

A large red square with a white border, centered on a white background. Inside the square, the text "Dental Specialties and other Careers in the Field" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Dental
Specialties and
other Careers
in the Field**

**So you finished 4 years of Dental
School...Now what???**

Different areas of Dentistry to study or specialize in

- General Dentistry
- Orthodontics
- Endodontics
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Oral Maxillofacial Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Pathology and Radiology
- Dental Anesthesiology



Explore

Dental schools love to see that you have spent time shadowing or working in different fields of Dentistry, not JUST one.

If you have the time, try to get experience in different areas! Ask questions and learn about that specialty!

In dental school you will be learning about all of the different specialties, you WILL have time to decide, or even CHANGE your mind while in dental school

It is OK to NOT specialize, general practice is awesome too!

Remember not to go into your dental school interview (or dental school in general) with your heart set on one specialty

Learn

Please welcome you Eboard members as we explain each specialty in Dentistry!

Pediatrics

- 2 year residency (both paid and unpaid residencies available)
- Competitive field, ranks right under orthodontics
- Treat children from birth up until adulthood in some practices
- High energy environment, good at explaining dentistry to children in child like terms
- Sometimes work closely with dental anesthesiologists
- Deals with patients with phobias and special needs often
- Patience with parents
- Have adorable patients!



Pediatrics cont.



<-Child friendly operatory



<- “ring and trampoline”



<-Tooth decay and an Open bite

Pediatrics cont.

Types of Operations typically performed:

- Composite restorations (both permanent and primary)
- Amalgam restorations (common for patients w/ special needs)
- Pulpotomy
- Stainless Steel Crown
- Strip Crown
- Extractions
- Cleanings
- Exams (and xrays)
- Bonding (aesthetic and from decay)
- Space maintainers



Specialized Care for Special Needs Patients

Patients with special needs are those who, due to **physical, medical, developmental** or **cognitive conditions** require special consideration when receiving treatment.

This can include people with...

- Autism
- Cleft lip or palate
- Alzheimer's disease
- Cerebral Palsy
- Vision/ Hearing Impairments
- Down syndrome
- Spinal cord injuries
- Countless other conditions/injuries that can make standard dental procedures more difficult.



Being a “Special Needs Dentist”

Caring for a special needs patient takes **compassion, understanding and patience.**

While most dentists can accommodate for special needs patients for routine procedures, some dentists focus on meeting the needs and working with the limitations of these patients and are more suited to provide care when extensive work is needed to ensure the maximum comfort of the patient.



Dentistry Knows No Bounds!

Education for Special Needs Dentistry

General Practice dentists or Pediatric dentists can seek further training to make themselves better able to treat patients with special needs.

Geriatric Residency Programs

Specialized GPR programs exist that offer more exposure to patients with disabilities

Sedation is commonly used in cases regarding special needs patients, sedation requires treatment from a **dental anesthesiologist**.



Stony Brook
School of Dental Medicine

This program is a one year program that includes:

- seminar
- lectures
- extensive clinical experiences with emphasis
 - diagnosis,
 - treatment planning
 - various patient management techniques needed to provide comprehensive dental care to the disabled population.

Orthodontist

Orthodontics is a specialized concentration of dentistry involving the movement of teeth.

Orthodontists most often have the following responsibilities:

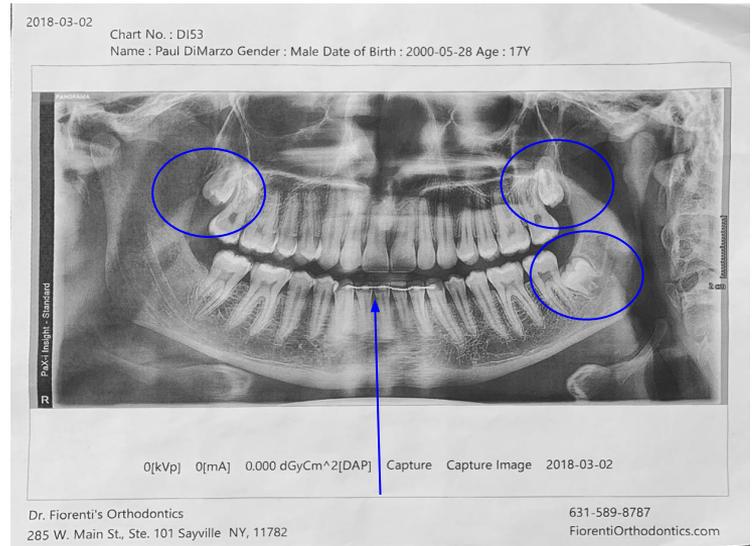
Making room for teeth to erupt

Improving oral health by filling gaps between teeth and stopping the crowding of teeth

