DENTAL ASSISTANT

Job prospects for dental assistants should be excellent. Employment is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations through the year 2021. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will likely continue to increase the demand for preventative dental services. Population growth and greater retention of natural teeth by middle-aged and older people, and an increased focus on preventative dental care for younger generations will fuel demand for dental services. Older dentists, who have been less likely to employ assistants, are leaving the occupation and will be replaced by recent graduates, who are more likely to use multiple assistants. As dentists’ workloads increase, they are expected to hire more assistants to perform routine tasks so they may devote more time to more complex procedures. In addition to job openings due to employment growth, numerous job openings will arise out of the need to replace assistants who transfer to other occupations, retire, or leave for other reasons.

Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2016, dental assistants held an estimated 1,954 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 2,191 jobs projected by 2021 (+12.1%). Approximately 237 openings are anticipated.

**State:** Dental assistants held an estimated 2,896 jobs in Kansas in 2016, with 3,289 jobs projected by 2021 (+13.6%). Altogether, 393 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements.

**National:** Dental assistants held 3,433,321 jobs in 2016, with 372,449 jobs projected by 2021 (+8.5%). Approximately 29,128 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Dental assistants employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $16.97 in 2016.

**State:** Dental assistants in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $16.49 in 2016.

**National:** Dental assistants working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $17.73 in 2016.

September 2017
JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. Since the dental assisting program is a cooperative effort through the Metropolitan Community College District, salary and placement data are collected primarily on students initiating their studies at JCCC and are thus incomplete. Therefore, no salary or placement information was available for JCCC dental assisting program completers from recent follow-up studies.

Note: Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics