White
 - d. Green