

**Explore Careers and Plan Your Future
With RUReady.ND.gov**

INTEREST PROFILER

How do I access RUReady.ND.gov?

PUBLIC SCHOOL student in grades 6-12:

Accessing RUReady.ND.gov

RUReady.ND.gov
EDUCATION & CAREER PLANNING

1

Go to your school's PowerSchool Sign In to access RUReady.ND.gov.
Sign in to your PowerSchool account.



2

From the PowerSchool main screen, click on the Applications icon to access your ND Education Portal.



3

Click on the ND Education Portal Link →



4

Click on the RUReady 'badge' on the ND Education Portal to access your account.



!

If you are unable to sign in or are experiencing sign in issues, please contact your school for assistance. For security reasons, PowerSchool is unable to assist with sign in, password, or other accessibility-related issues.

I'm a PRIVATE or TRIBAL SCHOOL student in grades 6-12:

1. Go to RUReady.ND.gov.
2. Click **Create an Account**.
3. Click on the role that best describes you (Middle School or High School Student.)
4. Enter your name and date of birth and select your school and graduation year.
5. Select your Account Name and Password with care. You will use this to access the site.
6. Complete the Account Security questions.
7. Check the box if you agree to the privacy policy and terms of the site.
8. Click **Submit**.

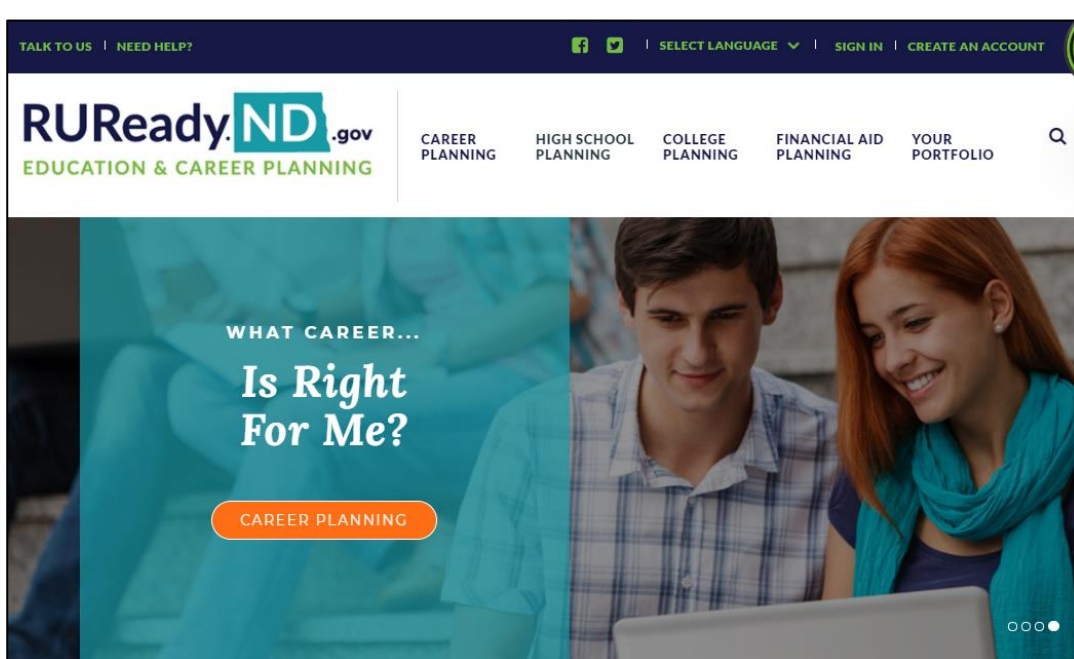
[Full Instructions](#)
for Public School
students.

[Full Instructions](#)
for Private/Tribal
School students.

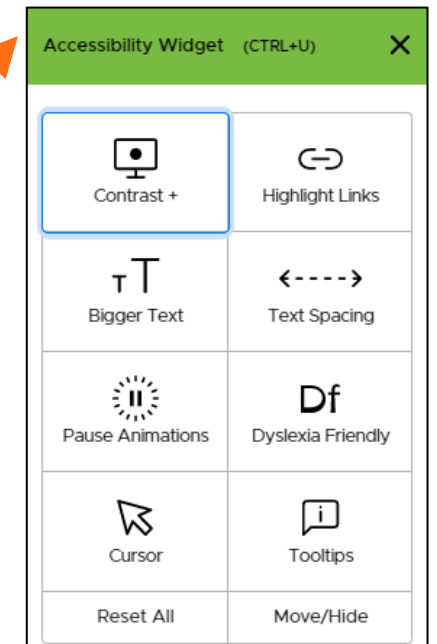
The UserWay Widget

The UserWay widget offers assistance with the following:

- Contrast
- Highlight Links
- Bigger Text
- Text Spacing
- Pause Animations
- Dyslexia Friendly
- Cursor
- Tooltips



Click on the green UserWay icon in the in upper right-hand corner of the screen to select accessibility tools.



