

Denturist

Make and fit dentures, and run your own clinic. Three years of college, a licence in every province, and most of the income comes from ownership.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$122k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Denture clinics, dental offices,
long-term care homes, dental labs**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Grade 12 English, biology and a physics or chemistry. Vancouver Community College also runs a manual dexterity test.
- 2 Denturism diploma** 3 years
Three years at one of a handful of schools: NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) in Edmonton, Vancouver Community College, George Brown College in Toronto, or a Quebec college. Two years of lab and classroom work, then a clinical year treating real patients.
- 3 Provincial qualifying exam** After graduation
Each province runs its own. Ontario's has a written part and a hands-on clinical exam.
- 4 Register with your provincial college** A few weeks
For example the College of Denturists of Ontario or the College of Alberta Denturists. Then you can practise and use the title.

Pros and cons

- + Own your business three years out of high school
- + Daytime hours, no emergencies
- + You make the product with your own hands and fit it yourself
- Employee pay is modest; the money is in ownership, which takes capital
- Very few schools, and they are competitive
- Licensing does not automatically transfer between provinces

Good to know

They used to be called dental mechanics

For decades, the people who made dentures were dental mechanics or denture therapists working behind the scenes for dentists. Alberta was the first province to license them to see patients directly, in the...

A clinic and a lab in one

A denturist is the only dental professional who both sees the patient and makes the appliance. Dentists send crowns and dentures out to a lab. A denturist takes the impression in the front room and pours the...

Optional boosts

Implant-supported dentures. Mobile service. Digital dentures. Your own lab.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Denturologists, wages (updated Nov 2025)

College of Denturists of Ontario

NAIT: Denturist Technology diploma

Vancouver Community College: Denturist diploma

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/denturist>



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