



# Dental technologist

## Description

Dental technologists make and repair prosthetic structures such as crowns, bridges, fillings, partial and complete dentures, and other prosthetic aids, such as braces and retainers which fix your teeth, correct your bite and improve the appearance of your teeth. Based on the impression of teeth taken by the dentist, dental technologists make a plaster model based on which they make braces and retainers which, in addition to being functional, need to satisfy the aesthetic criteria and blend in the patient's appearance. It is important to harmonise colour, shape, and size, and to prepare them so that they resemble natural teeth to the greatest extent possible. In their work they use many different materials such as metal, ceramic, plaster form making the models, gold, and wax. In order to come to suitable products from these materials, they apply different treatments, both mechanical and chemical: grinding, bending, enamelling, etc. Dental technologists work manually and use a wide range of tools and instruments for polishing shaping, modelling, and bending; it is also important to implement occupational health and safety measures and use protective equipment, such as glasses and gloves.

In addition to being familiar with the basics of anatomy, physiology, and dental anatomy, dental technologists need to have a thorough knowledge of the properties of materials with which they work and how they are used, as well as of the use of tools and instruments. In this job it is necessary that you are good with your hands, to have good awareness of colour and shape, and to be precise. For making suitable braces or retainers, a crown or a bridge, it is important to work closely with the dentist and have the teamwork.

## Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual dexterity
- Awareness of shape, colour, and proportions
- Good sight and visual acuity
- Responsibility and conscientiousness
- Teamwork skills
- Perseverance and good concentration

## Positive aspects:

- Dental technologists bring together, in their work, the sense of aesthetics and technical shaping and modelling skills. They make a whole range of prosthetic and orthodontic devices. They use different materials and instruments in their work.

## Negative aspects:

- The job of a dental technologist requires that you continuously develop professionally. Braces and retainers need to be made in a particular period of time and this may put you under pressure. One and the same product is being repeatedly modified and shaped to keep the patient satisfied.

## Career path/field of work

To be able to do the dental technologist's job, you need to finish a four-year secondary vocational school.

Dental technologists work in dental offices (state-owned or private), health centres, and private dental laboratories.