Forming the proper bite and arch alignment

Improving patients' overall self esteem

Utilizing Panorex X-Rays to ensure that teeth are properly aligned and make decisions regarding the eruption of 3rd molars AKA "Wisdom teeth"



Becoming an Orthodontist

1. Complete Dental School (4 years)
2. Apply to a competitive Orthodontic Residency Program (3 years)
Ortho residencies are typically unpaid and often involve program tuition
3. Passing the Boards
4. Begin working as an Orthodontist

Orthodontists usually strive to form a specific **arch** in the alignment of teeth as well as a **strong bite**.

Not perfectly aligned but whatever...



Changes in the Field:

Invisalign is becoming more popular among General Dentists which limits the number of cases Orthodontists receive through referral

The introduction of companies such as Smile Direct Club™, etc. takes patients away from Orthodontic Practices.



Q & A with the Best General Dentist Ever



Background

- Dr. Monica Mehra DDS
- Graduated NYU dental school 2000, had to take a semester off because of me.
- After Graduating, Residency in Bronx Lebanon for a year and then chief residency for 1 year at Goldwater (Roosevelt Island). Has been practicing for 19 years.
- Now owns her own practice in Bronx, NY (Longwood dental), 17 years
- Works with one other general dentist and two hygienists

Q & A

What procedures do you do? What Procedures don't you do?

- Root Canal on premolars and anterior teeth, extractions (surgical) not impacted molars, depending on the x-ray, Amalgam and composite fillings on cavities (1-5), dentures (metal, flex), crowns, fixed bridges, If a case is too complex refer to surgeon.

Would you recommend General Dentistry?

- Yes and no, General Dentistry has its perks, but she would recommend specializing. she didn't cause of family

Q & A

What do you like about it? What do you hate about it?

- Likes that it is not as hectic, flexible hours and she is never on call. She can spend time with the family and still be able to work and make a sufficient living.
- She hates doing root canals with a passion

Do you have any tips for the kids?

- Do what you love and focus on what your doing, experiment with the different specialties, shadow and most importantly work hard. Also do residency in a city,

How did you pay for school?

- Took a 2 year loan, \$1500 per month

Q & A

Where did you do residency and what was that like?

- She loved residency in NYC because she saw a diverse group of patients and cases. She learned a lot. Chief residency in Goldwater which she didn't like as much because life was slow, mostly old people and mostly made dentures

How did you pay for school?

- Took a 2 year loan, \$1500 per month

Would you ever get into digital dentistry

- Probably not it is expensive and I'm not the greatest with technology

Periodontics

Periodontists typically attend three years of residency after dental school

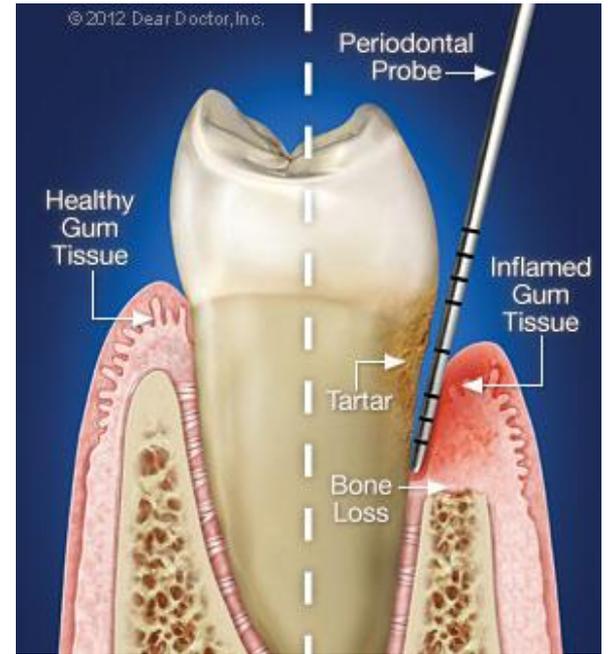
Specialize in the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease

Place bone grafts and implants

Collaborate with patients to maintain long-term gum health

Regularly collaborate with other dental specialties

Focused on the conservation and restoration of natural teeth



Periodontics

Opportunities: Higher education, private practice, and promising research, ADA positions

Provide necessary care for tooth, gum, and bone health

Also provide cosmetic procedures

Periodontal health linked to heart disease and diabetes

Visit perio.org for more in depth information!



