



Dental Hygiene Department Technical Standards

To successfully complete any the Dental Hygiene program at Plaza College, students must be able to meet the following technical standards on their own without the use of an intermediary trained in dental care and with or without a reasonable accommodation. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in clinical situations. A student may not rely on someone else's power of selection and observation or clinical ability to successfully complete this program.

Motor Skills

The student must have ample motor function to perform movements essential to providing all necessary patient treatment. This includes the use of motor skills for:

- Performing palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic exercises
- Performing hard and soft tissue surgical procedures
- Coordination of gross and fine muscular movements
- Maintaining self-equilibrium
- Functional uses of the senses during dental procedures such as touch and vision
- The ability to operate controls for the of use high-speed or low-speed dental handpieces
- The ability to use hand instrumentation for such procedures as scaling, root planning, and surgical interventions
- Physical abilities to maneuver in small spaces and to reach for or lift equipment
- Physical ability to reasonably assist patients in and out of seated position in dental chair
- Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess clinical needs

Sensory Function

The student must be able to acquire information through demonstration and participation in the basic science and clinical science courses, laboratories, and the clinical and patient care experiences. The student must be able to:

- Perform dental examinations and treatments that require the use of sight and touch
- See fine detail, focus at a variety of distances, and distinguish the differences and variations in color, shape, and texture of soft and hard tissues, including discerning accurate depth of field

- Employ tactile senses to diagnose directly by palpation or indirectly by sensations transmitted through instruments
- Use visual acuity to read charts, radiographs, computers, videos
- Acquire information from written documents and to evaluate information presented as images from paper, films, slides, or video
- Interpret radiographs and other graphic images
- Observe a patient accurately from near or far distances and be able to interpret patient non-verbal communications
- Olfactory ability sufficient for physical assessment, performance of duties, and maintenance of environmental safety

Communication Skills

The student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in an effort to:

- Convey or exchange information at a sufficient level that produces an accurate health history
- Identify health and treatment problems and to provide alternative solutions and treatment options
- Provide patient directions during treatment and post-treatment
- Provide and understand effective and efficient instructions with all members of the health care team

Behavioral and Social Interactions

A student must possess the physiological, psychological, and emotional health competencies essential for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities. This includes:

- Exercising good judgment, especially during ambiguous and/or emergency situations
- Development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and colleagues
- Enduring physically challenging workloads and functioning effectively under stress
- Managing apprehensive patients with a range of behaviors in a respectful and congenial manner
- Accepting criticism and responding with appropriate modification of behavior\