



Essential Functions for Dental Hygiene

Motor Capabilities Mobility/Motor	Manual finger dexterity and hand-eye coordination.	Move around in an operatory, workspace and laboratory area.
	Physical abilities (including standing, walking, bending, range of motion of extremities) to move from room-to-room and maneuver in small spaces.	Assist and position patients or lift and operate equipment with necessary strength and dexterity.
	Description – Gross and fine motor function sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care.	Able to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation; move around in patient treatment area.
Communication Ability	Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction with others in spoken and written English.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate teaching, document and interpret patient data and listen attentively.
Sensory Capabilities Hearing, Visual, Olfactory	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hear patient concerns and emergency signals.
	Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for observation of oral conditions, patient observation and assessment, ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions and density in radiographs, see in darkroom conditions.	Observe oral conditions; observe patient responses, oral secretions and colors. Read chart, computer screens, disks, labels and gauges, interpret radiographs.
Interpersonal Skill	Interpersonal ability to communicate with groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. Be able to interact with families and individuals.	Establish rapport with patients, colleagues, faculty, and health care providers. Use therapeutic communication (attending, clarifying, coaching).
Problem Solving Ability	Function effectively under stress, respond appropriately to	

	<p>emergencies, and adhere to infection control procedures. Evaluate patient or disease responses, synthesize data, and draw sound conclusions. Address problems or questions to the appropriate persons, organize and prioritize job tasks.</p>	
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, develop treatment plans.
Behavioral Skills, Attitude, Demeanor and Professionalism	Ability to present professional appearance and implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health and emotional stability. Ability to demonstrate emotional health required for the utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment.	Work under time restraints and stressful situations. Be exposed to communicable diseases and contaminated body fluids. React calmly in emergency situations. Demonstrate flexibility and teamwork. Respect confidentiality and show concern for others. Must be able to deal with stress produced by course load, clinical requirements and patient attitude.
Computer Literacy	Requires basic computer skills.	Research information to evaluate products and make evidence-based decisions.