



DENTAL THERAPIST

What is a Dental Therapist?

Dental therapists are health care providers who conduct primary oral dental treatment and preventive dental services in a variety of settings. Dental therapists work with dentists to provide community-based preventive health programs to meet identified community needs.

Job responsibilities include:

- Patient assessment;
- Oral diagnosis;
- Dental Radiology;
- Restorative Procedures;
- Local Anesthesia;
- Oral Surgery;
- Periodontal Techniques;
- Health Education; and
- Maintenance and Equipment Repairs.

A career as a Dental Therapist requires:

- A high degree of manual dexterity;
- Good vision;
- Attention to detail and precision work;
- Interpersonal communication skills;
- Basic analytical skills; and
- Commitment to life-long learning.

How do you become a Dental Therapist?

Employment as a dental therapist requires:

- Completion of a two year program in Dental Therapy
- Successful completion of the National Dental Certification Board Examination
- Registration and licensure with the Saskatchewan Dental Therapy Association (sdta@sasktel.net)

In Saskatchewan, Dental Therapists are regulated through *The Dental Disciplines Act*.

Where can you get trained to be a Dental Therapist?

First Nations University of Canada (FNUC)
Northern Campus
National School of Dental Therapy
710 – 15th Avenue
Prince Albert SK S6V 7A4
e-mail: northerncampus/firstnationsuniversity.ca

What do I Need to Get Into the FNUC Dental Therapy Program

- English B30 Minimum of 70%
- *Biology 30 Minimum of 70%
- An essay indicating why the application is interested in a career in dental therapy
- Documentation of immunization against Rubella, Tetanus, Polio and Hepatitis A & B

*If biology is not available, another science 30 is required.

What do Dental Therapists Study?

A Dental Therapy program at the National School of Dental Therapy includes the following cores areas:

- Community and preventive dentistry
- Diagnostic Dentistry
- Operative Dentistry
- Program Support Activities

Where does a Dental Therapist work?

- Regional Health Authorities
- Private Clinics
- Training Institutions

What is the salary of a Dental Therapist?

There is great variation in earnings for dental therapists from those at the entry level to those well experienced. According to the Saskatchewan Job Futures, dental therapists are well paid. Full time workers are paid an average of \$40,000.

Dental Therapists' pay rates are according to the SAHO/Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan Collective agreement – <http://www.has-sk.com/>

Related Links

Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association
sdha@sk.sympatico.ca

Canadian Dental Association
www.cda.ca

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students:
http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html