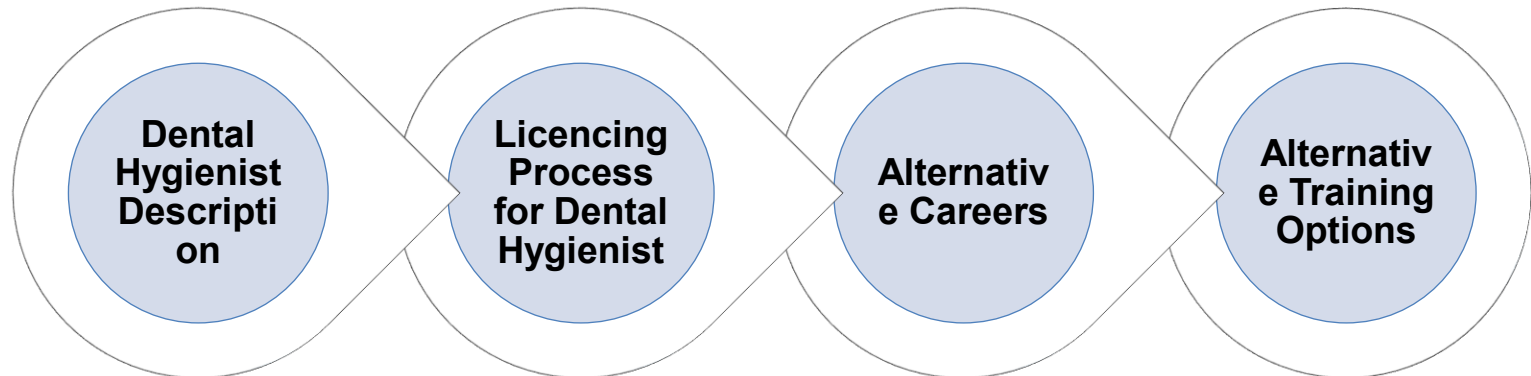
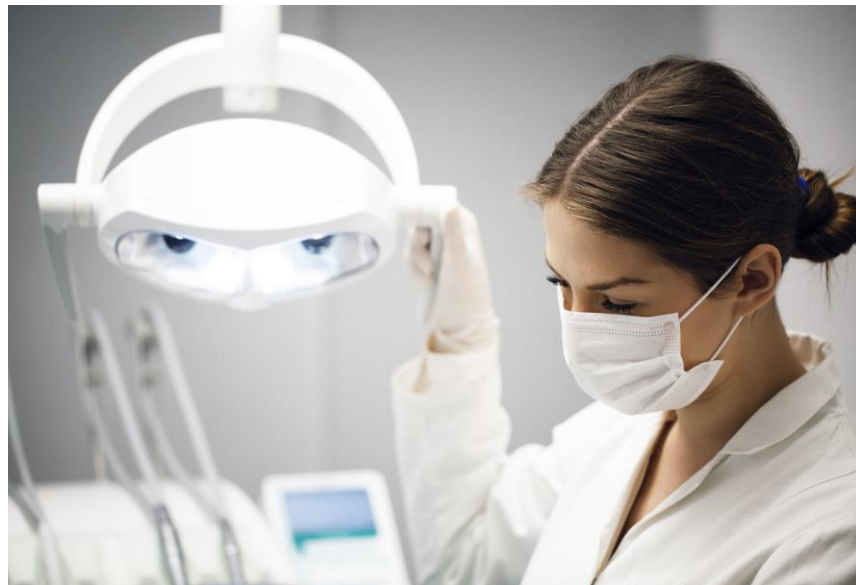


Dental Hygienists

Foreign Credential Recognition, Alternative Careers,
and Training Options



What Roles do Dental Hygienists in Canada Perform?



Dental Hygienists

[NOC website](#)



Job Duties

- Conduct patient screening and oral health assessments, including taking vital signs and documenting patient medical and health history
- Take dental impressions
- Take and develop X-rays
- Perform preventative dental procedures such as teeth cleaning, scaling, gum stimulation and fluoride and sealant applications
- Provide oral care instructions such as oral hygiene procedures, strategies to maintain and improve oral health and on the impact of nutrition on oral health
- Consult with dentists on patient care
- May perform restorative and orthodontic procedures under the direction of a dentist
- May supervise dental assistants in their health care functions
- May participate in community- or school-based oral health initiatives such as oral screening.