Click on the **CAREER PLANNING** tab.

CAREER
PLANNING

HIGH SCHOOL
PLANNING

COLLEGE
PLANNING

FINANCIAL AID
PLANNING

YOUR
PORTFOLIO



High School Students

Explore careers, plan your high school and college education, and search for financial aid.

- ▶ Discover your career interests
- ▶ [Update your high school course plan](#)
- ▶ Check out your high school and college planning timeline
- ▶ How can you pay for college?
- ▶ Explore programs and majors
- ▶ Explore and tour colleges

Click on **Learn About Yourself**.

CAREER PLANNING



Learn About Yourself

Discover your interests, skills, and work values! Then match them to careers.



Explore Careers

Search for careers that match who you are, your goals, and plans.



Get a Job

Create resumes, practice your interview skills, and more!



Voices

Ask questions. Get answers. Hear what others, just like you, are going through.

Click on **Interest Profiler**

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF

You can learn about yourself in many different ways. Explore how who you are matches with careers by using one or all of the career assessments listed below.



Interest Profiler

Figure out what interests you have and match them to careers.

⌚ Duration: 10-20 minutes



Career Cluster Survey

Find out which career cluster is right for you with this quick survey.

⌚ Duration: 15-25 minutes



Basic Skills Survey

Find out what careers require your basic skills.

⌚ Duration: 30-45 minutes



Transferable Skills Checklist

See how the skills you've learned can lead to new opportunities.

⌚ Duration: 30 minutes



Work Values

Find your work values and match them to career options.

⌚ Duration: 5-15 minutes



The Career Key

Discover your career interest areas in a few quick steps.

⌚ Duration: 10-15 minutes

Click on
GET STARTED

**INTEREST
PROFILER**

[> Start](#)

[Questions](#)

[> Results](#)

[> Matching Careers](#)

SEE HOW YOUR INTERESTS MATCH CAREERS

10-20 mins



Indicate how much you'd like or dislike each work task.

Your results will include a profile of your interests.

Explore the careers that match your interests

Get Started

**Answer
each
question by
choosing
the
statement
that best
fits you.**



**INTEREST
PROFILER**

> Start

> **Questions**

> Results

> Matching Careers

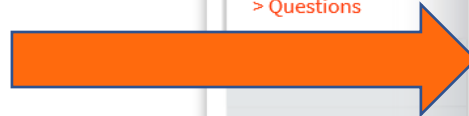
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO...
Build kitchen cabinets

Strongly Dislike Dislike Unsure **Like** Strongly Like

1



Make sure to click
“Previous” to go
back to check or
change your
answers.



(Don't click the “back”
button for your
browser or you'll lose
your answers.)

Your Interest Profile results.

What are your top 2 interest areas?

Complete the Reflecting on your Interest Profiler results, click “Save.”



INTEREST PROFILER

[> Start](#)

[> Questions](#)


[> Results](#)

[> Matching Careers](#)


Refine Your Search
Combine your interests with earnings, education, and other characteristics in the Career Finder
[> Use these interests in the Career Finder](#)

Your Interest Profile
You may have interests in each area, and some areas that match you best. Think about your profile as you explore careers on the next page.


Matching Careers

**Social**


- You are a "Helper".
- You enjoy assisting people in various ways.
- You like working in groups.
- You find that verbal and communication skills come naturally to you.

**Realistic**


- You are a "Do-er".
- You enjoy "hands-on" activities -- building, tinkering, fixing.
- You prefer concrete (vs. abstract) problems.
- You find that using tools and machinery seems to come naturally to you.

**Conventional**


- You are an "Organizer".
- You enjoy systematic, step-by-step work tasks.
- You like to keep things neat and in order.
- You prefer working in stable environments with predictable routines.

**Artistic**

- You are a "Creator".
- More...

**Investigative**

- You are a "Thinker".
- More...

**Enterprising**

- You are a "Persuader".
- More...

Reflecting on your Interest Profiler results:
Check any that apply:
☐ The top interests sound like me.
☐ I was surprised by my results.
☐ I feel that some of the bottom interests might fit me better than the top ones.
☐ I can see that some careers might suit me better than others.
Write any additional thoughts about your interests:

