











# DENTAL PROFESSIONALS COMPARISON

	Licensure/ Certification	Education	Where and what type of care is provided
 <p><b>GENERAL DENTIST</b></p>	<p>License required</p> <p>Biannual renewal that includes proof of continuing education</p>	<p>Undergraduate degree + Graduation from a Commission on Dental Accreditation(CODA) accredited dental school (approx. four years)</p>	<p>Dentists usually work in a dental clinic. They can provide the full scope of dental procedures and treatments with some pursuing specializations such as orthodontics and endodontics.</p>
 <p><b>DENTAL THERAPIST</b></p>	<p>License required</p> <p>Biannual renewal that includes proof of continuing education</p>	<p>At least three years post-secondary academic training from a CODA accredited Dental Therapy Program.</p>	<p>Dental therapists provide care in offices and community settings, such as schools, senior centers, and mobile clinics. They are specifically trained to work in dental shortage areas and provide routine dental care, including exams and filling cavities. They work as part of a dentist-led team complementing the work of dental hygienists and DAs.</p>
 <p><b>REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST (RDH)</b></p>	<p>License required</p> <p>Biannual renewal that includes proof of continuing education</p>	<p>Graduation from a CODA accredited dental hygiene program (associates or bachelors degree).</p>	<p>Dental hygienists specialize in preventing disease. They focus on procedures like sealants, fluoride varnish, preventing and treating gum disease and promoting good oral health practices. They work in clinic or community settings such as schools, medical offices and nursing homes.</p>
 <p><b>EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL AUXILIARY (EFDA)</b></p>	<p>One time certification with 12 required continuing education credits every two years</p>	<p>Graduation from a CODA accredited dental assisting program that includes additional EFDA training.</p> <p>Must have 1,000 hours of on the job experience or be a certified DA.</p>	<p>EFDAs are DAs that are trained in a handful of additional procedures to improve efficiency in a dental office. They work in dental offices or community sites. EFDAs perform components of the treatment a dentist provided (e.g., dentist drills tooth, EFDA fills the tooth, dentist checks final work).</p>
 <p><b>DENTAL ASSISTANT (DA)</b></p>	<p>None required, can become certified</p>	<p>In Wis. no education is required. Training can be provided on the job or obtained at a dental assisting education program.</p> <p>DA educational programs do not need to be CODA accredited and may offer the ability to become a certified DA.</p>	<p>DAs work in offices and community settings, supporting other providers and administering basic services. They often serve as a second set of hands for another member of the dental team.</p>

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	Common procedures	Required supervision	Approximate number of procedures
 <p><b>GENERAL DENTIST</b></p>	Comprehensive diagnosis/treatment planning, fillings, root canals, bridges, surgical extractions.	None	<b>400</b>
 <p><b>DENTAL THERAPIST</b></p>	Diagnosis and treatment planning within their scope. Some prevention (topical fluoride, sealants, etc.), oral health education, fillings, non-surgical extraction of baby teeth.	Works under direct supervision of a dentist for the first 2,000 hours and then can work under general supervision of a dentist. Must have a collaborative management agreement with a dentist.	<b>95</b>
 <p><b>REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST (RDH)</b></p>	Oral health assessment, x-rays, teeth cleaning and polishing, scaling below the gums, oral health education, prevention (topical fluoride, sealants, silver diamine fluoride, etc.).	Works under direct supervision of a dentist and in some settings may work independent of a dentist within their scope.	<b>45</b>
 <p><b>EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL AUXILIARY (EFDA)</b></p>	Under the delegation and supervision of a dentist, can complete procedures such as: placing and finishing a filling after a dentist drills, placing sealants, taking impressions, removing cement from crown etc.	Works under direct supervision of a dentist.	<b>10</b>
 <p><b>DENTAL ASSISTANT (DA)</b></p>	Take and develop x-rays, chairside assistance to other dental providers, impressions, sterilization, patient aftercare instruction.	Works under direct supervision of a dentist.	<b>30</b>