Dental Hygienists

[NOC website](#)



Employment requirements

- Completion of a two- to three-year college dental hygiene program, approved by the governing board within the province or territory of residence, is usually required for dental hygienists.
- Dental therapists are required to complete a two- to three- year college diploma from an approved dental institution program.
- Licensing by the appropriate provincial or territorial regulatory body is required for dental hygienists.
- Licensure is required for dental therapists in Saskatchewan, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Becoming Registered and Licensed in Manitoba

Dental Hygienists (DHs) are trained health professionals who apply oral health theory and evidence-based practice, drawing upon the biomedical, social and behavioral sciences.

All dental hygienists in Manitoba are licensed by the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) as outlined in the Dental Hygienists Act and the Dental Hygienists Regulation.

Dental Hygienists may apply for licensure in Manitoba if they have graduated from an accredited Dental Hygiene program from Canada or the United States. Applicants from unaccredited Dental Hygiene programs may apply to the Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada (FDHRC) for an equivalency review of their dental hygiene education.

For more information visit the [FDHRC website](#)

For a list of accredited dental hygiene programs in Canada see the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada: [CDAC](#)

Becoming Registered and Licensed in Manitoba Equivalency Process

Step 1. Educational Credential Assessment

- Submit an application and required documentation to FDHRC – it can take up to a month to complete.
- Applicants must meet all of the four (4) minimum criteria. Consult the Equivalency Assessment Handbook for details

Criterion 1 - the applicant must have graduated with a diploma/degree or its equivalent, **in dental hygiene.**

Criterion 2 - the dental hygiene program must be established as a separate school, faculty, division or department recognized by the appropriate government agency in the country/jurisdiction where the program is established at a post-secondary institution which is also recognized by the appropriate government agency.

Criterion 3 - the program must be of a minimum of two (2) full time academic years of formal dental hygiene education in a recognized Dental Hygiene program, including a clinical component with direct client care supervised by dental hygiene faculty.

Criterion 4 - the program must have learning outcomes/competencies and evaluation criteria set out in a clear, concise and detailed manner to the satisfaction of the FDHRC®.

Becoming Registered and Licensed in Manitoba

Step 2. Complete the National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam (NDHCE) - available in English and French. Candidate who successfully passed the [Equivalency Assessment](#) is eligible to apply to write the [NDHCE](#) within a period of 3 yrs from date of approval.

Step 3. Complete and pass the [CPEDH](#) clinical competency assessment.

Step 4. Apply for CDHM Registration

- Complete [CDHM Declaration Form](#) for Internationally Educated Applicants.
- Follow steps for applying to the CDHM [Application Process for Internationally Educated Applicants](#)
- Pay fees: [CDHM Fees and Payments](#)
- There are four different CDHM registers which an applicant must choose from:
 - Practicing
 - Non-Practicing
 - Student (University of Manitoba Students Only)
 - Temporary

Qualifying and Degree Completion Programs

Accredited Qualifying and Degree Completion Programs are offered by Faculties of Dentistry in Canada. These programs are designed to familiarize international graduates to dentistry and dental practice in Canada. Upon successful completion of a Qualifying or Degree Completion Program, individuals are eligible to participate in the NDEB Certification Process.

[Diploma in Dental Hygiene](#)

Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry
Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
Room D212
780 Bannatyne Avenue
University of Manitoba (Bannatyne campus)
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0W2
dent_hygiene@umanitoba.ca
Phone: [204-789-3683](tel:204-789-3683)
Fax: 204-789-3948

