Occupational Licensing Study
50 State Comparison

State Board of Dentistry

Dentist
Dental Hygienist
Dental Assistant
Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner

Presented by the Pennsylvania Department of State
2020
**Dentist**

A licensed healthcare professional who diagnoses, treats, operates on, or prescribes for any disease, pain or injury, or regulates any deformity or physical condition, of the human teeth, jaws or associated structures.

---

**Dental Hygienist**

Healthcare professional who is trained and licensed to clean teeth, take dental x-rays, and provide related dental services and care, under the supervision of a dentist.

---

**Dental Assistant**

Healthcare professional who performs functions under the supervision of a licensed dentist, such as coronal polishing, placing and condensing amalgam restoration and other restorative materials, fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish, placing and removing rubber dams among other functions.

---

**Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner**

A licensed dental hygienist who may perform educational, preventive, therapeutic and intra-oral procedures which the hygienist is educated to perform and which require the hygienist’s professional competence and skill but which do not require the professional competence and skill of a dentist without the authorization, assignment or examination of a dentist, and who is certified by the State Board of Dentistry as having satisfied the requirements.
Dentist

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement

*AK: Must take the WREB examination unless applicant completed a 2 yr or more post graduate training program.
CT, OH, & WA: Must take a regional board exam unless the applicant has completed residency training.
The State Board of Dentistry

Dentist

Training / Experience Requirement

*Experience requirement for dentists is satisfied through the completion of an approved Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) program.

Continuing Education Requirement

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

CE Reporting Cycles

- 3 years: 1 State
- 5 years: 6 States
- 1 year: 1 State
- 2 years: 38 States

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.
Initial Licensing Fee

- **HIGHEST**: $1,200.00 (Nevada)
- **MEDIAN**: $316.20
- **LOWEST**: $74.00 (Wisconsin)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprinting fees.

Renewal Fees

- **HIGHEST**: $1,150.00 (Connecticut)
- **MEDIAN**: $365.00
- **LOWEST**: $63.00 (Utah)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.
### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endorsement</th>
<th>Reciprocity</th>
<th>By Credentials</th>
<th>Not Specified in Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>California</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td></td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td></td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td></td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td></td>
<td>Montana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td></td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td></td>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.
Dental Hygienist

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement

Degrees:
- Associates

States with 2 required examinations
- Utah

States with 3 required examinations
- Idaho

States with 4 required examinations
- Colorado
Dental Hygienist

Training / Experience Requirement

*All dental hygienists complete the training and experience requirement during the completion of their associate’s degree.

Continuing Education Requirement

* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

- 12 - 18 CE hours / 2 years
- 19 - 25 CE hours / 2 years
- 26 - 32 CE hours / 2 years
- 33 - 40 CE hours / 2 years

* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.
THE STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Dental Hygienist

Initial Licensing Fee

- **PA:** $75.00
- **U.S. avg.:** $149.57
- **HIGHEST:** $600.00 (Nevada)
- **MEDIAN:** $125.00
- **LOWEST:** $50.00 (Alabama)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.*

Renewal Fees

- **PA:** $42.00
- **U.S. avg.:** $143.27
- **HIGHEST:** $452.00 (Texas)
- **MEDIAN:** $136.00
- **LOWEST:** $37.00 (Utah)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.*

Renewal Cycles

- 35 States (Annual)
- 5 States (Triennial)
- 11 States (Biennial)
**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.**
Degrees:
- Completion of board-approved educational program in dental assisting
- No Degree Required
- Not Licensed

States with 1 required examination
States with 2 required examinations
States with 3 required examinations
States with 0 required examinations
States that do not license this occupation

*MD and KY data is for the state required registration.
Dental Assistant

Training / Experience Requirement

- 6 months
- 2,080 hours
- States that do not mention an experience requirement
- States that do not license this occupation

Continuing Education Requirement

- 0-10 CE hours/2 years
- 11-20 CE hours/2 years
- 21-30 CE hours/2 years
- States that do not license this occupation

*CA and NJ require training if the applicant does not have any dental education. The other states that license this occupation require the applicant to obtain training during their education.

*MD and KY do not license this occupation, but it is registered by the state government.

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

*MD and KY data is for the state required registration.

*12 states do not require CE, and 22 states do not license this occupation.
Dental Assistant

Initial Licensing Fee

- **PA**: $75.00
- **U.S. avg.**: $88.80
- **HIGHEST**: $250.00 (Maine)
- **MEDIAN**: $75.00
- **LOWEST**: $30.00 (Tennessee)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprint fees.

