



Dentistry

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Allied Staff News

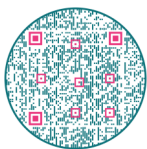
Non-Licensed Persons Should be Reported

Several members have contacted the SDDA, reporting that they are aware of non-licensed individuals providing dental care to patients in South Dakota. The South Dakota State Board of Dentistry recommends that anyone with knowledge of a person without a dental license who is providing dental care in South Dakota should alert local law enforcement (the local police department or county sheriff's department) and also make a report to the Division of Consumer Protection within the South Dakota Attorney General's Office. Contact information for that office is: consumerhelp@state.sd.us; (605) 773-4400 (phone); and (605) 773-7163 (fax).

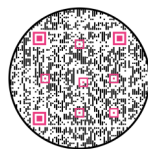


Recruit Future Employees

It has been shown that the most effective ambassadors for dentistry are dentists themselves. With this in mind, members can help find future employees by recruiting current patients. Resources are available from the SDDA and the ADA. The South Dakota Oral Health Coalition has developed fliers specifically for recruiting future hygienists and assistants. These fliers can be printed from the SDDA website and distributed to patients, or others, to stimulate the interest of future dental hygienists or dental assistants. Members can use the QR codes below to find the fliers on the SDDA website and print as many fliers as needed. Additionally, members can customize and then print a flier available from the ADA website at: <https://www.ada.org/resources/practice/practice-management/choosing-a-career-in-the-allied-dental-professions>.



Dental Assisting
Flyer



Dental Hygiene
Flyer

IS DENTAL ASSISTING THE CAREER FOR YOU?

Do you like helping people and working as part of a team? If yes, then dental assisting might be the perfect career for you!

Dental assistants play an important role in dental offices, and there's a big need for them! You can work in different dental settings, and the best part is that it takes **less than a year to get your dental assisting diploma**. Once you finish the program, you'll have lots of job opportunities ready for you. So, if you're interested in starting a career that makes a difference, dental assisting could be a great choice!

PAY AND BENEFITS

Average hourly wage: **\$22.89**

Many dental offices provide benefits and foster a healthy work-life balance, with schedules that typically include minimal nights, weekends, or holidays. In fact, some offices even offer the perk of a four-day workweek!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Good news! All three dental assisting programs offer the **Build Dakota Scholarship**, which can cover your tuition, fees, books, and other costs. There may be additional scholarships and even hiring bonuses available!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Dental Assisting Program** (most popular option)
11 months, classroom + hands-on
- Part-Time Work + Classes**
Earn and learn simultaneously
- On-the-Job Training**
Learn directly in a dental office

THE JOB

- Prepare patients and treatment rooms
- Assist dentists during procedures
- Take x-rays
- Clean and sterilize tools
- Teach patients good oral hygiene
- Place sealants and polish teeth

Some dental assistants work in orthodontic offices where they help with the application/removal of orthodontic appliances like braces, retainers, and aligners.

There are three dental assisting programs in South Dakota:

THANK YOU
to everyone that
attended the 141st
Annual Session!

SAVE THE DATE

May 14-16, 2026

142nd SDDA Annual Session

Sioux Falls Convention Center | Sioux Falls, SD



A Fresh Start for Future Smiles at Lake Area Tech

By Deni Martin

There's a buzz around Lake Area Technical College (LATC) – and it's not just the sound of dental tools. LATC is thrilled to announce progress toward launching its highly anticipated Dental Hygiene (DH) program, designed to meet the growing demand for skilled dental professionals in South Dakota.

Formally approved by the South Dakota State Board of Technical Education in May of 2024, the Dental Hygiene program is currently moving through the final step in the process: earning initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Once granted, LATC will be ready to welcome its first cohort of students.

"Lake Area Tech has a reputation for producing skilled, workforce-ready graduates," said Tiffany Sanderson, LATC President. "The Dental Hygiene program is another incredible opportunity to meet South Dakota's growing healthcare needs and support our students' dreams in the dental field."

The Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science program will combine classroom learning, lab work, and clinical experiences totaling 1,207 contact hours, with 720 hours dedicated to direct patient care. Upon completion, graduates will earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Dental Hygiene and be eligible to sit for the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam – a key step toward state licensure.

Interest from students and dental providers has been strong, and excitement is building as LATC's Academic and Dental teams work closely with CODA to finalize accreditation.

"This program is designed with excellence in mind," shared Dr. Darlene Bogenpohl, EdD, RDH, Dental Hygiene Program Director. "Our goal is to develop confident, compassionate, and competent dental hygienists who will provide high-quality care across the region. The interest we've received confirms that this program is arriving at the right time."

To apply for the Dental Hygiene program, students must first complete a CODA-accredited Dental Assisting program, pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), and successfully finish all required prerequisite coursework.

The Lake Area Technical College Dental Hygiene program has already been approved by the Build Dakota Scholarship Board as an eligible program. This means qualified students will have the opportunity to earn a full-ride scholarship, covering tuition, fees, books, and more. It's an extraordinary opportunity that makes this high-demand, rewarding career pathway even more accessible and affordable for students who are ready to make a lasting impact in South Dakota communities.