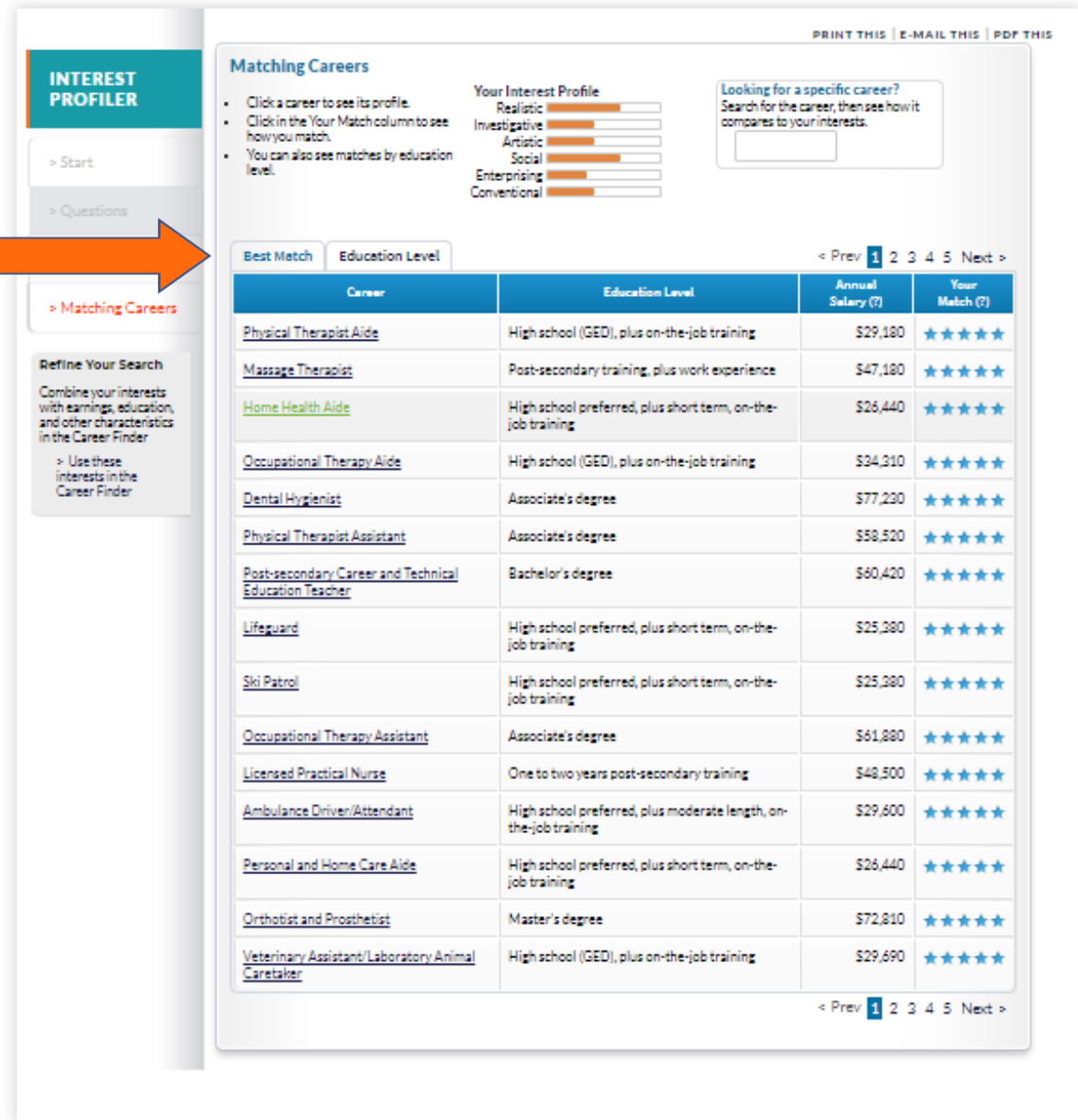
Maximum 245 characters

Save

Matching Careers

10

- Research matching careers by using Best Match (current tab) or choose click on the Education Level tab to view careers at certain education levels.
- Click on the career to view the profile.
- Click on the stars at the right of each career to see how closely you match the interest profile of that career.



INTEREST PROFILER

> Start

> Questions

> Matching Careers

Refine Your Search
Combine your interests with earnings, education, and other characteristics in the Career Finder
> Use these interests in the Career Finder

Matching Careers

PRINT THIS | E-MAIL THIS | PDF THIS

Your Interest Profile

Realistic	██████████
Investigative	██████████
Artistic	██████████
Social	██████████
Enterprising	██████████
Conventional	██████████

Looking for a specific career?
Search for the career, then see how it compares to your interests.

