

Dental Health and Career Evidence Guide

NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

Read the label before you compare

The pay figures are **May 2024 U.S. medians from BLS**. A median is the middle wage. These are not starting pay and are not DFW-localized. Outlook is the projected U.S. employment change from 2024-34.

CAREER	COMMON PREPARATION	U.S. MEDIAN	OUTLOOK	ONE COMMON RESPONSIBILITY
Dental Assistant	Postsecondary nondegree award is typical; requirements vary by state	\$47,300	6%	Prepare patients, assist with procedures, records, or X-rays when qualified
Dental Hygienist	Associate degree is typical; programs often take about 3 years; state license	\$94,260	7%	Clean teeth, assess oral health, and teach prevention
Medical Billing & Coding*	Single pathway includes Health Informatics and Practicum in Medical Billing	\$50,250*	7%*	Medical documentation, insurance processes, coding systems, and care-reimbursement procedures

The Medical Billing pay and growth figures use the broader BLS Medical Records Specialists national category. Keep Medical Billing & Coding, the FYF title, as the career name. If Xello shows a local figure, record the geography, date, and type of pay before comparing it.*

Course evidence rule

This is a classroom comparison rule, not an official government label.

- **High-wage evidence:** May 2024 U.S. median is above the same-source all-occupation median of **\$49,500**.
- **High-demand evidence:** projected growth is above the same-source all-occupation rate of **3%**.
- **High-skill evidence:** the source shows specialized preparation, licensure/credential, or specialized duties.

Use evidence without overclaiming

- “The median is \$94,260” does not mean every worker earns that amount.
- “Postsecondary nondegree award” does not guarantee the same program length everywhere.
- Growth above 3% is evidence for this class comparison; it does not prove every local employer is hiring.
- A career page describes a common route. Students should verify current Texas and program requirements before enrolling.

Current Irving connection

FYF and the 2026-27 Irving ISD high-school coursebook list **Health Science: Dental** and **Health Science: Medical Billing** at Singley. They name Registered Dental Assistant and Certified Billing and Coding Specialist among the related program certifications. Use those district titles in student work. A listed certification is a program opportunity, not an automatic outcome for every student.

Sources checked August 9, 2026

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook: Dental Assistants; Dental Hygienists; Medical Records Specialists
- BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics: May 2024 all-occupation median
- Irving ISD: 2026-27 High School Course Work, printed pp. 59-60; Singley Academy CTE pathway page