Prosthodontics

“The dental specialty pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation, and maintenance of oral function, comfort, appearance, and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.”

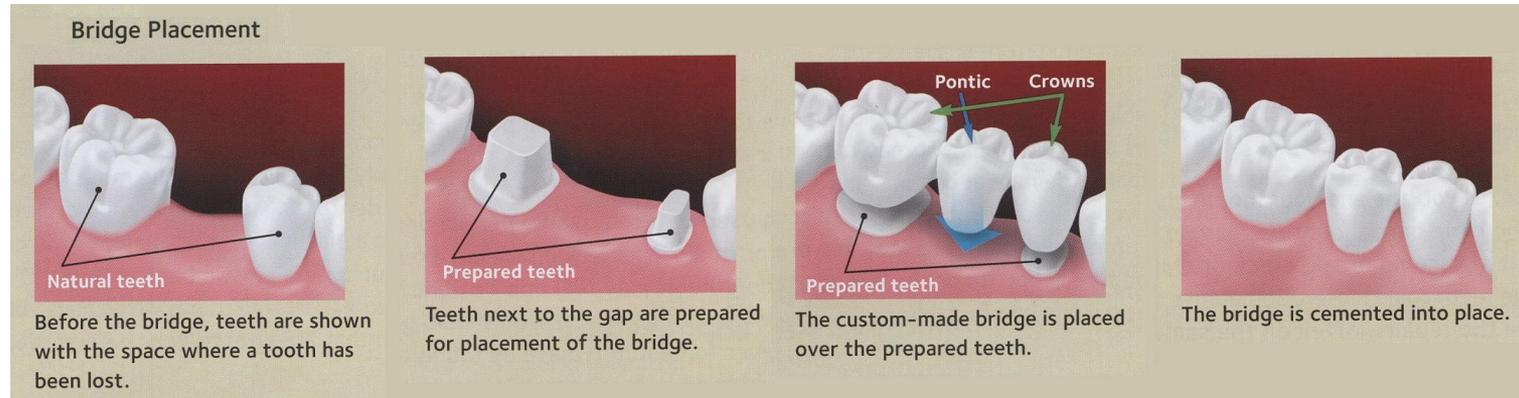
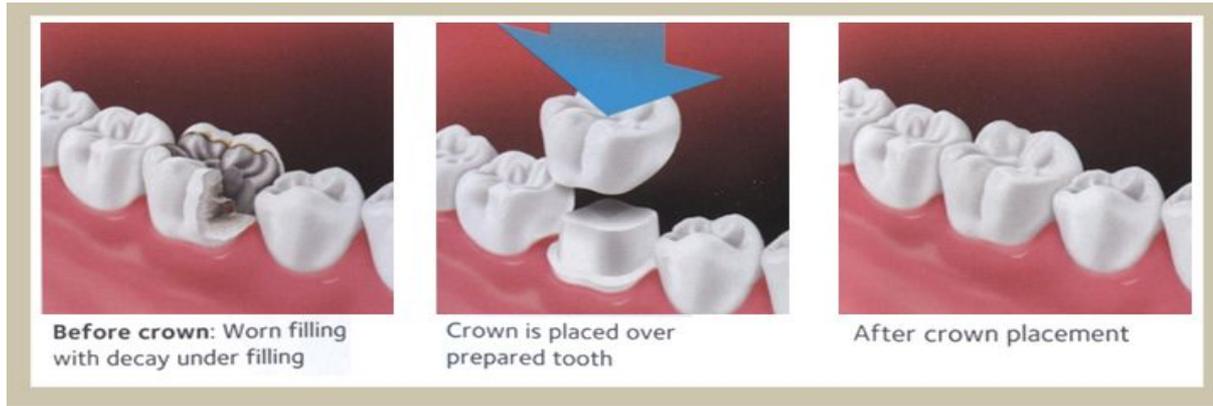
It focuses on restorative dentistry, including the treatment of facial and dental birth developmental defects

