

# What can a career in Dental Assisting offer you?

**Service to Others • Future Opportunities • Variety and Responsibility**



## What does a Dental Assistant do?

- Assists the dentist with a variety of treatment procedures — works with dental instruments and materials
- Helps patients feel comfortable before, during and after dental treatment
- Takes and processes x-rays
- Prepares and sterilizes instruments and equipment
- Communicates with patients, other health professionals, dental suppliers, business contacts and insurers
- Performs a variety of office management tasks

## Where do Dental Assistants work?

- Dental offices of general dentists and dental specialists
- Dental schools
- Private and government hospitals and clinics
- State and local public health departments

## What training is needed?

- College-level education is encouraged, but careers can begin without college-level courses through on-the-job-training in a dental office or high school work study programs
- There are approximately 270 ADA accredited dental assisting education programs in community and technical colleges in U.S., a minimum of one academic year in length

## What are future opportunities?

- The demand is currently excellent
- Flexible work schedules are often available
- Dental assisting offers excellent career opportunities for nontraditional students including individuals who are over 23 years of age and those seeking a career change
- Compensation depends on responsibilities, geographic location and other factors