Renewal Fees

- **PA**: $26.00
- **U.S. avg.**: $70.90
- **HIGHEST**: $200.00 (Maine)
- **MEDIAN**: $55.00
- **LOWEST**: $25.00 (Louisiana)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Cycles

- **Annual**: 18 States
- **Biennial**: 6 States
- **Triennial**: 3 States

*NE is included in the renewal cycle pie chart but is not included in the calculation of average and median because the fee is not available.*
Dental Assistant

States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endorsement</th>
<th>Reciprocity</th>
<th>By Credentials</th>
<th>Not Specified in Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania**</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Massachussets</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania**</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tenessee</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.
Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner

Degree Requirement

*No additional degree is required for this occupation, but the applicant must first become a dental hygienist so he/she must have an associate's degree.

Examination Requirement

*No additional examinations are required besides the exams to become a dental hygienist.
Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner

Training / Experience Requirement

*IA and MA require 1 year and 3 years respectively. These states were not used when calculating the average and median.

Continuing Education Requirement

*All the states that license this occupation require the licensee to complete the CE requirement for dental hygienist, but KY, PA, and RI must complete the number of hours stated in topics related to public health as part of the dental hygienist CE requirement.
Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner

Initial Licensing Fee

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

Renewal Fees

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.
States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.**
Observation Section

States that license Denturists
- Arizona
- Idaho
- Maine
- Montana
- Oregon
- Washington

**Dentists Continuing Education (CE) Outliers**
- South Dakota is the only state with a 5 year CE cycle
- Kansas requires the highest amount of CE with 60 hours every 2 years
- Indiana, New Mexico, New York, and Wyoming require the least amount of CE with 20 hours every 2 years.

**Dental Hygienists Continuing Education (CE) Outliers**
- South Dakota is the only state with a 5 year CE cycle
- Arkansas requires the highest amount of CE with 40 hours every 2 years
- North Carolina and Wisconsin require the least amount of CE with 12 hours every 2 years.

**Dental Assistants Continuing Education (CE) Outliers**
- South Dakota is the only state with a 5 year CE cycle
- Nebraska requires the highest amount of CE with 30 hours every 2 years
- Alaska, D.C, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming require 0 CE.

**Public Health Dental Hygienists Continuing Education (CE) Outliers**
- West Virginia requires the highest amount of CE with 6 hours every 2 years
- Kentucky and Pennsylvania require the least CE, with 5 hours every 2 years
Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama
https://www.dentalboard.org/

Alaska
https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/professionallicensing/boardofdentalexaminers.aspx

Arizona
https://dentalboard.az.gov/

Arkansas
https://www.asbde.org/

California
https://www.dbc.ca.gov/

Colorado
https://dpo.colorado.gov/Dental

Connecticut

Delaware
https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/dental/

District of Columbia
https://dhc.health.dc.gov/service/dentistry-licensing

Florida
https://floridasdentistry.gov/

Georgia
https://gbd.georgia.gov/

Hawaii
https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist/

Idaho

Illinois
https://www.idfpr.com/profs/dentist.asp

Indiana
https://www.in.gov/pla/dental.htm

Iowa
https://dentalboard.iowa.gov/

Kansas
https://www.dental.ks.gov/

Kentucky
https://dentistry.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx

Louisiana
http://www.lsbd.org/

Maine

Maryland
https://health.maryland.gov/dental/Pages/home.aspx

Massachusetts

Michigan
https://https://michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600_72603_27529_27533---,00.html

Minnesota
https://https://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana
http://boardsbsd.dli.mt.gov/den

Nebraska
http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Dentist.aspx

Nevada
http://dental.nv.gov/

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

North Dakota
https://https://nddentalboard.org/

Ohio
https://https://dental.ohio.gov/

Oklahoma
https://https://medical.ok.gov/dentistry/

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island
https://https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=251

South Carolina
https://https://llr.sc.gov/bod/

South Dakota
https://https://www.sdboardofdentistry.org/

Tennessee

Texas
https://https://tsbde.texas.gov/

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington
https://https://doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsCertificate/ProfessionsNewRenewUpdate/Dentist/LicenseRequirements

West Virginia
http://https://wvdentalboard.org/

Wisconsin
https://https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/Dentist/Default.aspx

Wyoming
https://https://dental.wy.gov/