Dentistry: An Attractive Career

**Flexibility**

Dentists can balance their personal and professional lives to meet their individual needs and desires. Flexibility in numbers of days and hours worked are especially attractive to women and men wishing an active professional life, while at the same time preserving time for family and or other personal activities.

**Variety**

Dentistry is a rapidly changing, expanding health profession involving detection of diseases, diagnosis, esthetic improvement, surgical restoration, and public education and prevention.

**Creativity**

Dentists are artists as well as scientists. To brighten one tooth or realign an entire jaw, dentists must have an artist's esthetic sense to help their patients look their best.

**Prestige**

Dentists provide an essential health care service. They are highly respected within the community. Dentists are skilled, conscientious, civic-minded individuals who work with community leaders, educators, other health professionals, and government officials. They often volunteer services to school health programs and to elderly, handicapped or poor citizens, demonstrating a selflessness that is a hallmark of professionalism.

**Security**

The average income of a dentist is among the highest of U.S. family incomes. The demand for dental care continues to grow. The increasing number of older adults are keeping their teeth longer, are more aware of the importance of regular dental care and require more dental services. Geriatric dental care and the greatly increased demand for newer services, such as cosmetic dentistry, also will contribute to this growth.

**Personal Satisfaction**

A career in dentistry is personally fulfilling. Dentists perform and important public service to help people maintain their health and appearance. They serve the present and future oral health needs of their patients, dentists enjoy the challenge of a lifetime of learning. Tomorrow's dentists will be at the cutting edge of high technology, making the practice of dentistry even more exciting and rewarding than it is today.
List Of Dental Specialties

For individuals wishing to pursue advanced training following graduation from dental school, there are many options. These programs require an additional two to six years of training beyond dental school.

Endodontics
Diagnose and treat diseases and injuries of the dental pulp and other dental tissues that affect the vitality of teeth.

Maxillofacial Radiology
Provide diagnostic radiology and other imaging modalities for teeth and facial structures.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Provide a broad range of diagnostic and treatment services for diseases, injuries and defects of the head, neck, face, and jaws.

Orthodontics
Treat problems related to crooked teeth, missing teeth and other abnormalities to establish normal function and appearance.

Pediatric Dentistry
Specialize in treating children from birth through adolescence.

Oral Pathology
Study and research the causes, processes and effects of diseases of the mouth.

Periodontics
Diagnose and treat diseases of the gums and bone supporting the teeth.

Prosthodontics
Replace missing teeth with fixed or removable substitutes such as dentures, bridges, and implants.

Public Health Dentistry
Specialize in preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts.