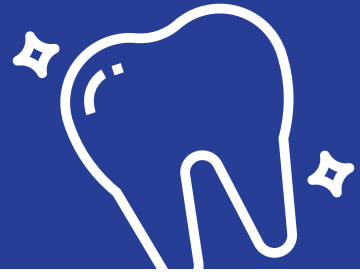




# DENTAL HYGIENE

COLLEGE. CREDENTIAL. CAREER.



## Dental Hygiene is a Hot Job in Michigan

People who work in the field of dental hygiene spend every day caring for others and empowering patients to care for their own oral health. Good oral health is not just about having a good-looking smile—it also is a key component of a person’s overall health. People working in dentistry know that they help make people healthier and more confident each day.

To succeed in this field, you must enjoy working closely with patients to assess their oral tissues and overall health. You must also be an effective communicator, explaining procedures to patients as well as sharing important information with the other dental professionals in the office.

## Cool Classes You Can Take

Dental hygiene isn’t only about caring for a patient’s oral health. There are some cool, unexpected classes you can choose as you pursue this path, such as:

### Anatomy of the Head and Neck

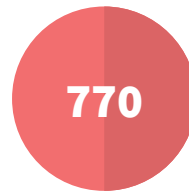
It’s not all about teeth! This class teaches students about the ways the head and neck are tied to good oral health. Hygienists who understand the function and normal anatomy of the head and neck are able to recognize abnormalities that can affect a person’s eating, speaking, and facial expression. These abnormalities impact dental hygiene, treatment plans, and many aspects of a patient’s life.

### Pharmacology

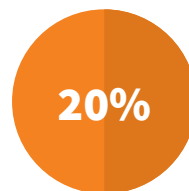
This course is a study of medications with special emphasis given to those used in the dental office. Students learn the origin of these drugs, their basic physical and chemical properties, methods of administration, and their effects upon the body systems.

## Financial Help

There are many federal grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans available to help students cover the costs of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other college-related expenses. The first step in securing necessary financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)).



