

Dental Hygiene Program

Technical Performance Standards

Dental Hygiene is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on those requirements and [the State of Illinois licensing requirements], a list of “Performance Standards” has been developed. Each standard has an example of an activity or activities that a potential student will be required to perform while enrolled in the dental hygiene program.

Issue	Standard	Examples of Required Activities (Not all inclusive)
Visual	Visual ability for observation and assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and care of patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to observe patients and use instruments in the oral cavity. • Ability to perform the required procedures in the oral cavity, chart identification and recording, calibrating sterilization and radiology equipment. • Be able to view and evaluate radiographic images, techniques, and quality. • Able to perform instrumentation using hand-to eye-coordination.
Hearing	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs, and to provide a safe environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear and verbally respond to patient questions and directions from instructors, students, and staff, in person and/or over the phone. • Ability to listen to breath and heart sounds while assessing vital signs including BP, pulse, and respiration rate. • Ability to hear equipment monitors such as radiography equipment and autoclave timers.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment and treatment and operation of equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to perform the required techniques using probing, scaling and polishing instruments, dental equipment, radiographic devices, sterilizing equipment, and local anesthetic devices. • Able to perform palpation of a pulse, extraoral, and intraoral structures and feel calculus deposits.
Mental	Mental ability sufficient for patient assessment and treatment and operation of equipment and care of patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to visually concentrate and focus attention, thoughts, and efforts on patients and equipment for varying periods of time. • Be able to respond to patients’ changing physical conditions
Environmental Requirements	Physical health sufficient enough to be able to tolerate certain conditions present in the clinical setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to tolerate risks or discomforts in the clinical setting that require special safety precautions, additional safety education, health risk monitoring, working with sharps, chemicals, and infectious disease. Students may be required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, goggles, gloves, and lead aprons.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively communicate to the patient in order to converse, instruct the patient, relieve anxiety, gain their cooperation during procedures, and

	form.	<p>understand the patient when they are communicating symptoms of a medical emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to obtain information, explain treatment procedures, initiate health education training, and describe patient situations • Perceive non-verbal communications • Document following ethical and legal guidelines • Read the patient's medical history and/or medical consult. • Legibly write physician consult information. • Document own actions and patient responses as indicated
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist all patients in and out of dental chairs, according to individual needs and abilities. • Be able to move around in patient treatment area • Be able to push, pull, and lift 50 lbs. • Push a wheelchair without injury to self, patient, or others.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe effective patient care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manually move the x-ray tube and position the tube head at various angles up to 5 feet. • Physically be able to administer emergency care including performing CPR. • Execute the small muscle hand and finger movements required to safely perform dental hygiene services.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for safe clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize cause-effect relationships in clinical situations. • Develop dental hygiene treatment plans according to patient needs • Evaluate radiographs to ascertain that they contain proper identification and are of diagnostic value. • Initiate proper emergency care protocols, including CPR, based on assessment data.
Interpersonal Behavioral and Social Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients, families, and colleagues. • Allow mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and fellow workers (interpersonal skills). • Tolerate physically taxing workload. • Function effectively under stress. • Adapt to changing environments (flexible schedules, emergency conditions, multiple interruptions, noised, distractions). • Display compassion, professionalism, empathy, integrity, concern for others, and interest and motivation.

The American with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and College of Lake County policy prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. One of the purposes of this document is to ensure that students are aware of the requirements of this program and acknowledge their understanding of the program requirements. Students who have a disability and are in need of accommodations or modifications must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (“OSD”). The OSD, after consultation with the Program Director, will determine whether or not any reasonable accommodations or modifications can be provided.

I have read and understand the physical requirements of the technical performance standards.

Signature

Date