

Dental Assisting Technology Program  
Core Performance Standards

**The following core performance standards are required in this program.**

Performance	Standard	Essential Activities/Tasks
Critical Thinking	Ability sufficient for clinical judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, and take corrective action when necessary</li> <li>Utilize patient assessment techniques to develop or alter dental treatment procedures.</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skills	Abilities sufficient to interact with individual, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport with patients, clients, and health care colleagues</li> <li>Communicate in a meaningful manner with patients and health care colleagues</li> </ul>
Communication Skills	Abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form, including via electronic devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain treatment procedures, initiate oral hygiene, document instructions and interpret dental treatment, and patient/client responses</li> <li>Demonstrate charting procedures and verbal staff communication concerning patients</li> </ul>
Mobility	Abilities sufficient to move from room to room, maneuver in small spaces, utilize stairwell when necessary sit at chairside, pass instruments and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move around in patient's room, work spaces, administer CPR, assist patient into wheelchair/dental chair and perform transport duties</li> <li>Possess physical capabilities that would allow for maintenance of equipment such as cleaning and storage</li> <li>Lift at least 15 lbs of weight</li> <li>Respond quickly in an emergency</li> </ul>
Motor Skills	Abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective dental care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calibrate and use equipment necessary to perform dental care procedures</li> <li>Maintain sterile technique when performing sterile procedures</li> <li>Perform various procedures requiring the use of both hands</li> </ul>
Hearing	Ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help</li> <li>Listen to patient's breath sounds, heart sounds, and blood pressure with the use of a stethoscope</li> </ul>
Visual	Ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in dental care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe patient/client responses</li> <li>Identification of patient, verification of treatment plan and charting symbols</li> </ul>
Tactile	Ability sufficient for working in the oral cavity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expose and process dental radiographs</li> <li>Perform exchanges/transfer of instruments and materials used in the oral cavity</li> </ul>
Accountability and Responsibility	Demonstrate all aspects of the dental care profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to distinguish right from wrong, legal from illegal and act accordingly</li> <li>Accept responsibility for own actions</li> <li>Able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them</li> <li>Consider the needs of patients in deference to one's own needs</li> </ul>

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