

TECHNICAL ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS

Dental assisting and dental hygiene students must be able to perform essential functions. Technical Acceptance Standards refer to nonacademic admissions criteria essential to participate in the dental programs.

If your ability to perform these essential functions depends on accommodations being provided, be advised that requests for accommodations must be presented to the Disability Support Services Department, and must be accompanied by appropriate medical, psychological and /or psychiatric documentation to support this request. You may contact Disability Support Services at 447-8189, which is located in Information Commons, Springfield Campus. All applicants with or without accommodations must possess the following abilities.

Physical Requirements

The student must have use of both hands and dexterity in the fingers to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental handpieces, and operate dental equipment. The feet are used to manipulate the foot pedals for handpieces and other adjunct dental equipment. Body build must fit into dental operator's stool in order to perform dental assisting and dental hygiene procedures. The ability to stand or sit for long durations of time is also necessary.

Data Conception

The student must possess the ability to gather, classify, and interpret information about data, people, or things, and must be able to carry out appropriate actions in relation to the data received.

Color Differentiation

The student must be able to differentiate various shades of colors in a limited environment and space in the oral cavity, and must be able to distinguish shades of grey for dental radiographic interpretation.

Manual Dexterity/Motor Coordination

The student must be able to manipulate dental instruments to discern changes in surface textures without causing trauma to dental tissues, and to control pressure exerted by dental handpieces on dental tissue to prevent injury to those tissues.

Physical Communication

The student must be able to perceive sound through telephone, hear commands through an operator's face mask, and discern blood pressure sounds through a stethoscope.

Reasoning Development

The student must be able to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions.

Language Development

The student must be able to read and comprehend the English language. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend complex information from scientific and/or technical journals, papers, textbooks, etc. This requires the ability to communicate the same type of complex information through speech and in writing using proper format, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and using all parts of speech. A student must be able to communicate technical information at a level appropriate for patient understanding. A student must be able to speak clearly and with the correct pronunciation of dental and medical terms.

Visual Acuity

The student must be able to identify the working ends of various dental instruments and other dental implements at a two foot distance.

Numerical Ability

The student must be able to determine percentages, convert fractions, ratios and proportions as well as basic subtraction, addition, multiplication, and division. The student must have the ability to understand and interpret the implications and meanings of the numerical values.

Form/Spatial Ability

The student must be able to conceptualize 1-dimensional renderings in a 3-dimensional form, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to another, and discriminate intricate measurements.

Personal Temperament

The student must be able to maintain a professional attitude and appearance. The student must be able to deal with the academic rigors of course load, clinical requirements, constructive criticism, and patient attitudes. The student must have the ability to adapt to change, and be able to function and focus in an environment with multiple extraneous stimuli.