



# Introduction To Health Services

## **HS Introduction to Health Services/ Career Exploration: Dental Assistant**

**May 12, 2020**



Grade/Course  
Lesson: May 12, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**  
**Describe the activities, responsibilities and training for a  
career as an Dental Assistant**

## Warm Up Activity

1. On a scale of 1 (no) to 5 (yes) rate yourself on how comfortable you are with attention to detail and why you chose that rating.
2. On a scale of 1 (no) to 5 (yes) rate yourself on how comfortable you are with fine motor skills and why you chose that rating.





## Answers

- 1) Students should rate themselves and explain why they feel that way.
- 2) Students should rate themselves and explain why they feel that way.



## Note Taking Activity

Dental assistants provide patient care, take x rays, keep records, and schedule appointments. This lesson will provide you plenty of information about this interesting health service career.

To begin, let's take a blank sheet of paper and something to write with. We will watch a [short video](#) over this career. As you watch the video, jot down a 1-2 sentence summary of the dental assistant career,



## Reading / Research Activity

Take a look at this [web page published by the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics.](#)

Look over the web page. It contains summaries of different topics covered elsewhere on the site. But for now, looking at the entry page, identify ONE fact or concept introduced on the page that surprises or concerns you- or that gives you a specific opinion of this career field.

**There are no right or wrong answers to this activity. Students should choose and discuss one fact from the video., just your opinion.**



Lets move to the next topic:

Take a look a the [What Dental Assistants Do](#) page.

On your paper, make a T-chart. Label the left side “what I like” and label the right half “what I don’t like”

Look over the What Dental Assistants Do page and list 3-4 pieces of information that stand out from the page. List them on the appropriate side of the T-chart on your paper.

**There are no right or wrong answers to this activity, just your opinion.**



Lets move to the next topic:

Take a look a the [Work Environment](#) page.

When you examine the various work environments, select 2-3 and write them in the appropriate column of your chart. Again, there are no right or wrong answers- this is an exploratory exercise!





Lets move to the next topic:

Take a look a the [How to Become One](#) page.

Many dental assisting programs take about 1 year to complete and lead to a certificate or diploma. Programs that last 2 years are less common and lead to an associate's degree. Write the term "certificate/diploma" in the appropriate column on your T-chart.



Lets move to the next topic:

Take a look a the [Pay](#) page.

On this page, take a look at the average salaries for dental assistants.

You may note that there is a range of salaries- which is determined by what kind of industry you work in. On your chart, be honest with yourself and write “pay” on the appropriate column on your t-chart.



## Closing Activity

Look over the T-chart and review what you have written. Is this still the a career choice you are interested in? If not, consider these [similar careers](#).



Check out these videos from dental assistants and students for tips.

A current student: ["10 things I wish I knew before..."](#)

A current dental assistant: ["Would you make a good dental assistant?"](#)