Prosthodontists place implants, make dentures, veneers, bridges, and crowns

It requires a 3-year residency

You can work in clinic or private practice

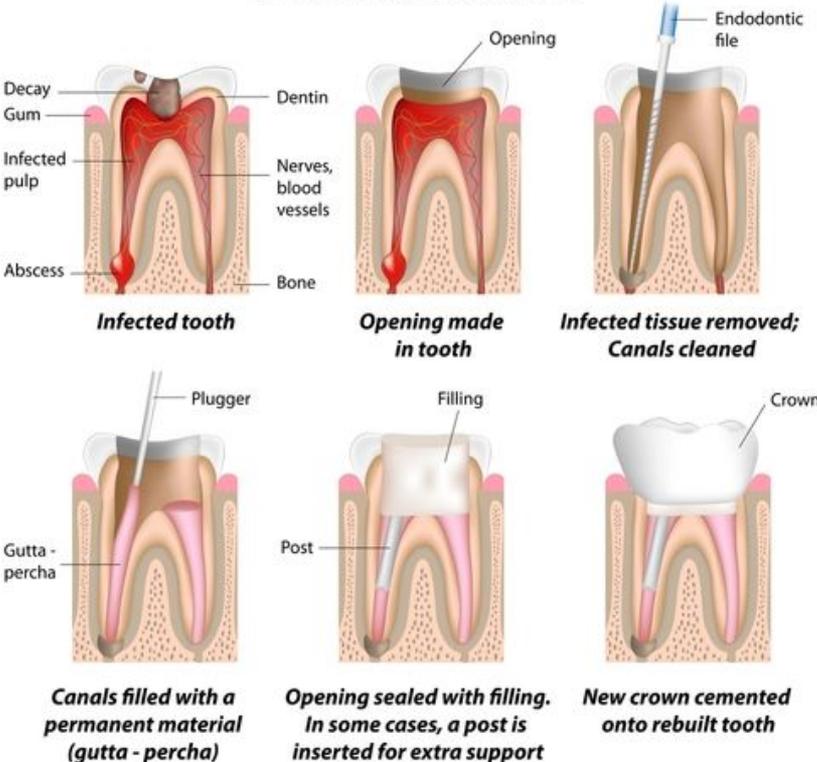
Prosthodontics



Endodontics

What is it?

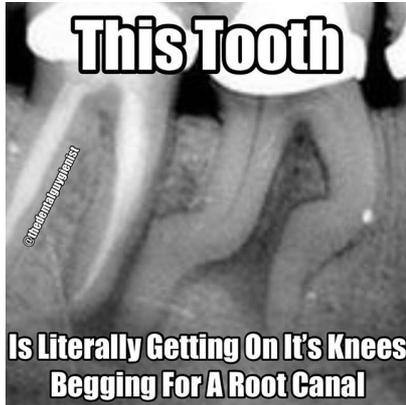
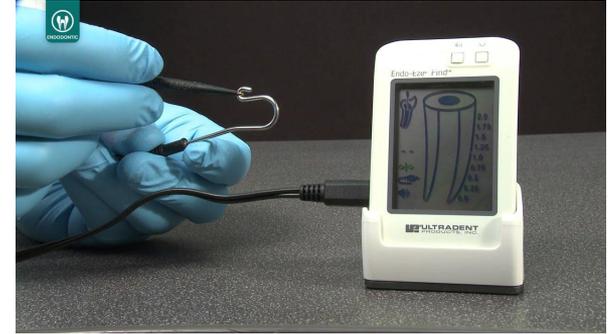
Root Canal Treatment



Endodontics con't

<https://youtu.be/N6JqPfWXaLM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDs-848-u-U&has_verified=1



When finishing a molar root canal...



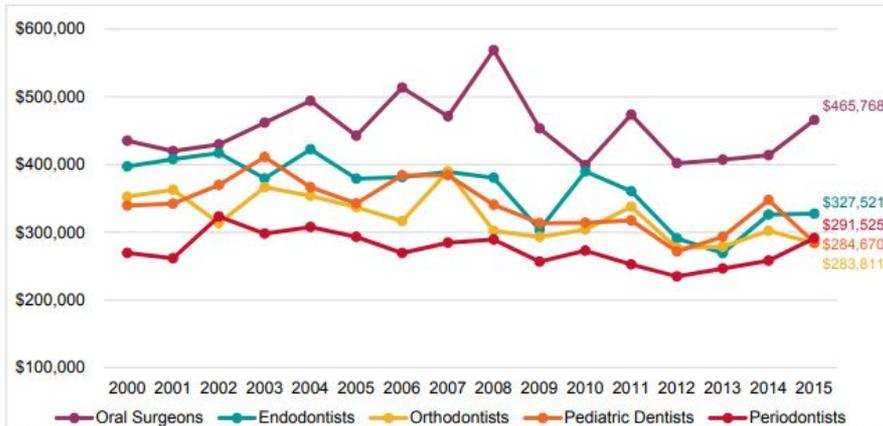
Some Interesting Findings

- Two to three years of additional education in an advanced specialty program in endodontics
- An average of 25 root canal treatments a week, while general dentists typically do two
- The space inside root canals is smaller than FDR's ear on the dime!

