The field of dentistry offers many opportunities for rewarding careers. Professional oral health care requires a team effort to ensure success. The core of the oral health care team is comprised of dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians.

The knowledge, talents and skills of each of the team members are critical in providing the services necessary for total oral health care. These services include oral health education, disease prevention, disease detection, diagnosis and treatment, aesthetic improvement, and surgical restoration.

Dental professionals treat people, not just teeth and mouths. Good oral health is an essential component of the total health of a person. Dental professionals interact with people of all ages and personalities from a wide range of cultures. Their skills in working with people, as well as their dentistry and teaching skills, can have a lifelong positive impact on the total health of the people who use their services.

Many other career paths, in addition to the traditional private dental practice, are open to trained dental professionals. These include careers in community health departments and other public health agencies, hospitals, military, dental research, and in industry, such as dental product development and sales.

The path is open to a challenging and rewarding career; a path that could be yours.

For more information on educational opportunities in North Carolina for your career in dentistry, contact the admissions office at:

Sources for Dental Careers Information:

NC Dental Society
1600 Evans Road
Cary, NC 27513
(800) 662-8754
www.ncdental.org

American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Dental Education Association
1400 K Street, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-7021
www.adea.org

North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC)
Campus Box 7165, 145 N. Medical Drive
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7165
(919) 966-2461
www.nchealthcareers.com/

NC Oral Health Section - Careers in Dental Health:
www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/oralhealth/services/careers.htm

Alamance Community College
PO Box 8300
Graham, NC 27253-8000
(336) 579-2002
www.alamancecc.edu/

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
340 Victoria Road
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 298-1210
www.abtech.edu/

Cape Fear Community College
411 N. Front Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 219-5100
www2.cff.edu/

 Catawba Valley Community College
2510 Highway 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7000
www.cvic.edu/index.cfm

Central Carolina Community College
900 S. Vance Street #220
Sanford, NC 27330
(919) 775-2122
www.cccc.edu

Central Piedmont Community College
PO Box 3509
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 330-2722
www.cppcc.edu

Coastal Carolina Community College
444 Western Blvd.
Jacksonville, NC 28546
(910) 455-1211
www.ccac.edu

Durham Technical Community College
PO Drawer 11307
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 686-3300
www.durhamtech.edu

East Carolina University
School of Dental Medicine
1831 W. George Dennis Road
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 737-7000
http://www.ecu.edu/dentistry/

Fayetteville Technical Community College
PO Box 5225
Fayetteville, NC 28303-0256
(910) 678-8400
www.faytechcc.edu

Forsyth Technical Community College
2100 Davis Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27105-5137
(336) 733-5871
www.forytech.edu

Guilford Technical Community College
PO Box 305
Jamestown, NC 27282
(336) 354-4822
www.gttc.edu

Halifax Community College
PO Drawer 809
Highway 158 & College Drive
Weldon, NC 27890
(336) 516-4221
www.halifaxcc.edu/

Martin Community College
1165 Ruffner Park Road
Williamson, NC 27892-4425
(336) 792-1521
www.martincc.edu

Miller-Motte College
3901 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 734-2820
www.miller-motte.edu

Montgomery Community College
1811 Page Street
Troy, NC 27371-8387
(910) 576-6222
www.montgomerycollege.edu

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
PO Box 1594
Salisbury, NC 28145-1594
North Campus (704)837-6760
South Campus (704)788-5170
http://www.rccc.edu

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
School of Dentistry
103 South Building, Campus Box 9100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
(919) 962-1365
www.dentistry.unc.edu

Wake Technical Community College
9101 Fayetteville Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 662-3400
www.waketech.edu

Wayne Community College
Cedar Box 8902
Goldston, NC 27533-8902
(919) 733-5111
www.waynecc.edu

Western Piedmont Community College
1001 Burkont Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655-4111
(828) 438-6000
www.wpc.edu

Wilkes Community College
PO Box 132
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
(336) 836-6100
www.wilkescc.edu

For more information on educational opportunities in North Carolina for your career in dentistry, contact the admissions office at:
 Dentist in Private Practice

Dentists examine patients, diagnose problems, and treat for disease, injury or crooked teeth and diseased gums. Dentists fit, cut, treat gum disease, remove missinng teeth or make custom dentures for the patient. They also teach patients proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.

Minimum of 90 semester hours of accredited college work required before entering dental school. Graduation from an accredited dental school, which usually takes four years.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry
East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine

UNCG School of Global Public Health
Master of Public Health: ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health
Master of Public Health: UNC-CH School of Public Health
UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health: Dental Public Health Residency Program

Dentist in Public Health

Public health dentists examine the dental needs of people in the community. They plan programs to prevent dental diseases and to educate the community on proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.

Minimum of 90 semester hours of accredited college work required before entering dental school. Graduation from an accredited dental school, which usually takes four years.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry
East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine

Dental Hygienist in Private Practice

Dental hygienists take patient histories, screen the teeth and gums, remove plaque and tartar, apply fluoride, apply dental sealants, and take x-rays. They also teach patients proper oral care including nutrition and fluorides, and the prevention of gum disease and tooth loss.

High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College (Associate Degrees, Certificate Programs, and Bachelor’s Degrees available)

UNCG School of Global Public Health
Master of Public Health: ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health
Master of Public Health: UNC-CH School of Public Health
Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Education (MDSH)

Dental Hygienist in Public Health

Public health dental hygiene plans dental education and prevention programs for their communities. They do hands-on clinical work, supervise and educate dental laboratory technicians, make and repair dentures, dental crowns, and dental bridges. They also teach patients proper oral care and take x-rays.

High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College (Associate Degrees, Certificate Programs, and Bachelor’s Degrees available)

UNCG School of Global Public Health
Master of Public Health: ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health
Master of Public Health: UNC-CH School of Public Health
UNCG School of Global Public Health: Dental Public Health Residency Program

Dental Assistant in Private Practice

Dental assistants assist the dentist at chairside, take dental x-rays, perform laboratory procedures, sterilize instruments and help manage the office.

Certified Dental Assistant: High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental assistant program.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Martin Community College, Montgomery Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, Wilkes Community College

Certification Examination by the Dental Assisting National Board (Optional)

UNCG School of Global Public Health
Master of Public Health: ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health

Dental Assistant in Public Health

In a clinic, dental assistants assist the dentist at chairside, take dental x-rays, perform laboratory procedures, keep instruments sterile, and help manage the clinic. In the community, they do classroom dental education, adult education/promotion programs and assist with dental sealant promotions.

Certified Dental Assistant: High School graduation and graduation from an accredited dental assistant program.

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Martin Community College, Montgomery Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, Wilkes Community College

Certification Examination by the Dental Assisting National Board (Optional)

UNCG School of Global Public Health
Master of Public Health: ECU School of Medicine - Dept. of Public Health

Dental Laboratory Technician

Dental laboratory technicians make and repair dentures, dental crowns, braces and other dental appliances using materials such as gypsum, acrylics, ceramics and metals.

High School graduation before working in a dental laboratory.

Dahram Technical Community College

Examination by the National Board of Certification of Dental Laboratory Technicians (optional)

*Salary range source for private practice: NC Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and NC Health Careers at the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC): http://www.nchealthcareers.com/cfcn.htm