

Dental Assisting Program Performance Standards

To ensure the safety and well-being of our students, it is strongly recommended that individuals with potential latex allergies seek advice from their health care provider in order to make an informed decision about their exposure to latex in the health care field.

It is recommended that you, the Dental Assisting Applicant, tour a dental office and shadow a Dental Assistant to ascertain your own interest in and ability to perform the professional duties of a Dental Assistant without injuring yourself or a patient.

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment	Take and interpret medical histories and x-rays, develop treatment plans, and react to medical emergencies.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Provide oral hygiene/oral health care, instruction to patient/parents. Explain informed consent and treatment plan. Establish good patient rapport.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Communicate during the delivery of oral health care services, document procedures and consult with other health care providers.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to walk from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, as well as ability to sit for several hours at a time.	Sit chairside with patients for prolonged periods of time and seat and/or transfer patient. Transfer instruments and equipment to and from sterilization area. Walk with patient to radiography area: expose, process and retrieve radiographs.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and access health needs.	Assess medically compromised/medical emergencies; hear indicator tones (curing light units, radiography units, sphygmomanometer sounds); converse with patient/parent.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in oral health care.	Read, record in patient charts, evaluate tissue, write tissue descriptions, assess and evaluate oral health needs of the patient.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Palpate tissue, mix dental materials, transfer instruments, inspect margins of restorations.

I have read the above technical standards. I feel it is within my ability to carry out the duties and qualifications of a dental auxiliary. Further, I understand it has been recommended that I shadow a dental auxiliary to make me more aware of the duties of a dental auxiliary.

Signature of Student

Date

Witness

Date

PLEASE NOTE: Read the information on this form and be prepared to sign the 3-part NCR form when you apply to the Dental Assisting Program.