

What is a prosthodontist and what do they do?

- i. Prosthodontics is one of the 12 dental specialties officially recognized by the American Dental Association.
 - 1. *[Note: Implantology/Implantologist **is NOT** an officially recognized dental specialty by the ADA].*
- ii. A prosthodontist is a dental specialist who focuses on the restoration and replacement of teeth to improve both function and appearance. They undergo additional training beyond general dentistry, completing a three-year residency program, to master the art and science of designing and fitting dental prostheses.
- iii. Prosthodontists handle a wide range of dental issues, from simple restorations to complex full-mouth rehabilitations. Their primary work involves:
- iv. Crowns and Bridges: Crafting custom crowns (caps) to cover damaged teeth or bridges to replace missing ones, restoring chewing ability and aesthetics.
- v. Dentures: Designing partial or full dentures for patients missing several or all of their teeth.
- vi. Dental Implants: Planning and placing implants, then creating the prosthetic teeth that attach to them, offering a permanent solution for tooth loss.
- vii. Cosmetic Dentistry: Enhancing smiles through veneers, bonding, or other techniques to improve tooth shape, color, or alignment.
- viii. Complex Cases: Managing severe dental damage from trauma, disease, or congenital conditions, often collaborating with other specialists like oral surgeons or orthodontists.
- ix. Think of them as the architects of the mouth—they rebuild what's broken or missing, balancing functionality with a natural look. They're especially skilled at tailoring solutions to individual needs, whether it's a single tooth or an entire smile makeover.