

Give Patients
Something to
Smile About!

BECOME A
**DENTAL
LABORATORY
TECHNICIAN**

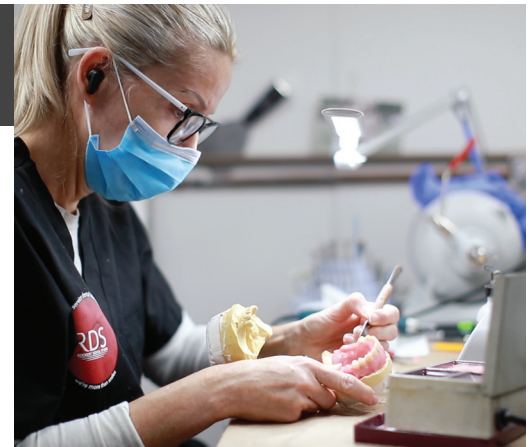
WHAT IS THE CAREER OUTLOOK FOR DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS?

As more people recognize the link between their oral health and their overall health, the demand for dental services continues to rise.

Our aging population requires more restorative dental work than ever, including the creation of crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontic devices and implants by dental laboratory technicians.

As a dental laboratory technician, you will join one of the fastest-growing career paths in this \$110 billion dental industry. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the dental technician field is expected to grow annually by 12%. The average salary is currently \$51,000.

After earning on-the-job experience, many dental laboratory technicians choose to become certified, which can give them more responsibilities and higher pay. Some technicians go on to own their own dental laboratories.



Dental laboratory technology is the art and science of creating patient specific dental restorations, such as crowns, dentures, implants, or orthodontic appliances, to replace or improve the function and appearance of natural teeth.



WHAT DOES A DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN DO?

To help patients restore their smiles, confidence, and function, dental laboratory technicians:

- Follow dentists' prescriptions to create dental appliances.
- Work with computer-aided design/manufacturing (CAD/CAM) and 3D printing technology.
- Perform a wide range of precise and detailed tasks to create high-quality dental restorations.

Occasionally, dental laboratory technicians may assist a dentist or specialist chairside, but they generally work in a dental laboratory and have limited patient contact.



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I wanted to be a dentist, but there was no way I could afford eight years of college. Becoming a dental laboratory technician allowed me to quickly jump into the dental field, earn a good salary, and have a healthy work/life balance.

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WHO CAN BECOME A DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN?

Successful candidates:

- Are interested in oral health care and material science.
- Are precise and detail-oriented.
- Can use digital tools, such as CAD/CAM and 3D printers.
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Enjoy learning new technology.



HOW CAN I BECOME A DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN?

There are several possible paths:

- Get on-the-job training. Visit the online [NADL Career Center](#) to find open positions.
- Complete a certificate program or earn an associate or bachelor's degree in dental laboratory technology. Visit [National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology](#) to find one near you.

- Attend a vocational or post-secondary school that focuses on computer-aided design (CAD).
- Second-career candidates, especially from dental assisting, dental hygiene, or medical device manufacturing, can visit the online [NADL Career Center](#) to find open positions.
- The [Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology](#) offers online educational resources for those who want to learn at their own pace.

The National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) is the unified voice of the dental laboratory industry, supporting dentistry and serving the public interest by promoting high standards.

NADL accomplishes this by creating a vibrant dental laboratory profession through increasing industry awareness, building community and delivering critical resources.



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