Best Match | Education Level

< Prev 1 2 3 4 5 Next >

Career	Education Level	Annual Salary (?)	Your Match (?)
Physical Therapist Aide	High school (GED), plus on-the-job training	\$29,180	★★★★★
Massage Therapist	Post-secondary training, plus work experience	\$47,180	★★★★★
Home Health Aide	High school preferred, plus short term, on-the-job training	\$26,440	★★★★★
Occupational Therapy Aide	High school (GED), plus on-the-job training	\$34,310	★★★★★
Dental Hygienist	Associate's degree	\$77,230	★★★★★
Physical Therapist Assistant	Associate's degree	\$58,520	★★★★★
Post-secondary Career and Technical Education Teacher	Bachelor's degree	\$60,420	★★★★★
Lifeguard	High school preferred, plus short term, on-the-job training	\$25,380	★★★★★
Ski Patrol	High school preferred, plus short term, on-the-job training	\$25,380	★★★★★
Occupational Therapy Assistant	Associate's degree	\$61,880	★★★★★
Licensed Practical Nurse	One to two years post-secondary training	\$48,500	★★★★★
Ambulance Driver/Attendant	High school preferred, plus moderate length, on-the-job training	\$29,600	★★★★★
Personal and Home Care Aide	High school preferred, plus short term, on-the-job training	\$26,440	★★★★★
Orthotist and Prosthetist	Master's degree	\$72,810	★★★★★
Veterinary Assistant/Laboratory Animal Caretaker	High school (GED), plus on-the-job training	\$29,690	★★★★★

< Prev 1 2 3 4 5 Next >

Refine Your Search

Use your interests to search for careers in the Career Finder.

INTEREST PROFILER

- > Start
- > Questions
- > Results
- > Matching Careers

Refine Your Search
Combine your interests with earnings, education, and other characteristics in the Career Finder
> Use these interests in the Career Finder

Matching Careers

Click a career to see its profile.
Click in the Your Match column to see how you match.
You can also see matches by education level.

Your Interest Profile

Realistic	
Investigative	
Artistic	
Social	
Enterprising	
Conventional	

Looking for a specific career?
Search for the career, then see how it compares to your interests.

Best Match Education Level < Prev 1 2 3 4 5 Next >

Career	Education Level	Annual Salary (?)	Your Match (?)
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Ambulance Driver/Attendant	High school preferred, plus moderate length, on-the-job training	\$29,600	★★★★★

Click **See Your Matching Careers** to see what careers match your interests.

You can add any characteristic from the column on the left to refine your search.

CAREER FINDER

105 matches
(after last selection)

Education

- > Education Level
- > Post-Secondary Programs
- > School Subjects
- > Apprenticeships

Money and Outlook

- > Earnings
- > Outlook

Skills

- > Basic Skills
- > Transferable Skills
- > Workplace Skills

My Characteristics

- > Interests
- > Work Values
- > Aptitudes

Career Facts

- > Career Clusters
- > Working Conditions
- > Physical Demands
- > Physical Abilities
- > Work Hours and Travel
- > Military
- > Careers by Gender

Interests

Search for careers by choosing the interests that best describe you. Remember to only pick one or two interests. Career Finder will return careers that match all your choices.

Interest Profiler
Use Interest Profiler results

Clear all

☒ Realistic

- You are a "Do-er".
- You enjoy "hands-on" activities -- building, tinkering, fixing.
- You prefer concrete (vs. abstract) problems.
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☐ Investigative

- You are a "Thinker".
- You enjoy observing, learning, evaluating.
- You like the challenge of thinking through problems.
- You prefer working on your own.

☐ Artistic

- You are a "Creator".
- You enjoy art of all types, including drama, music, literature, poetry.
- You like using your imagination and creativity.
- You prefer working in unstructured environments.

☒ Social

- You are a "Helper".
- You enjoy assisting people in various ways.
- You like working in groups.
- You find that verbal and communication skills come naturally to you.

☐ Enterprising

- You are a "Persuader".
- You enjoy leading or managing other people.
- You often respond well to competition and enjoy leading teams.
- You are willing to take risks.

☐ Conventional

- You are an "Organizer".
- You enjoy systematic, step-by-step work tasks.
- You like to keep things neat and in order.
- You prefer working in stable environments with predictable routines.

SEE YOUR MATCHING CAREERS >
or click on any characteristic on the left to add it to your search



Click on
**Education
Level**



CAREER FINDER

Choose Characteristics

Education

- > Education Level
- > Post-Secondary Programs
- > School Subjects
- > Apprenticeships

Money and Outlook

- > Earnings
- > Outlook

Skills

- > Basic Skills
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 - You enjoy leading or managing other people.
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 - You are willing to take risks.

Interest Profiler

Use Interest Profiler results



Education Level
Choose the level
you HOPE to
achieve.

Click on **See
Your Matching
Careers**

CAREER FINDER

105 matches

(after last selection)

Education

- > Education Level
- > Post-Secondary Programs
- > School Subjects
- > Apprenticeships

Money and Outlook

- > Earnings
- > Outlook

Skills

- > Basic Skills
- > Transferable Skills
- > Workplace Skills

My Characteristics

- ✓ Interests
- > Work Values
- > Aptitudes

Career Facts

- > Career Clusters
- > Working Conditions
- > Physical Demands
- > Physical Abilities
- > Work Hours and Travel

Education Level

Choose the level of education you have or would like to attain. Lower levels will be automatically selected as well unless you uncheck them.

