

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**  
**For Admission, Progression and Graduation**  
**In Florida Dental Assisting Programs**

Successful participation and completion of a Dental Assisting Program requires that an applicant be able to meet the demands of the program. Dental assisting students must be able to perform academically in a safe, reliable and efficient manner in classrooms, laboratory and clinical situations. The student must also demonstrate behaviors, skills and abilities to be in compliance with legal and ethical standards as set forth by the American Dental Assistants Association Code of Ethics.

All Florida Dental Assisting Programs are committed to the principle of diversity. This program is open to all qualified individuals who apply and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Throughout the program, students will be acquiring the fundamental knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors that will allow them to successfully complete the program of study and to function as a Certified Dental Assistant. Those attitudes, behaviors, and skills that a person working as a Certified Dental Assistant must possess to practice safely on the job are reflected in the standards that follow.

**Students working toward Certification in Dental Assisting must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of their formal training.**

STANDARD	GENERAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT	ESSENTIAL FUNCTION
Motor Skills	<p><i>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate a high degree of manual dexterity and the ability to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general treatment and emergency care to patients, adequate strength and ability to perform lifting and patient transfers into a dental chair; the ability to maneuver with functional coordination and mobility in small spaces, as well as be sedentary for several hours at a time.</p>	<p><b><i>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</i></b></p> <p>Be independent in mobility to move quickly in and around the classroom, laboratory, and the clinical operatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide for patient safety and well being in positioning of dental chair, dental light and x-ray equipment.</li> <li>- Quickly move from different positions, as required, to perform chairside clinical skills as well as be prepared to administer emergency care procedures.</li> <li>- Exhibit sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate and control small motor driven equipment.</li> <li>- Perform instrument transfer using only fingers, wrist and elbow.</li> <li>- Perform skills with hand instruments during patient care.</li> <li>- Perform complex motor tasks necessary to take alginate impressions, make temporary crowns, take intraoral radiographs, and execute other specialty functions as required.</li> <li>- Move adequately from sterilization, reception room, business office, x-ray rooms and clinical operatories.</li> <li>- Successfully complete a CPR certification course.</li> </ul>

STANDARD	GENERAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT	ESSENTIAL FUNCTION
Visual	<p><i>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate visual acuity and perception sufficient for observation and recognition of patient needs to insure safe and effective chairside performance.</p>	<p><b>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</b></p> <p>Observe lectures, and laboratory demonstrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receive information via visual observation of oral tissues with regard to normal and abnormal conditions.</li> <li>- Demonstrate normal color vision sufficient to recognize subtle changes in oral conditions.</li> <li>- Identify types of instruments needed for the areas being treated</li> <li>- Observe and describe the patient's response to care and evaluate the patient's level of oral hygiene.</li> </ul>
Tactile	<p>Demonstrate sufficient tactile abilities with both hands to gather dental assessment information and to assist in the delivery of patient care.</p>	<p>Tactily assess and evaluate the status of intraoral structures using instruments on hard tissue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use direct palpation techniques to examine the intra-oral and extra-oral soft tissue and to detect a patient's pulse.</li> </ul>
Hearing	<p>Demonstrate functional use of hearing to acquire and mentally process information that is dictated as part of a clinical exam or observation.</p>	<p>Hear and obtain appropriate course information from faculty and peers and to process this information for use in laboratory settings and on examinations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listen actively.</li> <li>- Acquire accurate medical history and data collection verbally from the patient or guardian.</li> <li>- Audibly ascertain if a patient is experiencing a medical emergency.</li> </ul>
Communication	<p>Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly with patients, physicians, other health professionals, faculty, family members, significant others, caregivers, and community or professional groups and colleagues. Communication includes: verbal and nonverbal expression, reading, writing, computation, and computer skills.</p>	<p>Participate, via in-class and group discussions, in the delivery and receiving of information and to respond to questions from a variety of sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Display knowledge of basic written grammar and spelling skills.</li> <li>- Report information accurately and legibly through progress notes in the patient's chart.</li> <li>- Explain recommended treatment, preventive procedures, and the nature of disease processes to patient and/or caregiver in a way that is easily understood.</li> <li>- Communicate effectively by recognizing and respecting the physical and psychological needs of others.</li> <li>- Help maintain open communication and a good rapport with all patients.</li> </ul>

