

# Become a Dentist

Dentists are experts in the health and function of the mouth. There are many types of dentists, some with very specific and specialized areas of expertise, such as pedodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery and more.

## JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Diagnosis:** Evaluate a patient's mouth, and determine if any disease is present
- **Treatment Planning:** Discuss with patients what the best options are to improve health
- **Treatment:** Provide treatment such as preventive services, surgery, fillings, prescription medications, or other services

## SKILLS NEEDED

- Eye-hand coordination
- Fine motor skills
- Good judgment
- Critical thinking skills
- Professionalism

## PLAN YOUR CAREER PATH

### GET A DEGREE

- Earn a four-year bachelor's college degree – University of Hawaii has a pre-dentistry advisory program
- Then apply for a four-year dental school degree on the mainland – Hawaii does not have a dental school.
- Specialty residency is optional and includes Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Pedodontics, Endodontics, Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, and Oral Radiology.

### GET LICENSED

- Dentists must take exams and meet licensing requirements determined by each state.

### GET HIRED

- Dentists can work as a small business owner, an associate in group practices, or working for hospitals, health centers, or universities.



## DENTIST PERKS

- Pay can vary — average is from \$92-102 an hour
- Help people by caring for their oral health
- Be your own boss
- Choose how you want to practice, individually or in a group practice
- Dental research or teaching careers are an option
- Work in a team environment