Clear all

Education Level

- ☐ High school not completed (but preferred)
- ☐ High school completed (GED)
- ☐ One to two years post-secondary training
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Professional or graduate degree

SEE YOUR MATCHING CAREERS >

or click on any characteristic on the left to add it to your search

What is a Professional Degree?

A professional degree prepares students for the licensing or certification required to practice in fields like dentistry, law and medicine. These degrees often require some undergraduate study before students can start the professional degree program.



CAREER FINDER

[PRINT THIS](#) | [E-MAIL THIS](#) | [PDF THIS](#)

67 matches

(after last selection)

Education

- ✓ Education Level
- > Post-Secondary Programs
- > School Subjects
- > Apprenticeships

Money and Outlook

- > Earnings
- > Outlook

Skills

- > Basic Skills
- > Transferable Skills
- > Workplace Skills

My Characteristics

- ✓ Interests
- > Work Values
- > Aptitudes

Career Facts

- > Career Clusters
- > Working Conditions
- > Physical Demands
- > Physical Abilities
- > Work Hours and Travel
- > Military
- > Careers by Gender

You chose the following characteristics:

- **Education Level:** High school not completed (but preferred), High school completed (GED), One to two years post-secondary training, Bachelor's degree
- **Interests:** Realistic, Social

Didn't find the career you're looking for?

Search for the career you're looking for, then see how it compares to the characteristics you've chosen.

GO

67 careers match all of these characteristics

CAREER	EDUCATION LEVEL	STATE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS	CAREER CLUSTER	
Acute Care Nurse	Associate's degree	\$15,740	Health Science	Compare your selections
Adapted Physical Education Specialist	Bachelor's degree	-	Education and Training	Compare your selections
Ambulance Driver/Attendant	High school preferred, plus moderate length, on-the-job training	\$28,860	Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	Compare your selections
Animal Control Worker	High school preferred, plus moderate length, on-the-job training	-	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security	Compare your selections
Armored Assault Vehicle Officer ... (Military - Officer)	Bachelor's degree	-	Government and Public Administration	Compare your selections
Athletic Trainer	Bachelor's degree	\$45,470	Health Science	Compare your selections
Audio-Visual Collections Specialist	Bachelor's degree	-	Education and Training	Compare your selections

Sort by **State**
Average Annual
Earnings

Career Exploration

What They Do



What Career Cluster is this career
a part of?

Which Career Pathway is it under?



Scroll down for more information!

Health Science

Dentist

AVG. SALARY

\$225,770

EDUCATION

First professional degree

JOB OUTLOOK

Stable

Save to Portfolio

- What They Do
- Is This For You?
- Skills Needed
- What To Learn
- Money & Outlook
- Military Options
- Connections
- Interviews
- Real-Life Activities

[Compare to Another Career >](#)
[Start a Career Plan >](#)

[Print](#) • [Email](#) • [PDF](#)

What They Do

Dentists Career Video

0:00 / 1:27

Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums. May treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth. May fit dental appliances or provide preventive care. This career is part of the [Health Science](#) cluster [Therapeutic Services](#) pathway.

A person in this career:


- Uses masks, gloves, and safety glasses to protect patients and self from infectious diseases.
- Examines teeth, gums, and related tissues, using dental instruments, x-rays, or other diagnostic equipment, to evaluate dental health, diagnose diseases or abnormalities, and plan appropriate treatments.
- Administers anesthetics to limit the amount of pain experienced by patients during procedures.
- Uses dental air turbines, hand instruments, dental appliances, or surgical implements.
- Formulates plan of treatment for patient's teeth and mouth tissue.
- Diagnoses and treats diseases, injuries, or malformations of teeth, gums, or related oral structures and provides preventive or corrective services.
- Writes prescriptions for antibiotics or other medications.
- Designs, makes, or fits prosthodontic appliances, such as space maintainers, bridges, or dentures, or writes fabrication instructions or prescriptions for denturists or dental technicians.



Is This For You?


Health Science

Dentist




AVG. SALARY

\$225,770



EDUCATION

First professional degree




JOB OUTLOOK

Stable


Is This For You?

Interests


The following categories describe the work interests (compatible with Holland's Model) of people who tend to succeed in this career:



Investigative - You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.




Realistic - You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.




Social - You are a "helper". You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.

Your Interests

The last time you took the Interest Profiler your results were:



Social




Realistic


Take the [Interest Profiler](#) again.

Work Values


Work values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:



Achievement - It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.



Independence - It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.




Relationships - It's very important to you that you have friendly co-workers. You would like to be of service to others without compromising your sense of right and wrong.

Tell me more about [Work Values](#) ...

What are your work values?
Take the Work Values Sorter to find out.

Start the Work Values Sorter



Aptitudes

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in this career:

★ General learning ability

★ Verbal aptitude

★ Finger dexterity

Save to Portfolio

What They Do

Is This For You?

