

Career Opportunities

Becoming an Orthodontist

When you choose a career, you're making a big commitment. For some, a career choice is something that comes easily. For others, it takes a lot more thought. No matter which is the case for you, your career choice should be made carefully and wisely. Ask yourself: will this career use my skills, knowledge and abilities? Will it match my personality and interests? Not all careers challenge your personal qualities.

Choosing to be an Orthodontist.

What does it take to be an orthodontist? An orthodontist is a specialist in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities. All orthodontists train to be dentists first, but only about six percent of dentists are orthodontists. Admission to orthodontic programs or residencies is extremely competitive and selective.

It takes many years to become an orthodontist and the educational requirements are demanding.

An orthodontist must complete college before starting a three- to five-year graduate program at a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA). After dental school, at least two or three academic years of advanced specialty education in an ADA-accredited orthodontic program are required to be an orthodontist. The program includes advanced education in biomedical, behavioral and basic sciences. The orthodontic resident learns the complex skills required to manage tooth movement (orthodontics), guide facial development (dentofacial orthopedics), understand facial surgery (surgical orthodontics) and diagnose and treat many other problems related to the head and neck.

Only dentists who have successfully completed these advanced specialty education programs may call themselves orthodontists.

Orthodontists are continuously expanding their knowledge of human growth and development. Today they routinely correct conditions that were considered untreatable less than a generation ago.

Modern science and technology are providing orthodontists with the tools to improve smiles and overall dental health. Increasing numbers of teens and adults look better and feel better – the end result of the latest in orthodontic treatment. Since every patient is different, orthodontists face technical and creative challenges every day.



**"Changing the World,
One Smile at a Time..."**

A Rewarding Investment.

Becoming an orthodontist requires many years of education and dedication. But once you finish your classroom training you'll join a field where experience, resources, and reputation translate into personal and professional satisfaction.

Orthodontics offers a wide range of career opportunities. As an orthodontist, you can practice independently or in partnership with one or more colleagues. You can dedicate yourself to research and teaching. Or you can invest time working with public health agencies or the military.

Orthodontics is also a career that lets you choose where and how you want to live. You can practice almost anywhere. And if you are your own boss, you have the freedom to enjoy family, hobbies and community activities as you desire.

Just ask the 8,500 or so orthodontists who are practicing in North America today. Being an orthodontist brings great rewards. Orthodontists are trusted, valued members of society who have the chance to build a career that can support a comfortable lifestyle.

Perhaps the most important reward is seeing someone's smile change gradually before your eyes. As their teeth and jaws shift into alignment, patients' personalities change too. Their self-confidence blossoms. Teens and adults with beautiful smiles are ready to confidently meet the world face-first.

A Little Professional Advice.

Being an orthodontist or other member of the orthodontic team takes a unique combination of skills, a commitment to long-term goals and a desire to excel. Being a great orthodontist require PASSION. If you think you have what it takes and you:

- Have lots of energy and the desire to serve others...
- Love people...
- Enjoy working with your hands....
- Have a strong interest in science...
- Thrive on creativity and challenge...
- Love to study and learn and have the gift of getting good grades..

Then consider a career in orthodontics.

For more information on orthodontics contact Dr. Newhart or

American Association of Orthodontists

401 North Lindbergh Boulevard

Saint Louis, Missouri 63141-7816

www.braces.org