



Start Your Career Path as a Dentist

As a dentist you will examine, treat and maintain the teeth, gums and other hard and soft tissues of the mouth and surrounding structures. They instruct patients about good oral health practices in order to prevent gum disease and tooth loss. *Remember, no career path is the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.*

High School



Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree



Bachelor's Degree (BS)

*Students are encouraged to consult the professional school of their choice to ensure all application requirements or pre-requisites have been fulfilled. For example, some schools do not require DAT and others may limit community college credits.



Dental Admission Test (DAT) – Soph. or Jr. Year of Undergrad*



Dental School Application Fee, Summer of Jr. or Sr. Year of Undergrad



Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DDS or DMD)



Integrated Clinical Boards & National Boards



Licensure Fee

Dental Residency

During Dental School, determine if you would like to do an optional residency. If so, pay application fee, apply and interview.

Residencies can last 1-6 years depending on your chosen specialty.

Dental Residency

Dental Practice



Optional Specialty Exam(s)

Specialty Practice



Virginia Partnership
for Health Science Careers



= Certification Required



= Education Required



= Fee Payment Required

Reach out to a counselor at your high school, local community college, or four-year college or university. For more information, visit: virginiahealthcareers.org

Starting your dentist career journey in high school?

Visit virginiahealthcareers.org to learn more.

Dentist**
Salary Range: \$196,890
License
Dentistry
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry
Advanced Education in General Dentistry 12 Months
Johnston Memorial Hospital
633 MDG/DS/SGDR Joint Base Langley-Eustis
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit
VCU School of Dentistry
General Practice Residency 12 Months
University of Virginia Health System Department of Dentistry
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Carilion Clinic
General Practice Residency 24 Months
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Richmond

Specialty Practice**
Salary Range: Varies Dependent Upon Speciality
License
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command
VCU School of Dentistry
Pediatric Dentistry
Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital of Richmond
VCU School of Dentistry
Orthodontics
VCU School of Dentistry
Endodontics
VCU School of Dentistry
Periodontics
VCU School of Dentistry
Prosthodontics
VCU School of Dentistry

*Admissions process required. **For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.



Degrees & Certificates Guide

AS - An Associate of Science degree is a two-year degree that combines general coursework with major-specific classes.

AAS - An Associate of Applied Science degree is a two-year college degree that focuses on a specific technical skill of applied science.

Certificate - A certificate of study is a postsecondary credential that shows completed practical training and gained skills in a specific field and carries credit.

Career Studies Certificate - A careers studies program is a short-term program that improves job skills (12-18 academic credits, 15-18 months to complete).

FastForward - FastForward is a short-term workforce training program that offers industry credentials and certifications in a shorter time period (non-credit).