

## **Dentist**

*Marissa L. Luck High School*

People always ask me what my plans are for after high school. I barely know what my plans are for the next day. Every high school senior is faced with the tough challenge of finding their dream career or next step in life.

I am lucky enough to know that I have an interest in Dentistry. My end goal is to become an Orthodontist. There are many different areas in dentistry that can be studied. There are dental assistants, dental hygienists, dentists, orthodontists, pediatric dentists and so much more.

Dental assistants are a pair of extra hands for the dentist. They assist with procedures and prepare the patients. To become a dental assistant you must complete a program that certifies you. It can take anywhere from nine months to two years. It depends on if you want a certificate or a degree.

Becoming a dental hygienist is a few more years of schooling. You can get it done in two years earning an associate's degree or with a college that offers a bachelor's degree which means graduating in four years. Dental hygienists do the cleaning and teaching of how to take proper care of your teeth.

Dentists go through eight years of college, the first four to earn a bachelor's degree and another four at a dentistry school. Dentist repair cavities, remove tooth decay, fix gums and give instruction on how to prevent disease in the future.

Orthodontist must become a dentist first then attend dentistry school for another two years to specialize in orthodontics. An orthodontists job is to realign teeth and improve the appearance of them.

I plan to attend UW River Falls in the spring of 2018 and graduate with bachelor's degree in Science. After that I plan to attend a dental assistant program. Once I graduate I will work as a dental assistant while going to school to become a dentist. I will then get the experience I want while also getting the schooling I need.

With dentistry comes a lot of ups and downs. Between back problems, screaming kids and carpal tunnel there are so many satisfying reasons why I chose dentistry. Besides the good income and the great hours, they have the respect and trust from clients. Dentists get that warm fuzzy feeling after helping patients fix, improve or complement their smile. Being able to teach people both young and old how to improve their health is something I've always been interested in doing.

People have told me that eight years is a lot of schooling and they think I should choose a career that won't take as long to complete. I can choose another career, but I will not be happy.

The amount of schooling, the amount of money or even the convenience is not what is important when making your career choice. You should choose the job that will make you happy every day, a job that will not be a struggle to go to. The money, schooling and convenience is factors that should be considered but they cannot be the main reasons you chose a job.

My goal in life is to make people smile and feel confident with their smiles. Smiling has so many positive effects on the body and on others. Even if you have nothing, you still have a smile that can change the world.

<http://www.lucksd.k12.wi.us/>

715-472-2152