Dentist: open wide
Patient:

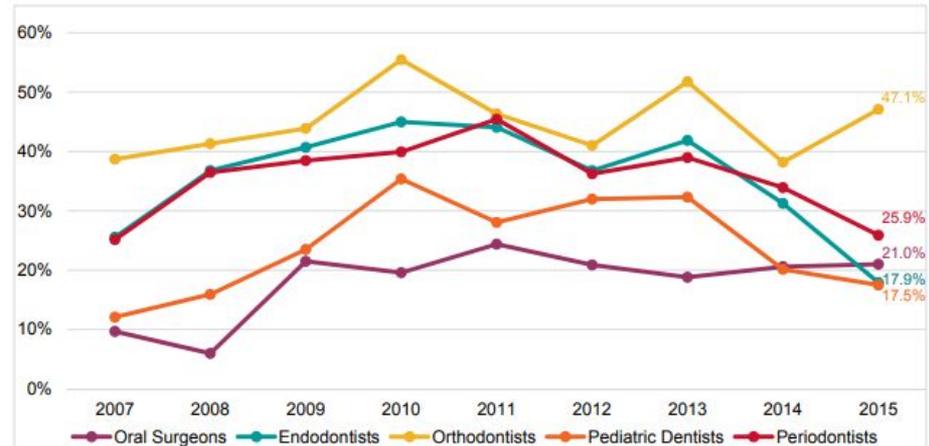


Figure 1: Average Inflation-Adjusted Net Income for Select Dental Specialties, 2000-2015



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute Survey of Dental Practice data for 2000-2015. Notes: Weighted to compensate for oversampling and non-response bias. Incomes are adjusted using the Consumer Price Index for All Items to represent 2015 dollars.

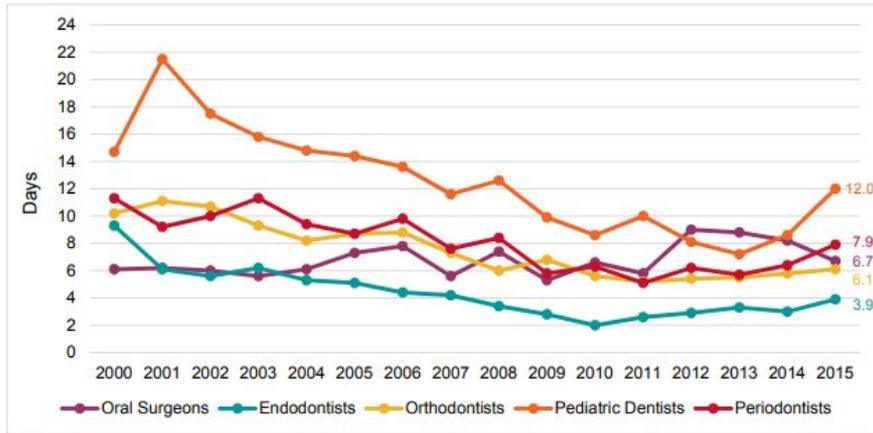
Figure 2: Percentage of Dentists "Not Busy Enough" by Specialty, 2007-2015



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute Survey of Dental Practice data for 2007-2015. Notes: Weighted to compensate for oversampling and non-response bias.

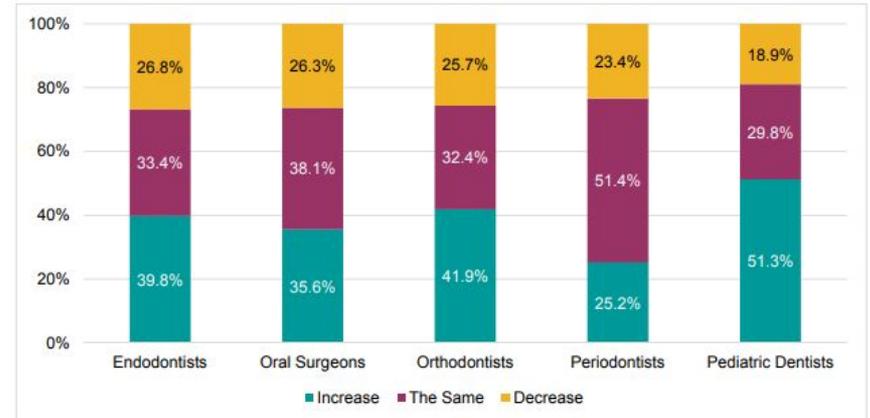
Some Interesting Findings con't

Figure 4: Average Wait Time for Initial Appointment, New Patient, 2000-2015



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute *Survey of Dental Practice* data for 2000-2015. **Notes:** Indicates the average wait time in days for an appointment with a specialist dentist. Weighted to compensate for oversampling and non-response bias.