Other programs across Canada <https://www.cdac-cadc.ca/find-a-program/>

College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba Contacts

**General Enquiries:**

Phone: 204-219-2678

Email: cdhm@cdhm.info

CDHM Office

610-1445 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB, R3G 3P4

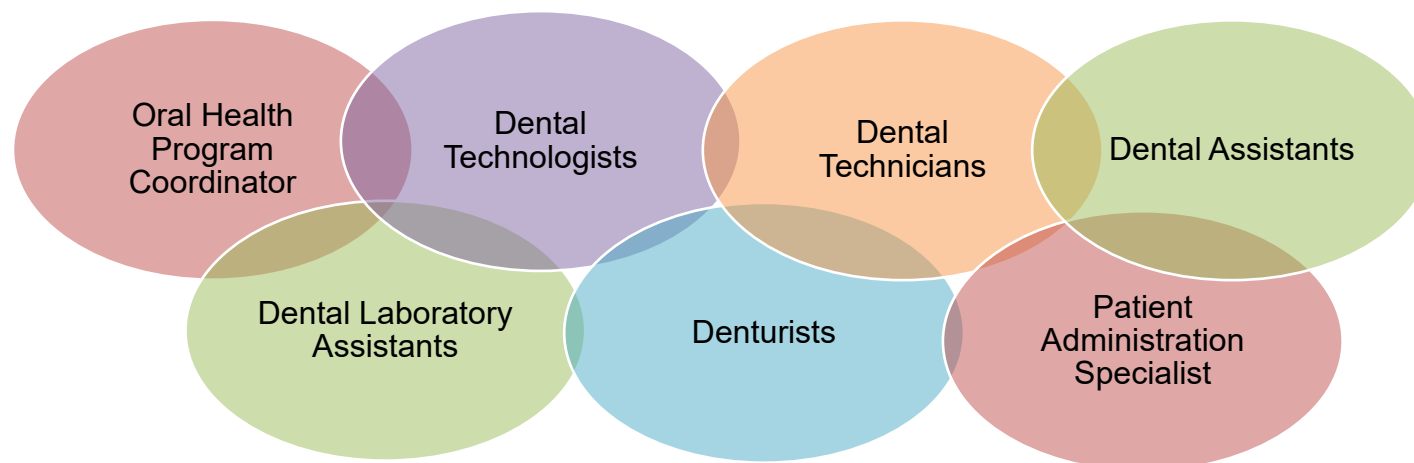


Online: <https://cdhm.info/>

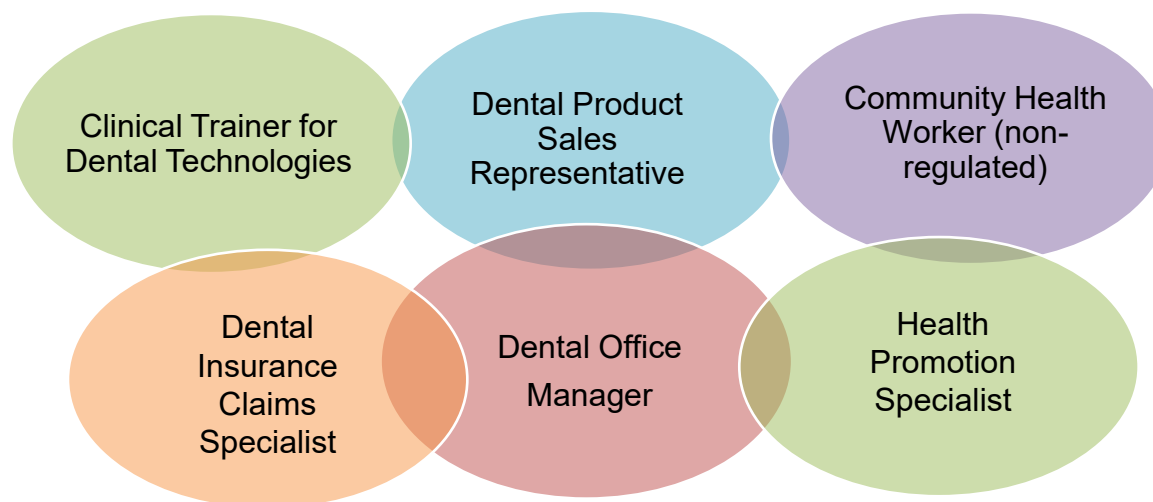
Alternative Careers for Dental Hygienists



Career Development Manitoba



For more information visit [NOC website](#)



For more information visit [NOC website](#)

Alternative Training Options



Training Options for Dental Hygienists

Pre-Dental Hygiene Program at University of Winnipeg

Dental Assisting Certificate – Full Time- Red River College Polytech

Intra-Oral Dental Assistant Diploma – Full Time- CDI College

The Dental Technology and Medical Preparation course – Tech Voc High School

Training Options for Dentists

Medical Administration Diploma – Full Time- Assiniboine Community College

Health Services Leadership and Management Certificate – Part Time- Red River College Polytech

Health Information Management Diploma- Full Time- Red River College Polytech

Community Health Sciences (Masters in Public Health)- Full or Part Time- University of Manitoba

