

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**  
**For Admission, Progression and Graduation**  
**In Florida Community Colleges**

Successful participation and completion of a Dental Hygiene Program requires that an applicant be able to meet the demands of the program. The dental hygiene student must be able to perform academically in a safe, reliable and efficient manner in the classroom, laboratory and in clinical situations. The student must demonstrate the behaviors, skills and abilities necessary to be in compliance with legal and ethical standards as set forth by the American Dental Hygienists' Association Code of Ethics.

All Florida Dental Hygiene Programs are committed to the principle of diversity. In that spirit, admission to this program is open to qualified applicants and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Throughout the program curriculum, students acquire the foundation of knowledge, attitude, skills and behaviors that are necessary to function as a dental hygienist. Those attitudes, behavior, and skills that a Registered Dental Hygienist must possess to practice safely are reflected in the standards that follow.

**Candidates for the degree must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of degree requirements.**

STANDARD	GENERAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT	ESSENTIAL FUNCTION
Motor Skills	<p>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</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/clients; 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Be independent in mobility to move quickly in and around the classroom, laboratory, and the clinical operatory.</li> <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 chair side 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>- Performs dental hygiene instrumentation with hand and ultrasonic instruments.</li> <li>- Perform expanded duties.</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>
Visual	<p>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</p> <p>Demonstrate visual acuity and perception sufficient for observation and assessment of needs to insure safe and effective clinical performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Observe lecture, and laboratory demonstrations.</li> <li>- Receive information via visual observation, assessment, and evaluation of oral tissues with regard to normal and abnormal conditions.</li> <li>- Demonstrate normal color vision sufficient to recognize subtle changes in oral tissues.</li> <li>- Observe and assess the patient's response to treatment, as well as evaluate the need for individualized oral hygiene care.</li> </ul>
Tactile	<p>Demonstrate tactile abilities and sufficient sensitivity with all digits of both hands to gather dental assessment information and provide treatment intervention, as needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tactily detect calculus and evaluate debridement procedures indirectly through instrumentation.</li> <li>- Use direct palpation to examine the intra-oral and extra-oral soft tissues and to detect a patient's pulse.</li> </ul>
Hearing	<p>Demonstrate functional use of hearing to acquire and mentally process information that is heard, and to better monitor and assess patient/client health needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hear and obtain appropriate course information from faculty and peers and to process this information for use in laboratory settings and on examinations.</li> <li>-Listen actively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Acquire accurate medical history and data collection verbally from the patient or guardian.</li> <li>— Demonstrate the ability to audibly ascertain if a patient is experiencing a medical emergency.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Communication	<p>Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly with patients/clients, physicians, other health professionals, faculty, family members faculty, significant others, caregivers, community or professional groups and colleagues.</p> <p>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 in responding to questions from a variety of sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Display knowledge of basic</li> <li>— Written grammar and spelling skills.</li> <li>— Report accurately and legibly through progress notes in the patient's chart.</li> <li>— Explain treatment, preventive procedures, and disease processes to patient and/or caregiver in a way that is easily understood.</li> <li>— Recognize and respect the physical and psychological needs of others.</li> <li>— Communicate with patient/client and faculty regarding patient care and referrals.</li> </ul>
Interpersonal	<p>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</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 and cultural backgrounds.</p>	<p>Develop a concern for others, such as classmates, staff, patients/clients 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>- Establish rapport and working relationships with colleagues and patient/clients.</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 ability sufficient for clinical judgment and problem solving, to maintain competent judgment 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 various clinical settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exercise sound, ethical judgment in class, laboratory and clinic situations.</li> <li>- Follow safety procedures established for each class, laboratory and clinic.</li> <li>- Be able to self-evaluate and strive to improve technical skills.</li> <li>- Identify problems, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize required classroom assignments, laboratory work, and extra-curricular activities each semester into a realistic workable schedule that will facilitate student learning and success.</li> <li>- Prioritize and complete tasks in the clinical patient/client care setting within a specified amount of time.</li> </ul>

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Intellectual Abilities	<p>With or without reasonable accommodation, the student should be able to:</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and with development of positive client-student relationships.</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 learning new concepts and abilities within the program's operational policies and methods</p>	<p>Display 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>
Affective Learning Skills (Behavioral & Social Attitudes)	<p>Demonstrate appropriate affective behaviors and mental attitudes in order not to jeopardize the mental, emotional, physical, and behavioral safety of patients/clients and other individuals with whom one interacts in the academic, laboratory, and clinical setting.</p> <p>Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers and patients/clients.</p>	<p>Display an ability to sustain the mental and emotional rigors of a demanding educational program, which includes an academic and clinical component that occurs within set time constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Show a willingness to accept challenges;</li> <li>- Be open to feedback.</li> <li>- Follow guidelines and rules for the College and program.</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: \_\_\_\_\_