Skills Needed

What To Learn

Money & Outlook

Military Options

Connections

Interviews

Real-Life Activities

Compare to Another Career >

Start a Career Plan >

Print

Email

PDF

Scroll down for more information!

18

Skills Needed

Do you have the skills needed? Not sure?
Take the Basic Skills Survey and find out!

What are your Transferable Skills?
Take the Transferable Skills Checklist and find out!

What are Workplace Skills?
Learn more about Workplace Skills.

The screenshot displays the 'Dentist' career profile on the RUReady ND.gov website. At the top, it lists 'Health Science' and 'Dentist' with icons for average salary (\$225,770), education (first professional degree), and job outlook (stable). The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Skills Needed' (with a sub-section 'Basic Skills' listing skills like Reading comprehension, Writing, Science, Active learning, Monitoring, Active listening, Speaking, Critical thinking, and Learning strategies), 'Transferable Skills' (listing skills like Diagnosing diseases and disorders, Giving health care instructions, Planning health care treatments, Treating physical or mental problems, and Using medical or dental instruments to treat patients), and 'Workplace Skills' (listing skills like Complex problem solving). A sidebar on the right contains a 'Save to Portfolio' button and a list of navigation links: 'What They Do', 'Is This For You?', 'Skills Needed' (highlighted with an orange arrow), 'What To Learn', 'Money & Outlook', 'Military Options', 'Connections', 'Interviews', and 'Real-Life Activities'. At the bottom of the sidebar are links to 'Compare to Another Career' and 'Start a Career Plan', along with 'Print', 'Email', and 'PDF' options. An orange arrow points from the 'Do you have the skills needed?' text to the 'Skills Needed' section. Another orange arrow points from the 'What are your Transferable Skills?' text to the 'Transferable Skills' section. A third orange arrow points from the 'What are Workplace Skills?' text to the 'Workplace Skills' section.

Health Science
Dentist

AVG. SALARY
\$225,770

EDUCATION
First professional degree

JOB OUTLOOK
Stable

Skills Needed

Basic Skills

The following skills are important for this career:

- Reading comprehension medium (Level 5)
- Writing medium (Level 2)
- Science medium (Level 4)
- Active learning medium (Level 5)
- Monitoring medium (Level 5)
- Active listening medium (Level 5)
- Speaking medium (Level 5)
- Critical thinking medium (Level 5)
- Learning strategies medium (Level 2)

These skills are necessary but not as important:

- Mathematics low (Level 2)

Tell me more about [Basic Skills](#) ...

Your Basic Skills:

The last time you took the Basic Skills Survey your results were:

- Reading comprehension
- Active listening

Take the [Basic Skills Survey](#) again.

Transferable Skills

Here's a list of skills used in this career that are also used in other careers.

High level of skill required

- Diagnosing diseases and disorders
- Giving health care instructions
- Planning health care treatments
- Treating physical or mental problems
- Using medical or dental instruments to treat patients

Tell me more about [Transferable Skills](#) ...

What are your transferable skills?
Take the transferable skills to find out.

[Start the Transferable Skills Checklist](#)

Workplace Skills

Workplace skills are practiced activities that help people become successful in all kinds of careers. Here's a list of the workplace skills that are used in this career.

Medium level of skill required

- Complex problem solving

Tell me more about [Workplace Skills](#) ...

Improve Your Skills

Save to Portfolio

- What They Do
- Is This For You?
- Skills Needed**
- What To Learn
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- Interviews
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[Compare to Another Career](#) >
[Start a Career Plan](#) >

Print • Email • PDF

What To Learn

Health Science

Dentist



AVG. SALARY
\$225,770



EDUCATION
First professional degree



JOB OUTLOOK
Stable

What To Learn

High School

What high school courses should you take if you're interested in this career? Get your answers from the [Health Science](#) cluster [Therapeutic Services](#) pathway.

Beyond High School

Here's a list of programs that you should consider if you're interested in this career:

- [Dentistry](#)
- [Pre-Dentistry Studies](#)

Education Level

Education training and experience are required at different levels for success in different occupations.

First professional degree

Dentists must be licensed in the state(s) in which they work. Licensure requirements vary by state, although candidates usually must graduate from an accredited dental school and pass written and practical exams. Dentists who practice in a specialty area must complete postdoctoral training.

Additional Information

Students who want to become dentists must take at least two years of pre-dental studies at a university before they can enroll in dental school, which is another four years. However, most students have at least a bachelor's degree before entering dental school. Students interested in becoming dentists should take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, health and math.

All dental schools require applicants to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). When selecting students, schools consider DAT scores along with grade point averages, recommendations and interviews.

Aim for the top of the class -- space is limited at most dental schools. "Look into what grades are needed to get into dental school now," says dentist Sasha Prior. "The last I heard, it was harder to make dental school than it was to get into medical school."

