



# Orthodontics:

## *The Career Of A Lifetime.*



American Association of **Orthodontists**

401 North Lindbergh Boulevard  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63141-7816  
1-800-STRAIGHT  
[www.braces.org](http://www.braces.org)

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# About the AAO:

*Founded in 1900, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) has more than 14,600 members. Active AAO members limit their practices to the dental specialty of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics. Orthodontists are dental specialists with at least two years of advanced orthodontic education after dental school.*

*The purposes of the American Association of Orthodontists and its member orthodontists are:*

*to advance the art and science of orthodontics;*

*to encourage and sponsor research;*

*to strive for and maintain the highest standards of excellence in orthodontic education and practice;*

*and to make significant contributions to the health of the public.*

# For a Smile that's Good for Life:

- Follow the American Dental Association's recommendation and start dental visits by your child's first birthday.
- Make regular visits to your dentist at least every six months.
- Take your child for an orthodontic check-up no later than age 7. If a problem is detected, your orthodontist can determine the best time to start treatment.
- Get your child an orthodontic check-up even if he or she is past age 7. Although an early check-up can be extremely beneficial, the fact is that most orthodontic patients begin active treatment between ages 9 and 14.
- Keep in mind that orthodontic treatment can also benefit adults. Less visible, more comfortable braces make treatment more appealing than ever, and healthy teeth, bones and gums of almost any age respond well to treatment.
- Choose an orthodontist – the dental specialist who is uniquely qualified to treat orthodontic problems.
- Take advantage of the affordability of orthodontic treatment today. Most orthodontists have a variety of convenient payment plans.
- Remember that successful orthodontic treatment is the result of a partnership. The orthodontist, family dentist and, *especially*, a cooperative patient all work together to create a healthy, beautiful smile that's good for life.

*Members of the  
American Association of Orthodontists  
wish you and your family good dental health.*





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.

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's case is different, orthodontists face technical and creative challenges every day.

### **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 or teaching. Or you can invest time working with public health agencies or the military.



### **Other Orthodontic Career Opportunities.**

The orthodontic field is full of opportunities, whether you choose to become an orthodontist or an orthodontic staff member. Orthodontic practices offer a variety of professional and clerical positions, such as:

- Treatment Coordinator
- Scheduling Coordinator
- Financial Administrator
- Clinical Coordinator
- Orthodontic Technician/Assistant
- Orthodontic Laboratory Technician

As an orthodontist or orthodontic staff member, orthodontics can put you on a career path that provides the satisfaction of helping patients improve their smiles, their dental health and their self-esteem. It's a positive, upbeat career that lets you deal with generally healthy, motivated people who are on the road to better lives.

***Immense Personal And Professional Satisfaction.***





## What Does It Take To Join The Team?

The various positions on the orthodontic team require different levels of education and experience. Ask an orthodontist for information regarding your orthodontic career interests.

### A Little Professional Advice.

Being an orthodontist or other member of the orthodontic team takes a unique combination of skills, a steadfast commitment to long-term goals and a desire to excel. But if you:

- have an interest in science...
- thrive on creativity and challenge...
- have excellent manual dexterity...
- have the patience to wait for tangible results...
- want to manage your own career path, molding it to fit your lifestyle...
- would enjoy the respect that comes with being a member of a profession that has the capacity to change people's lives for the better...

then consider a career in orthodontics!

### For More Information On Orthodontics, Contact Us At:

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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.

So 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 are dentists, but only about six percent of dentists are orthodontists. Admission to orthodontic programs is extremely competitive and selective.

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

An orthodontist must complete college requirements 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 student learns the complex skills required to manage tooth movement (orthodontics) and guide facial development (dentofacial orthopedics).

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