Career Planning Can Help You

Enter the workforce

Plan for education

Deal with changing workplace demands

Anticipate trends or changes

Upgrade or maintain your skills

Develop skills for managing your career

Reflecting on Barriers and Strengths



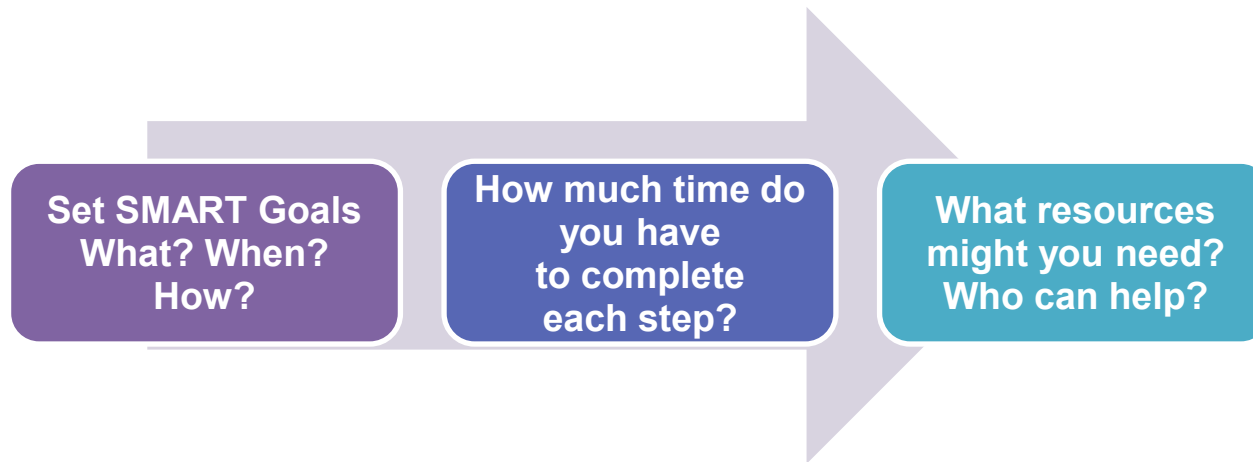
What's getting in
my way?

Where I am today?



What's
pushing me
forward?

Setting Short and Long-term Goals



Career and Education Plan

Name and Client ID: John Doe (123456)

Short Term Goal 1

Dental Clinic Admin Assistant

Short Term Goal 2

Dental Assistant

Long Term Goal

Dental Hygienist

Achieving and
Maintaining Long-Term
Employment

- Maintaining long term employment and Career Management – An ongoing process:
 - a. Continuous learning – develop new skills or refine existing skills
 - b. Professional development – take courses, attend workshops, read, network, volunteer
 - c. Balancing work and life – reflect on values, priorities and life circumstance
- Other: Complete licensure process to become a Canadian Dental Hygienist

Researching Post
Secondary Training

- Research education and training options Date: _____
- Identify post-secondary institution Date: _____
- Verify admissions requirements Date: Jan 9, 2026
- Research funding options (Employment MB, SEED Recognition Counts, Student Aid, etc.) Date: Jan 9, 2026
- Other: look a meeting with an advisor at Manitoba Skills Dev't Centre

Qualification
Recognition

- Research your regulated profession or trade Date: _____
- Contact regulatory body Date: Jan 12, 2026
- Identify necessary requirements (language level, transcript, syllabus, etc.) Date: Jan 9, 2026
- Research Funding Options (Immigrant Access fund, Employment MB, SEED Recognition Counts, MB Student Aid, bursaries, financial institutions, etc.). Date: Jan 9, 2026
- Other: Attend an FCR webinar/info session at Manitoba Start Date: Jan 8, 2026

Skill
Development

- Research job specific training (First Aid/CPR, fork lift, security guard license, etc.) Date: Jan 13, 2026
- Complete ASSESS assessments sent by facilitator/coach; consider computer training Date: Jan 12, 2026
- Consider volunteering (visit www.volunteermanitoba.ca) Date: Jan 12, 2026
- Language assessment at WELARC Date: Jan 10, 2026
- Obtain Driver's license Date: Jan 10, 2026
- Other: _____ Date: _____

Job Search
Preparation

- Complete Career Development Workshop at Manitoba Start Date: Jan 9, 2026
 - Finalize marketing materials (resume, cover letter, references) Date: Jan 12, 2026
 - Apply for Security Clearance Checks (criminal record check, child abuse registry, adult abuse registry, immunizations record) Date: Jan 15, 2026
 - Other: _____ Date: _____
- Discuss the QR process for Dental Hygienist with career coach on Jan 15, 2026.

Thank you!

If you require additional information about Foreign Credential Recognition, please contact the FCR Navigator, Jerie Lynn Singson: JerieLynn.Singson@manitobastart.com

If you are not currently a Manitoba Start client, register with us:

- Call front desk at 204-944-8833
- Visit in person
- Complete our online [registration form](#) to receive career development support.

Good luck with your career planning and work search!