Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene – Essential Functions

The following contains information regarding technical standards and essential functions for Dental Hygiene students/professionals. The physical abilities and behavioral characteristics necessary to successfully participate and complete the Dental Hygiene Program are outlined. **These standards should be considered conditions for admission into the Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene Program; they reflect the characteristics necessary for success as a student, and to become a Registered Dental Hygienist.**

The applicant should carefully review these standards and ask questions if not familiar with the activities and functions listed. It is the applicant's responsibility to decide if he or she has any limitations that may restrict or interfere with their ability to perform satisfactorily and/or meet the required standards. When a disability/handicap is documented, requests for reasonable accommodation will be considered. Contact the Program Chair if you have any questions.

General Physical/Sensory Requirements: The student must have the manual dexterity and tactile ability sufficient to use small instruments. The student also needs to be able to use instruments and operate equipment to provide safe and effective patient care. Students must be able to move freely to observe and assess patients in small spaces and must have full range of motion, manual dexterity and hand/eye coordination to perform continuous patient treatment. The ability to withstand repeated position changes with the head and neck in a prolonged downward position is essential. The student must have physical endurance to withstand sitting, standing or moving continuously and stay on task for several hours. All students must be physically able to perform CPR.

Specific Physical/Sensory Requirements: **Circle one:**

1. Ability to use digital, fine motor skills with both hands for varying lengths of time throughout the day.	Yes	No	Not Known
2. Ability to adjust body mechanics ergonomically.	Yes	No	Not Known
3. Tolerate frequent hand washing and/or use of disinfectants including hand sanitizing agents. Able to wear protective gloves when indicated.	Yes	No	Not Known
4. Possess the physical capacity to participate in required events, classes, demonstrations, laboratory activities and clinical experiences.	Yes	No	Not Known
5. Possess sufficient motor function, strength, endurance and balance to deliver patient care in multiple and consecutive treatment sessions for varying lengths of time.	Yes	No	Not Known
6. Move around in an operatory, work spaces and laboratory areas as required.	Yes	No	Not Known
7. Use various types of instruments and equipment; assist and position patients or lift and operate equipment with necessary strength and dexterity.	Yes	No	Not Known
8. Utilize auditory ability and sensory perception sufficient to monitor and assess client needs.	Yes	No	Not Known
9. Possess normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for observation in laboratory and clinical situations. Discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions (patient responses, oral secretions, color and density in radiographs). Be able to see in darkroom conditions.	Yes	No	Not Known
10. Distinguish smells that contribute to oral disease and/or maintain environmental safety (fire).	Yes	No	Not Known

General Cognitive Requirements: The Dental Hygiene Program requires that students have the ability to read and cognitively understand written course materials, patient care documents and all student policies/ procedures. In a timely manner, students must write utilizing legible and concise documentation in English. Students must demonstrate cognitive learning in relation to new procedures in both clinical application and written formats. Students must exhibit critical thinking and problem solving ability sufficient for clinical judgment to deliver safe, effective and appropriate dental hygiene care. Student must be able to develop and propose patient treatment plans and maintain records.

Specific Cognitive Requirements: **Circle one:**

1. Focus attention on instruction and/or patient needs and comfort for varying time intervals.	Yes	No	Not Known
2. Use good judgment to seek assistance when needed and make appropriate referrals to other health care professionals when indicated.	Yes	No	Not Known
3. Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations; evaluate patient or disease responses; synthesize data; draw sound conclusion; treatment plan.	Yes	No	Not Known
4. Explain sequential treatment procedures; initiate teaching; document and interpret data; listen attentively.	Yes	No	Not Known
5. Apply safety, sanitary and infection control standards learned in the program to maintain a healthy environment for patients and self.	Yes	No	Not Known
6. Ability to utilize self-care practices learned as part of program including ability to set and maintain ethical boundaries between patient, faculty, staff and self.	Yes	No	Not Known

General Personal Temperament Requirements: The Dental Hygiene student must be mature, neat and well groomed, reliable, discreet, flexible, cooperative and ethical. The student must demonstrate the capacity for calm and reasoned judgment, be free of health or medical disorders (physical or mental) that limit the ability to completely and efficiently perform duties, be emotionally stable and demonstrate integrity, honesty and professionalism in all matters. Dental Hygiene students are required to wear appropriate/professional dress in classroom and clinical settings.

Specific Personal Temperament Requirements: **Circle one:**

1. Interact professionally with patients, peers, faculty/instructors and staff. Present a professional appearance during events, laboratory and clinical experiences.	Yes	No	Not Known
2. Accept constructive criticism and utilize criticism and instruction in an effort to maximize individual potential.	Yes	No	Not Known
3. Fulfill commitments, honor agreements and be held accountable for actions and outcomes.	Yes	No	Not Known
4. Utilize interpersonal skills to work collaboratively and effectively with diverse populations.	Yes	No	Not Known
5. Work under time constraints while performing multiple tasks.	Yes	No	Not Known
6. Tolerate and react calmly to stressful situations.	Yes	No	Not Known
7. Demonstrate flexibility and team work with classmates, faculty and staff.	Yes	No	Not Known
8. Demonstrate concern and empathy for others while maintaining appropriate boundaries.	Yes	No	Not Known
9. Demonstrate an ability to maintain professional conduct in the clinical setting.	Yes	No	Not Known
10. Maintain a level of functioning unimpaired by substances such as alcohol, prescription or illegal drugs.	Yes	No	Not Known

Environmental Safety: The Dental Hygiene student must have the ability to recognize and protect self, patients and others from environmental risks and hazards. The student must be able to follow standard precautions, safety procedures, and post-exposure protocols; work safely with potentially hazardous body fluids; utilize disinfectants and cleaning agents; tolerate the wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, eyewear, etc.)

General Communication/Language Requirements: Dental Hygiene requires the ability to express oneself professionally with spoken words; it requires the ability to discuss medical conditions and contraindications with patients. Dental Hygienists must be able to read and understand information provided in the patient's health history and be able to communicate and interact with medical/health care professionals.

The characteristics listed above are the required essential functions for the Dental Hygiene Program that will be encountered by the student in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences as well as in private practice as a professional Dental Hygienist. By signing below I affirm that I have read the above statements and understand that these are the expectations and requirements for the Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene Program. By signing below, I am affirming that I am able to meet and maintain these standards.

_____ _____ _____

Student Name (Please Print) Student Signature Date