

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The curriculum leading to the Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene and the Certificate of Completion in Dental Assisting requires students to engage in diverse, complex and specific experiences essential to the acquisition and practice of essential dental hygiene/assisting skills and functions. Students in the Dental Programs should possess sufficient physical, motor, intellectual, emotional and social/communication skills to provide for patient care and safety, and the utilization of equipment.

Becoming an RDH/RDA requires the completion of an educational program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. In order to be successful in completing the requirement for these programs, students must be able to fully participate in both the academic and clinical environments. Full participation in the academic and clinical environments requires that students possess certain technical standards. Examples of these are listed below.

Technical Standards for the Dental Programs (dental hygiene and dental assisting)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.	Take and interpret medical histories and radiographs, develop treatment plans, and react to medical emergencies.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Provide oral hygiene/oral health care instruction to patient/parents. Explain information consent and treatment plans and establish good patient rapport.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Communication during the delivery of oral health care services, document procedures and consult with other health care providers.
Action	Ability to move from room to room and retrieve items from small spaces, as well as ability to be present at a work station for several hours at a time.	Work with a patient for prolonged periods of time and seat and/or assist in the transfer of a patient. Retrieve instruments/equipment to and from sterilization. Accompany patient to X-ray; take x-rays and process and retrieve films.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective oral health care. 	Perform expanded functions, debridement, root planing and x-rays.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. 	Assess medically compromised/medical emergencies; detect indicator tones (curing light units and x-ray units); communicate with patient/parent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abilities sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in oral health care. 	Read, record in patient charts, evaluate tissue, write tissue descriptions, assess and evaluate the oral health needs of the patient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abilities sufficient for physical assessment. 	Palpate tissue, detect restorations, calculus and evaluate debridement.

The Dental Programs are committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given reasonable accommodations. Student with disabilities who wish to request these accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to determine eligibility for services prior to the start of the program. While the process can be initiated at any time, reasonable accommodations cannot be implemented until eligibility has been formally established with DRD.

Degrees of ability vary widely among individuals; the Dental Programs is committed to creating access to qualified individual with a disability using a case-by-case analysis. The program remains flexible with regard to the types of reasonable accommodations that can be made in the classroom and clinical settings. Student with disabilities are invited to offer suggestions for accommodation that have worked in the past. Accommodations made will specifically address the limitations associated with the student's disability. Our belief is that accommodation should be tailored to individual situations. The process for determining the type of reasonable accommodation in the clinical setting shall be determined by the Disability Resource Department and the Dental Programs Director.