STANDARD	GENERAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT	ESSENTIAL FUNCTION
Interpersonal	<p><i>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to relate to others verbally beyond giving and receiving instruction, and to cooperate with people from a variety of social, emotional, intellectual, religious, and cultural backgrounds.</p>	<p><b>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</b></p> <p>Develop a concern for others, such as classmates, staff, patients, and faculty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperate with others and be able to work as a team member.</li> <li>- Acquire the ability to maintain poise and flexibility in stressful or changing conditions.</li> <li>- Recognize and respond appropriately to individuals of all ages, genders, races, sexual preferences, socio-economic, religious and cultural backgrounds.</li> </ul>
Self Care	<p>Demonstrate the ability to maintain general good health and self-care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with whom one interacts with in the academic and clinical setting.</p>	<p>Maintain personal hygiene.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate safety habits and work area neatness.</li> <li>- Comply with industry health and safety standards, OSHA guidelines, and material safety data.</li> <li>- Maintain a lifestyle that is consistent with one's educational and professional requirements.</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking	<p>Demonstrate critical thinking and ethical decision making ability under stressful conditions, and to apply quick reaction time in an emergency situation.</p>	<p>Apply critical thinking processes to solve work related problems in the classroom and in a clinical setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exercise sound, problem solving decisions in class, laboratory and clinic situations.</li> <li>- Follow safety procedures established for each class, laboratory and clinic.</li> <li>- Identify problems and consider alternatives and consequences of each alternative.</li> <li>- Be able to self-evaluate and strive to improve technical skills.</li> <li>- Take action and be responsible for that decision.</li> </ul>
Organizational Skills	<p>Demonstrate the ability to handle multi-tasks simultaneously and to operate in a logical, sequential, and orderly manner.</p>	<p>Organize required classroom assignments, laboratory work, and extra-curricular activities each semester into a realistic workable schedule that will facilitate student learning and success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anticipate and prioritize tasks to be done in the patient care setting.</li> </ul>

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Intellectual Abilities	<p><i>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and with the development of positive patient-student relationships.</p>	<p><b>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</b></p> <p>Comprehend and assimilate verbal and written program / course materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform simple and repetitive tasks.</li> <li>- Learn to reconcile conflicting information.</li> <li>- Use proper punctuation, grammar, spelling in written work that is neat and legible.</li> <li>- Follow verbal and written instructions at a 75% or better level of competency.</li> </ul>
Commitment to Learning	<p>Demonstrate a positive attitude toward decision-making policies and program operating rules and procedures, as applied, as well as learn new concepts and abilities within the program's operational policies and methods.</p>	<p>Demonstrate initiative, motivation and a willingness to learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete reading assignments and other activities in a timely manner.</li> <li>- Complete all work without resorting to cheating or plagiarism.</li> <li>- Attend all class, laboratory and clinicals, as assigned.</li> <li>- Be consistently punctual to all classes, laboratories and clinical assignments.</li> </ul>

If a student cannot demonstrate the skills and abilities identified above, it is the responsibility of the student to request an appropriate accommodation. The College will provide reasonable accommodation as long as it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program offered and does not impose an undue hardship such as those that cause a significant expense, difficulty or are unduly disruptive to the educational process.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (**Student Signature**) have read and understand the Essential Functions outlined above as performance standards necessary for being a student in the program and a success in the Dental Hygiene work environment after graduation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Activity: (NOTE: This section must be completed by a physician)**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Unrestricted:** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Provider Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Provider License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Provider Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_