

# CERRITOS COLLEGE

## DENTAL HYGIENE TECHNICAL STANDARDS / ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following listing has been prepared to assist you in understanding the technical standards of the Dental Hygiene program in order to affiliate in the clinical agencies and ultimately practice the profession. The technical standards as stated herewith are not conditions of admission to a program of study. Rather, they reflect performance abilities that are necessary for a student to successfully complete the requirements of the specified Health Occupations program.

The purpose of this document is to notify prospective Dental Hygiene students of these technical standards to enable them to make an informed decision regarding enrollment in the Dental Hygiene program at Cerritos College.

The delivery of safe, effective dental hygiene care requires that students be able to perform functions related to the technical standards outlined here. The inability of a student to perform these functions may result in the student being unable to meet course objectives and to progress in the Dental Hygiene program. Additionally, if a student is unable to perform these required competencies, the student may pose a risk of harm to the patient(s) for whom care is provided.

All applicants meeting the appropriate academic requirements shall be considered equally for admission to Cerritos College or any academic program regardless of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or physical or mental disability.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES (NOT-ALL INCLUSIVE)
Cognitive Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibit ability to function effectively under stress and time constraints.</li> <li>Exhibit ability to respond appropriately to emergencies.</li> <li>Exhibit understanding of the rationale for infection control protocols.</li> <li>Exhibit ability to address problems or questions to the appropriate person.</li> <li>Exhibit ability to organize and prioritize tasks.</li> <li>Demonstrate critical-thinking ability sufficient for collecting, analyzing, and integrating information and knowledge in order to make safe clinical judgments and decisions that promote positive patient outcomes and professional behavior.</li> <li>Exhibit awareness of, and ability to work with, diverse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate patient or disease responses.</li> <li>Synthesize data.</li> <li>Draw sound conclusions.</li> <li>Utilize sound judgment and safety precautions.</li> <li>Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations.</li> <li>Develop treatment plans.</li> <li>Understand and recall complex information and apply to new situations.</li> <li>Understand the rationale for, and comply with, HIPAA standards, especially confidentiality.</li> <li>Follow a process from start to finish utilizing sequential established policies and procedures.</li> <li>Demonstrate the ability to assist accurately with all patient care duties and dental office procedures.</li> </ul>

