

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

April 2023

Dental Hygienist & Assistant

Dental hygienists examine patients for signs of oral diseases, such as gingivitis, and provide preventive care such as oral hygiene. They educate patients about oral health and ways to keep their teeth and gums healthy. Hygienists remove stains and polish teeth and take x-rays to check for tooth or jaw problems. They use hand, power, and ultrasonic tools and sometimes lasers. **Dental assistants** perform patient care, recordkeeping, and appointment scheduling. They may take patient medical history, blood pressure, and pulse before a procedure and explain procedures and educate on oral care. They help dentists during a procedure by passing instruments and holding equipment such as suction hoses, matrix bands, and dental curing lights. Duties can vary by state and by dental office.

Average Annual Pay-Hygienist: \$77,810 & Assistant: \$38,660



How Do I Become a Dental Hygienist or Assistant?

**PROJECTED JOB
MARKET GROWTH:
HYGIENIST 9%,
ASSISTANT 8% BY 2031**

Dental hygienists typically need an associate's degree in dental hygiene, but also may get a bachelor's degree. Master's degree programs are available but are relatively uncommon. A bachelor's or master's degree usually is required for research, teaching, or clinical practice in public or school health programs. Programs are often found in community colleges, technical schools, and universities. To become a dental assistant in New York State a licensure-qualifying dental assisting program must be completed. They are typically one year in length and available at community colleges and local BOCES and lead to a certificate or a diploma.

What Does a Dental Hygienist and Assistant Do?



Hygienist

- Remove tartar, stains, plaque from teeth.
- Apply sealants and fluorides to help protect teeth.
- Take and develop dental x-rays.
- Assess patients oral health and report findings to dentists.
- Document patient care and treatment plans.
- Educate how to brush and floss correctly.



Assistant

- Prepare patients and work area for treatment/procedures.
- Sterilize instruments.
- Hand instruments to dentist and dry patient mouths using equipment.
- Process x rays and complete lab tasks, under the direction of a dentist.
- Record keeping and scheduling patient appointments.
- Billing and payment



WNY R-AHEC, 20 Duncan St, Warsaw, NY 14569

585-786-6275 ebrauen@r-ahec.org

<https://www.r-ahec.org/>

Follow us on:



This organization is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

April 2023



Click on the image for an account of Dental Assistant vs Dental Hygienist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOCIRXEg7Tk>



Scan Me

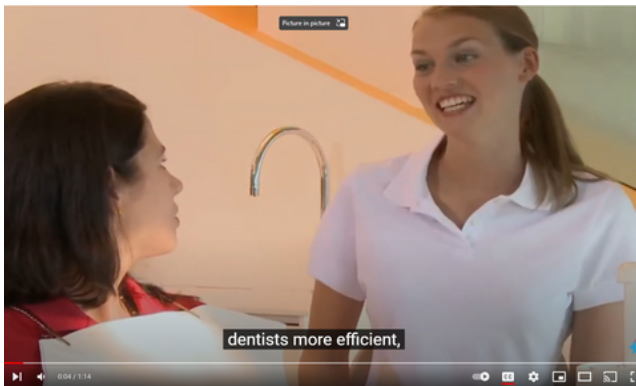


Click on the image for information on Dental Hygienists from CareerOneStop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeAtDfCQ0J4>



Scan Me



Click on the image for information on Dental Assistants from CareerOneStop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a4UKMs15WI>



Scan Me



For more information visit the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm or www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-assistants.htm

or the American Dental Hygienists Association and American Dental Assistants Association

www.adha.org www.adaausa.org

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

April 2023

Certified Nursing Assistant Training Opportunities Available **Classes begin May 15, 2023**



Starting pay for CNAs at
WCCHS Nursing Facility :
\$18.68 per hr. with
Clinical Ladder Available

**Applications Available at
Community Action for Wyoming County**
6470, Rt. 20a, Suite 1, Perry, NY 14530

Full tuition will be provided to successful applicants

Call 585-237-2600 or email: mwright@wccainc.org

Classes held @ GV BOCES,
Mt Morris Campus

Clinical Training at
WCCHS Nursing Facility



AHEC SCHOLARS

Now Enrolling



Health Profession Students Gain Knowledge of the Social and
Cultural Factors that Influence Health



- 📅 Two-Year Program
- 📅 Earn Up to \$2,000
- 📅 Support Quality Patient Care in Rural and Underserved Communities
- 📅 Program Components Include
 - Didactic Studies
 - Hands on Learning
 - Group Case Conferencing



APPLY TODAY!

Visit the AHEC Scholars site for more information
nysahec.org/our-programs/new-nys-ahec-scholars-program/

For more information contact

Erin Brauen | ebrauen@r-ahec.org | 585-786-6275

