

Ozarks Technical Community College

Dental Assisting Program

Technical Acceptance Standards

Dental Programs students must be able to perform essential functions. If a student's ability to perform essential functions depends on utilization of accommodation(s), it should be noted that students must request accommodation(s) from the Access and Accommodation Services (AAS) and must be accompanied by appropriate medical or psychological/psychiatric documentation to support this request. Contact AAS, located in Information Commons, at 417-447-8189 for further information.

All students must possess the following abilities, with or without accommodation:

Essential Function	Technical Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities (Not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills	Critical thinking and problem-solving ability sufficient to demonstrate appropriate judgment in the lab, clinical and classroom settings. The student must be able to apply principles of logical and/or scientific thinking.	1) Identify cause-effect relationships in both labs and clinical settings. 2) Utilize problem-solving methods to assess, plan, implement, evaluate, and document patient care. 3) Apply the principles of logic and scientific thinking to define problems, gather relevant data, and draw valid and well-supported conclusions. 4) Demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions in an emergency or where a situation is not clearly governed by specific guidelines. 5) Exercise sound judgment and utilize assessment data to anticipate patient needs. 6) Ability to read and interpret research findings with competence and understanding.
Physical Skills	The student must be able to apply physical skills to operate dental equipment and complete physical skills for an appropriate time.	1) Manipulate the foot pedals for handpieces and other adjunct dental equipment. 2) Able to reach all areas of the patient's oral cavity comfortably. 3) Stand or sit for a long duration of time is an essential requirement for dental professionals.
Manual Dexterity/Motor and Tactile Abilities	The student must possess the ability to grasp, control and manipulate instruments and materials. The student must possess psychomotor	1) Interpret feedback from the sense of touch is critical in dentistry. 2) Precise control over the pressure applied to dental instruments is vital to

	skills that allow for precision of movements.	prevent damage to oral tissue and ensure successful outcomes of procedures. 3) In dental education and practice, manual dexterity in both hands is crucial for successful manipulation of dental instruments, materials, handpieces, and equipment.
Numerical Ability	Students must demonstrate the ability to gather, classify, and interpret information related to data, individuals, or objects. They should be capable of taking appropriate actions based on the data they receive. Further, students must be able to evaluate numerical trends and implications in lab values and vital signs.	1) Accurately compute drug dosages and maintain comprehensive records of the dosage calculations. 2) Measure dental materials and understand the need to adjust ratios accordingly.
Visual Ability	To succeed in the program, students must have normal or corrected visual acuity, allowing them to recognize subtle changes in color density and color variations. Additionally, they must possess the ability to identify equipment and demonstrate proprioception to use it effectively. If corrective lenses are required, they must be worn during all lab and clinical assignments.	1) Identify and use dental instruments with small working ends properly during clinical and laboratory work. 2) Differentiate various shades of colors within the confined environment and space of the oral cavity. 3) Capable of distinguishing shades of grey required for dental radiographic interpretation. 4) Handle an instrument while using magnification and have adequate depth perception. 5) Rad pertinent materials for safe patient care and professional practice. 6) Observe patient responses, intraoral conditions including lesions, and wounds, etc. 7 Accurately read sphygmomanometer, charts, computer screens, digital print outs, labels, gauges, syringes, and equipment.
Hearing Ability	The student must possess auditory abilities to hear sounds, verbal commands, and respond accordingly.	1) Perceive sound through a telephone to communicate with patients. 2) Hear and respond to verbal commands delivered through a clinician's face mask. 3) Discern blood pressure sounds through a stethoscope and dental equipment indicator sounds.

		Hear, discern, and react to environmental stimuli such as calls for help and alarms.
Olfactory Ability	Olfactory senses (smell) sufficient for maintaining environmental and patient safety and performing accurate physical assessment.	1) Distinguish odors which contribute to assessing a patient's health status or environmental safety. 2) Possess significant tolerance to smells that may be considered malodorous.
Form/Spatial Ability	The student must be able to conceptualize shapes, forms, and various measurements.	1) Envision forms and shapes of teeth, anatomy, and lesions. 2) Distinguish and contrast subtle changes from one form or shape to another. 3) Accurately perceive and interpret precise measurements of dental solutions, materials, and equipment essential to clinical practice.
Communication Ability	The student must possess the ability to read, write, and communicate routine and complex information.	1) It is necessary for the student to be able to read and comprehend the English language. 2) Comprehend and synthesize complex information from scientific and/or technical journals, papers, textbooks, etc., are used during the education process. 3) Communicate complex information through speech and writing using proper format, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and using all parts of speech. 4) Correctly pronounce dental and medical terms as well as speaking clearly while using a face covering is necessary while communicating to patients, staff, and dentists.
Interpersonal Skills	Skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. Demonstrate therapeutic communication, sympathy and empathy in all communications.	1) It is the expectation to maintain effective working relationships and rapport with patients, peers, the public, faculty, and college personnel. 2) Respect and cultural competency should be demonstrated to patients whose appearance, condition, beliefs and values may differ from the individual. 3) In providing dental care it is essential to practice therapeutic communication skills, evoking sympathy and empathy in all communications.

Professional Attitude and Demeanor	1) Ability to present professional appearance and attitude. 2) Implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health and emotional stability	1) Maintain poise and self-control in stressful situations. 2) Professionally accept constructive feedback within the academic/clinical settings to improve performance. 3) Demonstrate personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect. 4) Embody concern, compassion, sympathy and empathy where appropriate.
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