

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to ensure that students are aware of the nonacademic standards and skills that will allow for successful completion of program outcomes. Reading these standards carefully along with a personal assessment of personality, skills, and abilities will assist a student in making a suitable career choice.

The Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene prepares you for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist. The RDH develops a dental hygiene diagnosis and accompanying care plan, in conjunction with other healthcare providers to assess, plan, and implement strategies for individuals and communities to maintain oral health. The Dental Assisting Diploma program prepares the student to become a Certified Dental Assistant. Dental assistants work closely with and under the supervision of a dentist to deliver quality oral health care and are valuable member of the dental care team.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following skills fundamental to the Dental Science Programs:

Communication

- Assimilate information from written sources (textbooks, journals, notes, medical records, etc.)
- Attain, comprehend, retain and utilize new information presented in written formats
- Demonstrate clear oral and written communication
- Elicit patient information, and perceive nonverbal communications
- Read and interpret medical history information, patient responses, drug and medication information, and other written material related to Dental Hygiene practice

Motor Coordination

- Move heavy equipment or patients in wheelchairs weighing up to 300 lbs.
- Safely and accurately perform skills such as manipulation of sharp hand instruments in a confined area, operation of radiographic equipment, assess vital signs, and utilize an intraoral mirror
- Execute movements required to provide therapeutic intervention and emergency treatment
- Document patient assessments and notes

Mobility

- Stand, sit or walk up to 9 hours per day
- Ambulate without assistance in small spaces
- Sustain an upright or seated position without support

Sensory

- Distinguish color changes
- Perform patient assessment and treatment with manipulation of dental instruments and interpret the results
- Interpret radiographic images

Intellectual

- Apply critical thinking techniques to reason and problem-solve
- Analyze complex information to determine appropriate dental hygiene interventions
- Comprehend three-dimension relationship and special relationships

Social

- Develop effective relationships with individuals, families, and groups from diverse backgrounds
- Collaborate with other healthcare professionals

Professional Behavior

- Maintain academic honesty
- Adhere to the American Dental Hygienists Association Code of Ethics and/or the American Dental Assistants Association Code of Ethics
- Adhere to the GTCC Dental Programs Handbook