Projected job openings annually



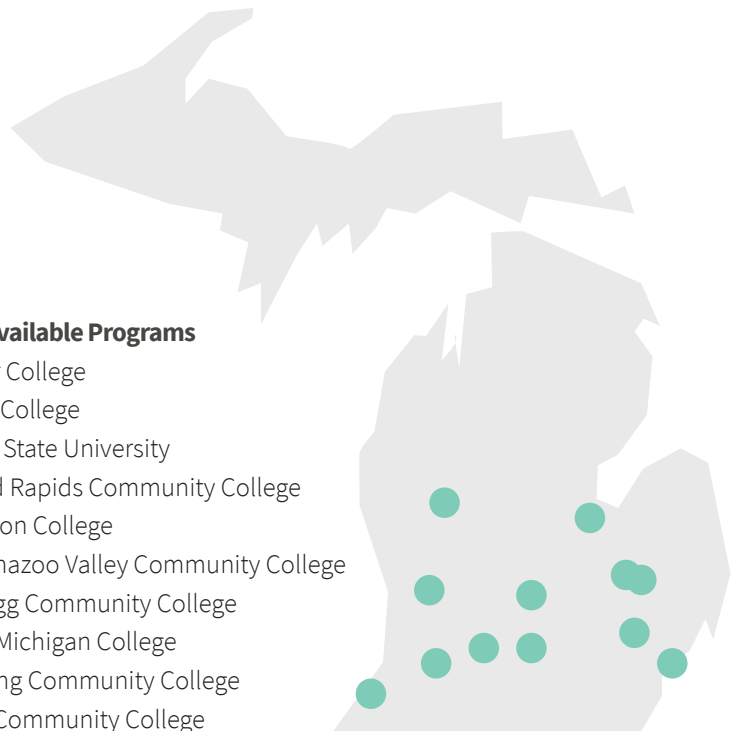
Estimated job growth



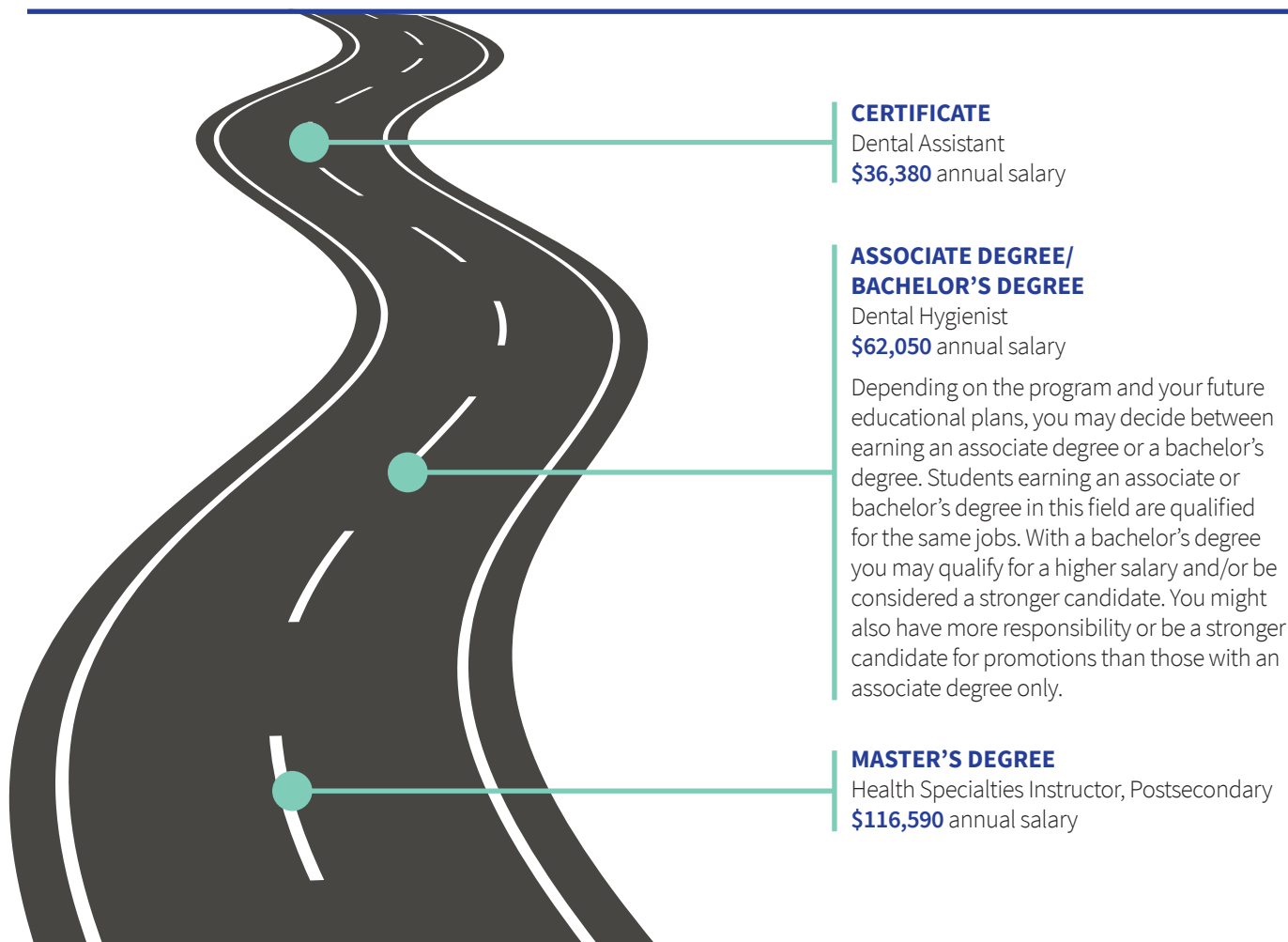
Hourly rates for dental hygienists

### Some Available Programs

- Baker College
- Delta College
- Ferris State University
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Jackson College
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- Kellogg Community College
- Lake Michigan College
- Lansing Community College
- Mott Community College
- Oakland Community College
- Wayne County Community College District



There are many different education and career paths in **DENTAL HYGIENE**. Here are a few you might follow after graduating from high school.



**WHERE**

**College** refers to an educational institution or establishment that provides education beyond high school and/or specialized professional training that is credit bearing.

**WHAT**

A **credential** verifies an individual's qualification or competence in a particular area and is usually issued by colleges in the form of certificates and academic degrees.

**WHY**

A **career** is a series of jobs that offers opportunities for advancement and provides a path to economic independence.

**WHEN**

Now! Don't wait to go to **college** to earn a **credential** that leads not only to your first job but also to a full and rewarding **career**!



To learn more about this pathway, check out the video at [roadmap2opportunity.org](http://roadmap2opportunity.org).

All occupational information provided by Roadmap to Opportunity is from O\*NET Online and is available at [onetonline.org](http://onetonline.org).