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	<p>populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibit ability to follow policies and procedures required by clinical and academic settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate problem solving skills in patient care.</li> </ul>
Communication Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate ability to speak, read, comprehend, and write English at a level that meets the need for clear and effective communication with instructors, peers, co-workers, patients/families, and other health care professionals.</li> <li>Demonstrate ability to adjust non-verbal and verbal language appropriately to meet the needs of the multilingual and culturally diverse patients, families, and colleagues.</li> <li>Demonstrate abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal, nonverbal, electronic, and written form.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain treatment procedures.</li> <li>Document and interpret patient data.</li> <li>Listen attentively.</li> <li>Work in a “team” environment.</li> </ul>
Interpersonal/ Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability sufficient to function under stress and to adopt to ever-changing situations.</li> <li>Demonstrate awareness and understanding of individual differences.</li> <li>Demonstrate ability to follow the professional Code of Ethics as prescribed by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain composure in clinical and didactic environments.</li> <li>Demonstrate respect for others’ individual differences and their feelings.</li> <li>Demonstrate empathy for patients and peers, exhibit sensitivity to the needs of others’, and treat all with dignity and respect.</li> </ul>
Visual Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate normal corrected visual ability sufficient for observation of oral conditions.</li> <li>Demonstrate visual ability sufficient for patient observation and assessment.</li> <li>Demonstrate ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions and radiographic density.</li> <li>Demonstrate vision acuity sufficient for safe patient care, including: close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.</li> <li>Demonstrate visual acuity sufficient to observe,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe oral conditions, patient responses, oral secretions, and tissue colors and changes.</li> <li>Read charts, computer screens, labels, gauges, and interpret radiographs.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor, and assess equipment, patients, and their environment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Auditory Ability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient hearing acuity to ensure a safe environment and the ability to respond quickly in case of emergencies.</li> <li>• Demonstrate hearing acuity sufficient to assess patient needs, perform physical assessment, and hear normal conversation as it relates to their working environment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to hear sounds from a variety of equipment and alarms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect audible alarms within the frequency and volume ranges of the sounds generated by the monitoring equipment.</li> <li>• Decipher sounds from normal functioning equipment to poorly functioning equipment.</li> <li>• Listen for awareness of equipment function or malfunction and/or emergency signals.</li> </ul>
<b>Tactile Ability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate tactile ability and dexterity sufficient for the use of small instruments using a light touch for control.</li> <li>• Demonstrate tactile ability to interpret characteristics such as sharpness, texture, temperature, and bodily fluids.</li> <li>• Demonstrate tactile ability sufficient for patient care, physical assessment, and intervention.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to put on and remove Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to detect and remove deposits on teeth using small and sharp instruments.</li> <li>• Measure gum depth using small, sharp instruments.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to put on and remove gloves, gown, mask, and protective eyewear.</li> </ul>
<b>Olfactory Ability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to detect unusual odors/smells emanating from patients and/or the environment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to assess patients and dental environment surroundings.</li> <li>• Demonstrate use of olfactory ability as diagnostic tool to identify oral disease and oral health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tolerate exposure to various chemical odors.</li> <li>• Utilize as a diagnostic tool to detect tooth/gum infection.</li> <li>• Distinguish between the smell of oral disease and that of health.</li> <li>• Distinguish smells which contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status and environment (fire, noxious fumes, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>Strength and Mobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate physical ability and strength sufficient to perform clinical, administrative, and emergency procedures.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to stand for long periods of time. Demonstrate ability to move quickly to perform direct patient care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to effectively use appropriate ergonomic techniques (good body mechanics).</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to withstand repetitive hand and fine motor movements without incident. Demonstrate mobility in operatory workspace and laboratory areas.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient energy and vitality to interact with people of all ages.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to freely walk, stand, sit, squat, balance, climb, reach, grip, lift, pull, and push as needed in the performance of clinical duties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize small objects and sharp instruments.</li> <li>• Maintain balance in any position.</li> <li>• Reach above shoulder height to manipulate dental equipment.</li> <li>• Reach below waist level to manipulate equipment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to maneuver in small spaces (walk, stand, and bend over) while providing patient care.</li> <li>• Assist with patient transfers for those who may require physical assistance, when necessary.</li> <li>• Lift up to 25 pounds without assistance.</li> <li>• Quickly intervene for a patient's health and safety, including the ability to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), if needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Motor Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate physical ability sufficient to maneuver in small spaces (including standing, walking, bending, and range-of-motion of extremities).</li> <li>• Demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to perform safe and effective dental hygiene procedures and patient care, as well as providing safe environments and responding to unexpected situations in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to sufficiently pull and push equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to move around operatory, workspace, and laboratory areas.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the fine motor skills and dexterity required to manipulate and utilize equipment and diagnostic/treatment instrumentation (manipulate syringes, dispose of needles, and manipulate vials).</li> <li>• Perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other basic life support functions on a patient if needed.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to quickly intervene for patient safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Endurance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks during clinical practice.</li> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to attend, participate, and complete assigned periods in lecture and skill lab activities, and school functions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work 6- to 8-hour shifts.</li> <li>• Sit and stand for prolong periods of time.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to function effectively when providing patient care under time constraints.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Tolerance</b>	<p>Demonstrate awareness that the health care environment may contain latex and other allergens, including but not limited to medication (topical and ingestible), chemical, and mundane; tolerance of such allergens in the work place must also be demonstrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to wear Personal Protective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves, mask, protective eyewear and gown for extended periods of time during patient treatment.</li> <li>• Tolerate offensive odors.</li> <li>• Tolerate vapors associated with cleaning and disinfectant products.</li> <li>• Perform Universal Precautions to work safely in an environment</li> </ul>

TECHNICAL STANDARDS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES (NOT-ALL INCLUSIVE)
	<p>Equipment, or P.P.E., for extended periods of time during patient treatment, educational study, and labs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to function safely in a typical clinical environment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to tolerate prolonged periods of time amidst artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust and odors, residue from cleaning products, noise, congested workplace, and bodily fluids.</li> </ul>	<p>that includes respiratory and blood borne pathogens.</p>

### **Disability Statement:**

*If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability related needs will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration the standards and essential skills which must be performed to meet the program objectives. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Center for Access and Disability Services (CADS) at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2335 or (562) 274-7164 (VP), or visit them in the Santa Barbara Building. All prospective and current Culinary Arts students must be able to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodations.*

Cerritos College is committed to providing an educational environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or any other characteristic protected by law in any of our programs or activities. For more information regarding our policies, please contact our Director, Compliance, Diversity, & Title IX Coordinator at <https://www.cerritos.edu/hr/>

All career technical education (CTE) opportunities will be offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Compliance with Title IX and Section 504/Title II are the responsibility of the District's Director of Diversity, Compliance, & Title IX.

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