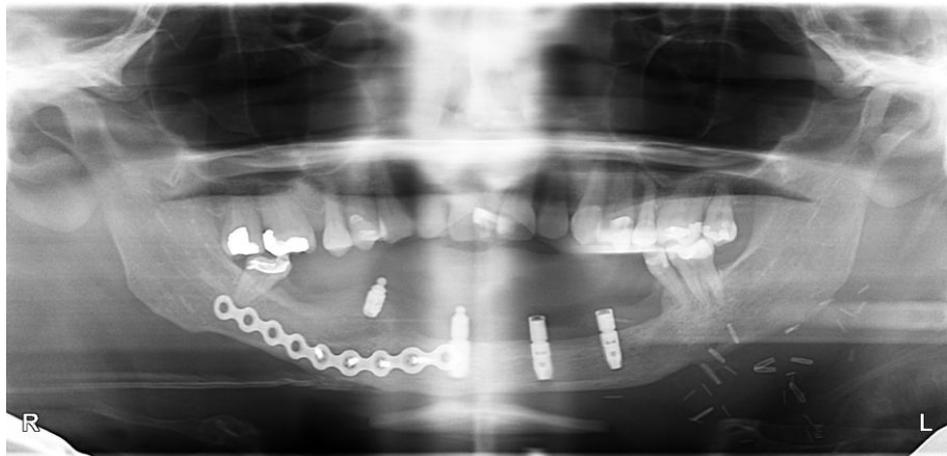
Figure 12: Patient Volume, 2016 Compared to 2015, by Specialty



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute *Survey of Dental Practice* data 2016. **Notes:** Weighted to compensate for oversampling and non-response bias.

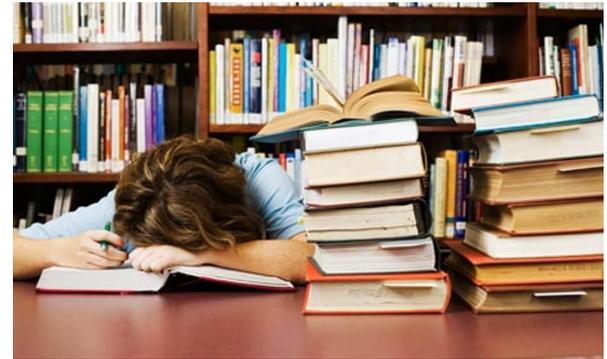
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS/OMFS)

- Surgery involving repairing injuries to head, neck, and jaw regions
- Facial reconstruction/ Cosmetic surgeries
- Can become qualified in treating cancerous tumors in this region
- Maxillofacial regeneration using stem cells



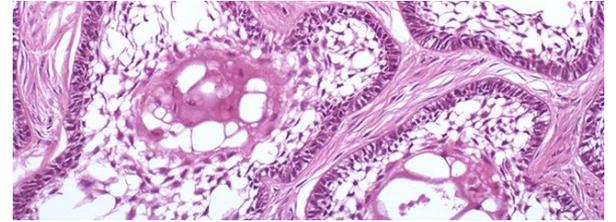
OMFS Schooling

- Total schooling is 12-14 years including undergrad
- 4 years of dental school
- 4-6 years of Specialization
 - 4 years for just DDS/DMD OMFS specialization
 - 6 years for combined DDS/MD specialization
 - Allows you to become a general surgeon
 - Study with surgical residents
- Additional 1-2 year fellowship if want to specialize in
 - Cosmetic facial surgery
 - Cranio-maxillofacial trauma
 - Craniofacial surgery/pediatric maxillofacial surgery/cleft surgery
 - Head and neck cancer – microvascular reconstruction
 - Maxillofacial regeneration (reformation of the facial region by advanced stem cell technique)



Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Radiology

- Oral Pathology: identification and diagnosis of diseases and conditions in the oral and facial region
 - Very broad and all encompassing field
 - Hereditary/genetic analysis, microorganism identification, biopsy analysis
- Oral Radiology: identification and interpretation of dental structures and abnormalities using imaging techniques
 - Use of X-rays, CT scans, Ultrasound



University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. (2019). Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Biopsy Service. Retrieved April 17, 2019, from <https://www.dental.pitt.edu/oral-and-maxillofacial-pathology-biopsy-service>



WiseGeek. (2019). What is Oral Radiology? Retrieved April 17, 2019, from <https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-oral-radiology.htm>

Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Radiology

- 2 or 3 year certification program/residency
 - Can also integrate certification in Master of Science (M.S.) degree
- A dentist refers a pathologist to diagnose unclear issues
 - Requires interpersonal skills and interest to work with patients with uncommon dental issues and diseases
 - Requires critical thinking to analyze case reports and an ability to problem solve
 - Frequent reference to literature
 - A great field if you are interested in contributing to medical literature!



Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. (2019). Oral Pathology. Retrieved April 17, 2019, from <https://dentistry.tamhsc.edu/diagnostic/training/oral-pathology.html>

Dental Anesthesiology

- Not all dental procedural pain can be managed with local anesthesia
- Deep sedation and general anesthesia can be necessary to manage pain and anxiety in patients for whom local anesthesia or lighter sedation is ineffective
 - Uncooperative children
 - Developmentally delayed, autistic, and physically challenged patients
 - Elderly with cognitive deficits

Anesthesiology at SBU Dental

- During their training, the dental anesthesia residents are responsible for providing anesthesia care for all types of medical procedures.
 - They are scheduled in a similar way to the physician anesthesia residents except they are not scheduled in the cardiac or obstetric rotations.
- During the 1st year, the dental anesthesia residents receive extensive training with rotations in Stony Brook University Hospital on the following services: cardiology, internal medicine/medical optimization, radiology, perioperative services and rapid response team.
- In the 2nd year, the residents continue this training with a 4-week rotation in pediatric medicine. During the 2nd and 3rd years, the residents attend the comprehensive didactic education program provided by the physician faculty within the Stony Brook Department of Anesthesiology.

Other careers in Dentistry

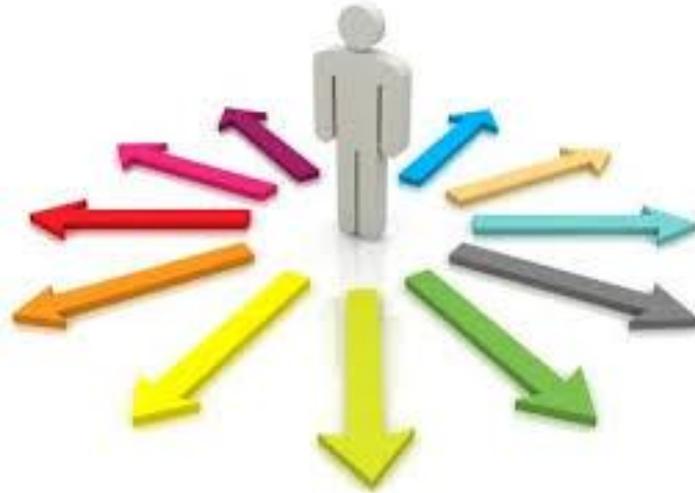
So you are thinking MAYBE being a Dentist is NOT for you, you love the field, but there may be many reasons why you may not want to pursue being a dentist

- School is expensive
- Blood freaks you out
- You don't want to be in school that long
- You don't want the doctor responsibilities
- You simply are NOT crazy about it!

No worries! There are other careers you may want to consider!

So Many Options

- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Orthodontic Technician
- Dental Laboratory Technician
- Receptionist
- Insurance and Billing
- Dental Anesthesiology Assistant
- Office Manager
- Dental Sales Representative
- Dental Supply Repairs
- Dental Practice Management Consultant



Dental Assistant

- No certificate or license required in NY (can vary by state)
- Certificate programs in NY (Stony Brook and Boces)
- No experience necessary, but some jobs like to see experience
- Work closely with the doctor doing chair-side assisting during operations, sterilizing instruments, keeping office neat and clean, room setup, keep the day running smooth, pouring models, take xrays, review patients health history, writing lab slips, dental charting, oral hygiene instruction, ordering dental products etc.
- Pay rate varies based on experience, specialty and location
- Teaching opportunities available



Dental Hygiene

- Must attend Dental Hygiene school, at least 2 years for A.S. in dental hygiene, can also receive a B.S. or M.S. in dental hygiene as well
- Opportunities to teach if B.S. or M.S. obtained
- Clean patients teeth (prophylaxis, and scaling to remove plaque and tartar) instruct on healthy oral hygiene and nutritional counseling, place sealants, take xrays, perform teeth whitening, review patients health history, dental charting
- Pay rate varies on experience, specialty and location
- Must renew license and complete 24 CE credits every 3 years



