

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of careers in health? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

Dentist [1]

Dentists are the frontline of good oral health. They work with communities to prevent and treat dental/oral disease, correct dental irregularities and treat dental/facial injuries.

Training and qualifications required

Becoming a dentist involves at least five years' study at dental school, followed by one or two years of supervised practice. Most entrants will require three As at A-level, although one year pre-dental courses are offered by some dental schools which broadens access to other students.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most dentists work as general dental practitioners and can choose where they work and determine their working hours. Newly qualified dentists undertake dental foundation training for one year and earn £30,132. Dentists then either choose to work in a dental practice, or enter dental core training. Dental core trainees earn a basic salary between £29,912 and £39,092, and may be paid an additional supplement. Salaried NHS dentists earn between £38,095 and £81,480. Consultants in dental specialties are paid on the same scales as other hospital consultants and earn between £75,249 and £101,451.

Desirable skills and values

Dentists lead the dental team so good leadership skills are essential, as well as excellent knowledge of human anatomy and first class clinical skills. You will need to be confident to diagnose and treat problems and provide good advice to patients.

Prospects

Dentists can work in general dental care, community dental care, dental public health or hospital dental care.

Related roles

- Dental nurse [2]

- Dental technician/dental technologist [3]
 - Dental therapist [4]
 - Dental hygienist [5]
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[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-nurse>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-techniciandental-technologist>

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