The dental industry has a unique opportunity to support the next generation of professionals through the Build Dakota Scholarship program. By participating in the Stretch-the-Million (STM) partnership - modeled after LATC's successful LPN-to-RN initiatives - industry partners can sponsor students during their Dental Assisting education and, if desired, continue that support as they pursue a Dental Hygiene degree. Alternatively, partners may choose to invest in students specifically during their Dental Hygiene program, even if no prior sponsorship exists. This flexible approach allows the dental community to play a vital role in shaping a skilled and committed workforce.

To learn more about getting involved as a Stretch-the-Million partner at Lake Area Tech, contact the LATC Build Dakota team at bulddakota@lakeareatech.edu. Stay tuned for more updates as LATC prepares to launch this exciting new opportunity!



Understanding Surcharging: What Dental Offices Need to Know

Some dental practices consider surcharging—passing credit card fees to patients—as a way to reduce costs. While marketed as “credit card processing for free,” surcharging has risks, including potential patient frustration and damage to your practice's reputation.

Beyond patient concerns, surcharging is highly regulated. Businesses must follow strict rules, and failing to notify card brands or using a non-compliant processor can result in fines of up to \$50,000. Best Card simplifies compliance, ensuring proper setup, assisting with required notifications, and keeping you in good standing with card brands.

We help dental practices navigate surcharging while offering alternatives that protect both your bottom line and patient relationships. Best Card clients save an average of **\$6,671 or 28% annually**—without surcharging.

Interested in learning more? Call **877-739-3952** to explore the best payment solutions for your practice.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

The listing of these programs is provided as a service to SDDA Newsletter subscribers, and does not mean that these programs have been endorsed or approved by the SD Dental Association or the SD State Board of Dentistry. All members are cautioned to evaluate the programs on their own merit.

SOUTH DAKOTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION 2026 ANNUAL SESSION

May 14-16, 2026 | Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: Melissa Afdahl, 605-609-1152 | melissa@sddental.org | www.sddental.org

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: 605-718-2410; email: corped@wdt.edu

Third Friday of the month (AM)

- American Heart Association CPR Class for Healthcare Professionals

Third Friday of the month (PM)

- American Heart Association CPR Recertification for Healthcare Provider

Dental Radiology (2-day course)

- August 14-15 or October 19-20, 2025 in Rapid City

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: 605-367-4607 or corporateeducation@southeasttech.edu

Dental Radiology

- Dates TBD

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: Nicole Pahl, 605-882-5284, ext. 362; Nicole.Pahl@lakeareatech.edu

www.lakeareatech.edu/

[corporate-education/](#)

[corporate-education-registration/](#)

Home Study Radiology Courses available:

- Radiology Safety
- Radiography Production

CPR COURSES: Contact: Tia Meyer; 605-842-5672 or meyertia@hotmail.com

605CPR: We provide AHA and/or Red Cross BLS/ACLS/PALS certification. Will travel for onsite delivery.

www.605CPR.com; jr@605CPR.com; 605-525-4CPR (4277)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Contact: Dept. of Dental Hygiene, 605-658-5960

Home Study Courses available:

- Radiology Interpretation, Pathology & Anomalies
- Errors of PA's, BWS & Panoramic Radiography
- Oral Effects of Head & Neck Radiation Therapy
- Radiation Safety
- Portable Dental Radiography
- SDF

ADA CE ONLINE

Contact: engage.ada.org

Save the Date

Sioux Empire
Smiles
A Free
One Day
Children's
Dental Clinic

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Help children receive the dental care they deserve

Volunteers Needed & Information:

- Dentists
- Hygienists
- Assistants
- Donate 3-4 hrs. | 8:00am-Noon approx.
- Food & Drinks provided
- Children's Dental Center

Contact:
melissa@sddental.org
to volunteer
today!

Dentistry in South Dakota
804 N Euclid; Ste 103
Pierre SD 57501

Classified Ads

Dakota Family Dentistry in Huron, SD is seeking a **registered dental hygienist** to join our team. The ideal candidate should be dedicated to providing excellent patient care with exceptional service. This is an outstanding opportunity to practice in a well-established clinic with a great team in a wonderful community. Benefits include a \$5000 sign-on bonus, student loan repayment for 3 year commitment, competitive pay, 401K with profit-sharing, in-house dental benefit plan, paid sick leave, vacation, dues, licenses, CE, and 6 paid holidays. Visit our website: www.dakotafamilydentistry.org for an application or call 605-352-6999.

Dental Hygienist: Are you a dental hygienist looking to make a difference? Would you like to set your own schedule? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program has collaborative supervision opportunities for dental hygienists. These opportunities include both—full time and part-time flexible schedules, including working specific weeks or months out of the year. The dental hygienists will work under collaborative supervision in South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge or Cheyenne River Native American Reservations. The dental hygienists will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. May be eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. For more information visit www.deltadentalsd.com. Submit a cover letter and resume to: summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com. Questions? Contact Zach Parsons at 605-494-2558.

Dentistry in South Dakota

Editor: Paul Knecht, Executive Director

Published quarterly by:

South Dakota Dental Association

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Member publication:

American Association of Dental Editors

Opinions expressed in the Dental Forum may not be those of the South Dakota Dental Association.

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