

Periodontist

The gum and implant specialist. A dentist who did 3 more years of residency to treat gum disease and place implants. High pay, very long road.

TYPICAL PAY

\$250,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$150k to \$400k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

10 to 11 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private specialty clinics, dental schools, hospitals

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry, physics, math and English with top marks.
- 2 University, then the DAT (dental aptitude test)** 2 to 4 years
2 to 4 years of science courses, then the dental admission test.
- 3 Dental school** 4 years
4 years for a DDS (doctor of dental surgery) or DMD (doctor of dental medicine). You graduate as a general dentist.
- 4 Periodontics residency** About 3 years, plus any practice years
About 3 years at a dental school, usually with a master's degree attached. Only a few seats per program. Most programs want a year or more of general practice first.
- 5 Specialty exam and licence** A few months
Pass the NDSE (National Dental Specialty Examination), then register as a specialist with your provincial dental college.

Pros and cons

- + Among the highest pay in dentistry
- + Daytime hours, planned surgeries, few emergencies
- + Implants are a growing field
- 10 to 11 years of school, and residency charges tuition
- Residency seats are scarce
- Debt that can pass \$400,000

Good to know

Gum disease is the main reason adults lose teeth

Cavities get the attention, but in adults it is gum disease that loosens and takes teeth. Most people have some of it and do not know, because it rarely hurts until it is advanced.

The gums are linked to the heart

Research keeps finding links between gum disease and heart disease, diabetes and pregnancy problems. Periodontists like to say the mouth is the front door to the body.

Optional boosts

Implant surgery. Sedation. Referral network. Teaching and research.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Periodontists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Canadian Academy of Periodontology
National Dental Specialty Examination: fees
Royal College of Dentists of Canada

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/periodontist>



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