Expect to pay a lot in tuition and other fees! Tuition fees vary between schools, but they are generally among the highest of any program. Dental school tuition in the U.S. averaged between \$26,661 and \$28,294 per year for in-state students for the 2008-09 school year. That's according to the American Dental Association. For out-of-state students, tuition averaged between \$41,423 and \$42,929 per year.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require dentists to be licensed. To qualify for a license in most states, candidates must graduate from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation and pass written and practical exams. That's according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Once students finish their studies, they receive either a doctorate of dental surgery (DDS) or a doctorate of dental medicine (DMD). The dental degree and education are the same. The name depends on the university granting the degree.

If you are interested in this career, do some job shadowing. "Contact your local dentist and ask to observe for a few weeks or to help out in the clinic," suggests dentist Hor Tak D. Zung. "Don't be shy about approaching dentists to ask them about their job."

Save to Portfolio

What They Do

Is This For You?

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Print • Email • PDF

Money and Outlook

Health Science
Dentist

AVG. SALARY
\$225,770
 EDUCATION
First professional degree
 JOB OUTLOOK
Stable

Money & Outlook

To view earnings and outlook for another state, select it from the following list:

North Dakota [Go](#)

North Dakota Earnings

Average Annual Wage	\$225,770
Entry Annual Wage	\$102,960
Experienced Annual Wage	\$208,000
Average Hourly Wage	\$108.54
Entry Hourly Wage	\$49.50
Experienced Hourly Wage	\$100.00
Median Hourly Wage	\$100.00

North Dakota Regional Earnings

North Dakota Metropolitan Areas Wages

Region	Average	Entry Level	Experienced
Fargo ND-MN MSA	\$192,860 or \$92.20/hr	\$92,610 or \$45.01/hr	\$208,000 or \$100.00/hr
Grand Forks ND-MN MSA	\$206,570 or \$100.27/hr	\$132,590 or \$63.74/hr	\$208,000 or \$100.00/hr

North Dakota Geographical Areas Wages

Region	Average	Entry Level	Experienced
East North Dakota nonmetropolitan area	\$284,400 or \$136.72/hr	\$206,320 or \$99.19/hr	\$208,000 or \$100.00/hr

[View Map](#)

North Dakota's Employment and Outlook (State-wide)

Outlook	Stable Growth rate is estimated to be 16%
Job Openings	11 estimated annual job openings
Employment	245 were employed in this occupation

National Earnings

Average Annual Wage	\$178,260
Average Hourly Wage	\$85.70
Average Annual Range	\$80,850 to \$208,000

Note: variations in salaries reflect differences in size of firm, location, level of education and professional credentials.
[Where do these numbers come from?](#)

National Employment and Outlook

Outlook	stable The employment change from 2018 to 2028 is estimated to be +8%. (The National average for all occupations is +5%)
Job Openings	very small number Less than 1000 average annual openings are expected for this occupation between 2018 and 2028. (The National Average for all occupations is 1,832 openings)
Employment	small occupation This was a small occupation in the United States, employing 136,900 workers in 2018. (The National average for all occupations is 149,803 workers)
Growth	Faster than average growth Overall employment of dentists is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for dentists' services will increase as studies continue to link oral health to overall health.
Industries	Large concentrations of this occupation are found in these industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care and social assistance (NAICS620000) (81.2%) Self-employed workers, all jobs (16.5%)

***Scroll down, what is the National Employment and Outlook for this career?**

[View Map](#)

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Are there Military Options for this career?

Health Science

Dentist

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Military Options

Get paid to get a career. That's what the military can offer you. Take a moment to review related potential military careers.

Dentists (Officer)

Opportunities

Military dentists take care of the dental needs of service members and their families. They are typically responsible for educating patients on oral hygiene, examining teeth and diagnosing patients' dental conditions by using tools such as x-rays, assessing treatment options, and agreeing on treatment plans with patients. They may practice general dentistry or work in one of several specialties.

Training Provided

Dentists have a doctorate degree in dental medicine or dental surgery. Dentists who participate in military-sponsored residency programs receive renowned education. All dentists in the Military gain exposure to nearly every major facet of dentistry in a wide range of healthcare environments.

A 4-year college degree is typically required to enter this occupation. Officers complete a comprehensive training program covering responsibilities, military structure and etiquette, traditions, and leadership development.

