

Dental Hygiene Technical Standards

Montgomery Community College has developed the following technical standards according to the nature of the work required in dental hygiene practice and the educational requirements of the dental hygiene curriculum. To be successful in the dental hygiene program, students will need to demonstrate mastery of these basic skills/abilities.

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Standard</u> | Expected Outcomes (not all inclusive) |
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| INTERPERSONAL | Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, physical, medical and intellectual backgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to communicate effectively with patients, clients, families, and colleagues. |
| COMMUNICATION | Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to collect and assess data and be able to communicate the rationale for planned treatment and patient educational aids.• Able to document legibly either in written or computer format assessment findings or treatment rendered. |
| CRITICAL THINKING | Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to identify cause and effect relationship in clinical situations by developing dental hygiene care plans specific to patient needs.• Able to assimilate knowledge from lecture, laboratory, and clinical arenas.• Able to utilize basic mathematical skills. |
| MOBILITY | Physical abilities sufficient to move around rooms in the dental environment maneuver in small spaces and reach needed equipment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to move around clinical operatories, dark room, sterilization room, and other treatment areas.• Able to position chair-side in close proximity to patient.• Able to administer CPR and BLS procedures. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to reach radiographic equipment which is approximately 5-6' off floor. • Able to transfer patients from wheelchairs to dental chairs and back. |
| MOTOR SKILLS | Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective assistance to the dentist, client and co-workers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to move, calibrate, use equipment and supplies including sharp instruments. • Able to therapeutic or oral therapy aids chair-side – mannequins, small equipment, etc. |
| AUDITORY | Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to hear patients, cries of distress, sound of instruments being properly utilized, sound of slow speed hand piece and ultrasonic scaler, and monitor vital signs. |
| VISION | Visual ability sufficient for physical assessment, performance of dental procedures and maintenance of environmental safety. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to observe patient responses and assess variation changes. (Example: skin color and facial expression. Notes gingival description and pocket depths (read probe) – healthy vs. disease state including color changes) • Able to monitor vital signs. • Able to evaluate radiographs for technical quality. • Able to note color changes in dental materials which indicates reactions occurring. • Able to read and comprehend the material. |
| TACTILE | Tactile ability sufficient for assessment and performance of dental chair-side procedures including safe expanded functions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to perform palpation techniques, functions of a dental hygiene exam and/or those related to therapeutic intervention. |