

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

For Admission, Progression, and Graduation In Florida Community Colleges

Successful participation and completion of a Dental Assisting Program requires that a candidate 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.

The Dental Assisting Program is committed to the principle of diversity. The 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, the students will be acquiring the fundamental knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors that will allow them to not only successfully complete the curriculum of study, but to also receive the full benefit of their education. Those abilities that a person working as a 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	SPECIFIC FUNCTION
Motor Skills	Demonstrates a high degree of manual dexterity and the ability to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general treatment and emergency care to patients, be able to lift large weight (150 lbs.) with assistance, and to demonstrate the ability to maneuver with mobility in small spaces.	<p><i>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</i></p> <p>Move in and around in classroom, laboratory, and clinical operatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide for patient safety and well being in positioning of dental chair, dental light and x-ray equipment. - Quickly move from different positions, as required, to perform chairside clinical skills as well as be prepared to administer emergency care procedures. - Exhibit sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate and control small and large motor driven equipment. - Perform instrument transfer using only fingers, wrist and elbow. - Perform skills with hand instruments during patient care. - Perform complex motor tasks necessary to take alginate impressions, make temporary crowns, and execute other specialty functions as required. - Move to and from sterilization, reception room, business office, x-ray rooms and clinical operatories. - Successfully complete a CPR certification course.
Visual	Demonstrates visual acuity and perception sufficient for observation and recognition of patient needs to insure safe and effective chairside performance.	<p><i>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to observe lectures, and laboratory demonstrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive information via visual observation and evaluation of oral tissues with regard to normal and abnormal conditions. - Demonstrate normal color vision sufficient to recognize subtle changes in oral conditions. - Identify types of instruments needed for the areas being treated - Observe and describe the patient's response to care and evaluate level of oral hygiene.
Tactile	Demonstrates tactile abilities with all digits of both hands to gather dental assessment information and to assist in the delivery of patient care.	<p>Demonstrate the ability to tactily assess and evaluate the status of intraoral structures using instruments on hard tissue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate the ability to use direct palpation to examine the soft tissue and detect a patient's pulse.

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Hearing	Demonstrates functional use of hearing to acquire and mentally process information that is dictated as part of a clinical exam or observation.	Demonstrate the ability to hear and obtain appropriate course information from instructors and classmates and to process this information in laboratory settings and on examinations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen actively. - Acquire accurate medical history and data collection verbally from the patient or guardian. Demonstrate the ability to audibly ascertain if a patient is experiencing a medical emergency.
Communication	Demonstrates the ability to communicate clearly with patients, physicians, other health professionals, faculty, family members, significant others, caregivers, community or professional groups and colleagues. Communication includes: verbal and nonverbal expression, reading, writing, computation, and computer skills.	Participate via in-class and group discussions to deliver and receive information and to respond to questions from a variety of sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Display knowledge of basic written grammar and spelling skills. - Report information accurately and legibly through progress notes in the patient's chart. - Explain recommended treatment, preventive procedures, and the nature of disease processes to patient and/or caregiver. - Communicate effectively by recognizing and respecting the physical and psychological needs of others. - Help maintain open communication and a good rapport with all patients.
Interpersonal	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>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</p> Develop a concern for others, such as classmates, staff, patients and faculty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperate with others and work as a team member. - Acquire the ability to maintain poise and flexibility in stressful or changing conditions. - Recognize and respond appropriately to individuals of all ages, genders, races, sexual preferences, socio-economic, religious and cultural backgrounds.
Self Care	Maintains general good health and self-care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with whom one interacts in the academic and clinical setting.	Maintain personal hygiene. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate safety habits and work area neatness. - Comply with industry health and safety standards, OSHA guidelines, and material safety data. - Maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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Critical Thinking	Demonstrate critical thinking and ethical decision making ability under stressful conditions, and to apply quick reaction time in an emergency situation.	<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"> - Exercise sound, problem solving decisions in class, laboratory and clinic situations. - Follow safety procedures established for each class, laboratory and clinic. - Identify problems and consider alternatives and consequences of each alternative. - Be able to self-evaluate and strive to improve technical skills. - Take action and be responsible for that decision.
Organizational Skills	Demonstrates ability to handle multi-tasks simultaneously and to operate in a logical, sequential, and orderly manner.	<p>Demonstrate the ability to organize required classroom assignments, lab 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"> - Demonstrate the ability to anticipate and prioritize tasks to be done in the patient care setting.
Intellectual Abilities	Demonstrates ability to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and development of a positive patient-student relationship.	<p><i>IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE STUDENT:</i></p> <p>Demonstrates ability to comprehend and assimilate verbal and written materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates ability to perform simple and repetitive tasks. - Can learn to reconcile conflicting information. - Demonstrate ability to use proper punctuation, grammar, spelling in written work that is neat and legible. - Demonstrate the ability to follow verbal and written instructions at a 75% or better level of competency.

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Commitment to Learning	Demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning new concepts and abilities within the program's operational policies and methods.	Demonstrate initiative, motivation and a willingness to learn. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete reading assignments and other activities in a timely manner. - Demonstrate ability to complete all work without evidence of cheating or plagiarism. - Attend all class, laboratory and clinicals, as assigned. - Be consistently punctual to all classes, laboratories and clinical assignments.
Affective Learning Skills (Behavioral & Social attitudes)	Demonstrate appropriate affective behaviors and mental attitudes in order not to jeopardize the mental, emotional, physical, and behavioral safety of other individuals with whom the student interacts with in the academic and/or laboratory setting. Acknowledges and respects individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with faculty, staff, and peers.	Demonstrate the ability to sustain the mental and emotional rigors of a demanding educational program, which includes an academic and lab component, that occurs within set program time constraints. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show a willingness to accept challenges. - Be open to feedback.. - Follow guidelines and rules for the program and College.

NOTE:

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.

Applicant Signature

Date