Orthodontic Technician

- Certificate or A.S. degree required
- Helps Orthodontists complete orthodontic plan for patients, can cut and bend wires, change bands, take xrays and pictures, use CAD cam, instruct proper oral hygiene care (brushing and flossing), set up tray for orthodontist, order materials etc.
- Pay rate varies by experience and location



Dental Laboratory Technician

- No school required, Certificate programs are offered
- Design and manufacture devices for replacement of teeth, pediatric appliances, orthodontic appliances, communicates and collaborates with the dentist to plan, design and fabricate dental prostheses for individual patients
- Pay rate varies based on experience and location



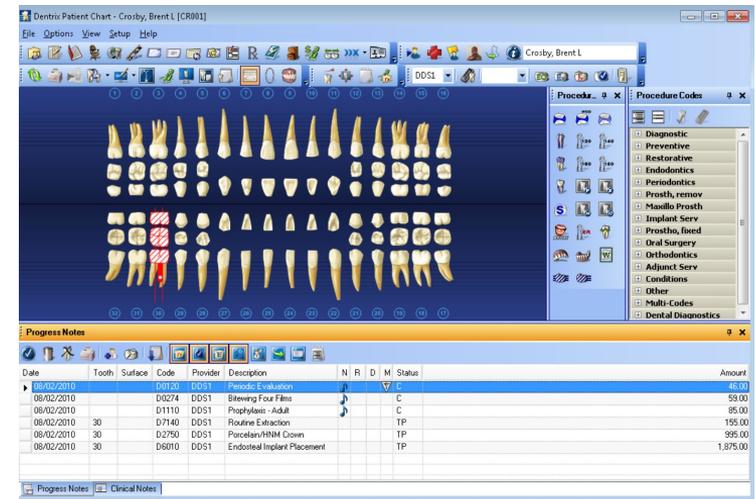
Receptionist & Insurance and Billing

- No school requirement
- Handles patient treatment plan with the doctor, makes sure the plan is executed accordingly, makes appointments for the patient, phone calls, bills to insurance, greets patients, takes down patient information and relays information to the doctor, accepts payment from patients
- Pay rate varies on experience, specialty and location



Insurance & Billing

- First step is to learn the different types of insurances accepted at the office. Make sure to familiarize yourself with information needed to put EClaim through
 - Type of Plan (PPO, DMO, HMO)
 - Group #, ID #, Social Security #
- Must know all of the codes and acronyms
- Familiarize yourself with Dentrix
 - Learn how to process checks electronically



Dental Anesthesiology Assistant

- Dental Anesthesiology Assistant training course required with BLS and CPR Certifications and a valid permit from an OMFS or general anesthesiologist
- Aids the Doctor in providing the best care in putting a patient under general anesthesia, administering medicine and bringing the patient back from general anesthesia. Sets up medication, can adjust IV, administer emergency medicine, follow instructions to deliver medication
- Certificate must be renewed with 12 hours of CE credits every 3 years
- Pay rate varies based on experience and location



Office Manager

- No education requirement, however it is preferred.
- Responsibilities include: administrative duties in a dental office. These managers must coordinate marketing, budget office expenses, arrange staff meetings and handle payroll. They may also schedule patient appointments, staff schedules and perform billing and bookkeeping duties
- Pay rate varies based on experience, specialty and location



Dental Sales Representative

- No school required, sales experience preferred
- Traveling opportunities
- Gain knowledge about all the newest and most advanced dental technology and products, work with different dentists, hygienists and assistants in providing the best equipment and supplies, handle orders and payment, dress professionally, attend many meetings and conferences etc.
- Pay rate varies based on experience and location



Dental Supply Repairs

- No schooling required, usually trained on the job
- Complete repairs in office on chairs, ultrasonics, autoclaves, lights, handpieces, xray units etc. Handles emergency calls
- Pay rate varies based on experience and location



Dental Practice Management Consultant

- Aid in achieving business goals
- Help with office aesthetics, social media
- Analyze office numbers, look at statistics
- Internship schooling
- MBA suggested



Announcements

4/22 Women in Dentistry Ping Pong

4/24 Oral Health Day!!!Counts as Community Service!!

T-Shirt Form Due Next **Thursday 4/25 at Midnight!!!*** Must pay in order for shirt to be ordered*

Form for Eboard Positions will be sent out this weekend!! Start thinking about what you're interested in running for!

Next Meeting: **4/25** Dental School Finances