Earnings

Officers in the military can progress through ten officer pay grades during their careers. Pay grade and length of service determine an officer's pay. Most newly commissioned officers begin at pay grade O-1 (\$39,446/year basic pay in 2020). With certain professional qualifications, officers may enter at a higher pay grade. After two years, officers generally move up to O-2 (\$51,762/year basic pay in 2020). After an additional two years, the military generally promotes officers to O-3 (\$70,167/year basic pay in 2020) if job performance and other requirements are met. Cost-of-living increases usually occur once a year. Many officers and their families live free of charge in military housing on the base where they are assigned. Those living off base receive a housing allowance in addition to their basic pay. Officers also receive a monthly food allowance. These allowances, and associated tax savings, are substantial additions to basic pay. Other employment benefits for military officers include free health care, 30 days paid vacation each year, legal assistance, education assistance, military store privileges, and an excellent retirement program.

Services offering this occupation

Air Force

- Air National Guard
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Air Force Reserve

Army

- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Reserves

Coast Guard

- U.S. Coast Guard

Navy

- U.S. Navy

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Connections

- Associations
- Internet Sites
- Related Career Information Sources
- Military Career Opportunities
- Access to Job Banks by State

Health Science
Dentist

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Connections

Associations

American Dental Association
211 E Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
<http://www.ada.org>

American Association of Women Dentists
216 West Jackson Blvd Ste 625
Chicago, IL 60606
<http://www.aawd.org>

Internet Sites

Academy of General Dentistry
<http://www.agd.org/>

American Association of Women Dentists
<http://www.aawd.org>

American Dental Association
<http://www.ada.org>

Related Career Information Sources

O*NET-SOC occupation
Dentists, General - 29-1021.00
<http://www.onetonline.org>

SOC occupation
Dentists, General - 29-1021
<http://www.bls.gov/soc/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Military Career Opportunities

Air Force

- Air National Guard
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Air Force Reserve

Army

- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Reserves

Coast Guard

- U.S. Coast Guard

Navy

- U.S. Navy

Job Banks by State

North Dakota

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*If provided, read interviews provided by professionals.

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Interviews

Let's be honest -- nobody really likes going to the dentist. Even the most devout brushers and flossers don't look forward to their next visit.

Dentist Sasha Prior knows this for a fact. "It's true," she says. "People are never really happy to see me, but they'd sure miss me if I was gone."

Prior understands dental work can be uncomfortable. "Who likes having somebody else's fingers in their mouth?" she says. But she also realizes that not having the dental work done can be downright painful.

"When a person comes to my office with an aching tooth, they're not looking forward to having me touch it," she says. "But they probably can't wait for it to feel better after I'm done."

Prior isn't the only dentist who thinks this way. Dentist Hior Tak D. Zung believes people fear dental work out of habit or as the result of one bad experience.

"Dentistry has come a long way in reducing people's anxieties and experience of pain," he says. "But many people getting a filling today expect it to feel the way it did when they had one in the 1970s."

Dentists say this assumption couldn't be further from the truth, since dentistry has gone through a lot of changes in the past 20 years. "We've come leaps and bounds in recent years," says Prior. "The dentistry today is much more technical and more precise than the dentistry of 20 years ago."

Some of the most difficult patients are children who have had a bad experience in the dentist chair. Very often, these bad experiences are the result of a lack of communication on the part of the dentist.

If a dentist uses a needle on a child without telling him or her, the patient may grow to be suspicious of everything that happens in a dentist's office.

"Kids can fidget, cry, close their mouths constantly, scream for their parents -- it's very trying, and you have to have piles of patience," says Zung.

Zung says people's perceptions are their worst enemy in the dentist's chair. If someone expects a procedure to be painful, they become anxious. And that makes it harder for a dentist to do his or her job.

"It can be very stressful dealing with fearful patients," says Zung. "But, with reassurance and confidence, most people can be helped with a gentle hand and compassion."

Good communication skills are needed in order to be an effective dentist. This field demands manual dexterity, technical reasoning, creativity and a strong scientific mind -- and that's just to get into dental school.

In fact, dentistry is one of the toughest university programs to enter. Experts say most colleges and universities won't even look at an application unless the student has an A average.

A friend of Prior's had an experience a few years ago that illustrates the competitiveness of dentistry programs. A friend who had always been an excellent student applied to several dental schools across the United States and was turned down by every school.

"He didn't know what to do, so he decided to apply at medical schools," Prior says. "Every place he applied not only welcomed him, but offered him scholarships because of his good academic record."

Dentistry wasn't always such a hard profession to crack, but the field has become more competitive since it's become a more popular career choice. Dentistry offers a shot at a very good living, self-employment and challenging work.

While it may be the prestige or the money that draws some people to this profession, Zung believes these aren't the true rewards of dentistry. "One can take a lot of pride in helping people out with their dental problems," he says. "Improving people's smiles is the most fulfilling part of being a dentist."

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Dentist



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Real-Life Activities



Real-Life Math

Try this activity to see how you might use math on the job



Real-Life Decision Making

Do you have what it takes to make decisions in this career



Real-Life Communication

Practice the skills you'd use in this career



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Take-Away



- **Did you learn anything new about yourself?**
- **How will you use this information in the future?**