



Dental Assistant Program Technical Standards

Students enrolled in the **Dental Assistant** Program should be able to meet the established technical standards identified below. The technical standards for the **Dental Assistant** Program are representative of those found in the **Dental Assistant** profession.

Ability	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
Physical	<p>Student must have sufficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Endurance, strength, mobility, balance, flexibility and coordination to perform dental procedures ● Gross and fine motor skills to perform administrative, clinical and laboratory skills in a timely, safe and effective manner ● Ability to tolerate working in confined areas ● Strengths to lift and position patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sit, stand, walk and maintain balance at varying intervals ● Bend, stretch, squat, twist, kneel and reach ● Good hand-eye coordination ● Simultaneous use of hand, wrist, fingers (both dominant/non-dominant) ● Sitting for long periods of time ● Ability to perform repetitive motions ● Reaching forward and/or overhead ● Finger and manual dexterity (squeeze, grasp, twist, pinch, and manipulate small objects at varying strengths) ● Arm-hand steadiness
Sensory	<p>Student must have sufficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Auditory ability ● Visual ability ● Sense of Smell ● Tactile ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Color vision - detect and identify different colors ● Field of vision ● Ability to identify the subtle differences in surface characteristics ● Proofread ● Detect audible sounds (vital signs, equipment) ● Ability to visually detect equipment displays ● Ability to visually detect environmental hazards ● Detect objects, symbols and numbers both near and far ● Detect changes in skin color, temperature, swelling ● Detect odors (abnormal breath, alcohol, gases, fire)



Dental Assistant Program Technical Standards

Ability	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detect subtle differences through skin (vital signs) ● Detect temperature of materials
Communication	<p>Student must have effective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal communication ● Nonverbal communication ● Written communication ● Electronic communication <p>Student must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interact appropriately with patients, peers and leadership ● Interpret and convey information ● Speak, read, write, comprehend, interpret, and document information ● Recognize nonverbal behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ability to discuss and ask questions regarding patient care with patient, family, and dental health care team ● Ability to convey information in a clear, professional and timely manner ● Listen and respond to others in an accepting and respectful manner ● Discuss details and ask questions regarding patient care ● Provide clear verbal instructions to patients ● Establish rapport with patients and peers ● Listen and respond to others in a nonjudgmental, respectful manner ● Awareness of non-verbal communication ● Maintain composure with multiple responsibilities ● Adapt to stressful situations in a clinical setting ● Observe, interpret and respond appropriately to surroundings, nonverbal cues, verbal and written information
Safety	<p>Student must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apply knowledge, skills and experience to provide a safe work environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work in an environment with potentially infectious materials ● Demonstrate adherence to safety guidelines and regulations ● Recognize potentially hazardous conditions and take appropriate actions ● Maintain immunization and health care requirements ● Utilize personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, eyewear, gown) ● Operate equipment, adhering to safety standards ● Identify and resolve unsafe situations ● Be familiar with and follow emergency procedures
Critical Thinking	<p>Student must have sufficient critical thinking and problem solving skills to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apply broad concepts to clinical situations ● Document treatment records



Dental Assistant Program Technical Standards

Ability	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data in a timely manner ● Problem solve and make decisions in a timely manner ● Apply knowledge, skills and experience to determine best/safe practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concentrate to perform clinical tasks ● Recognize the need to consult with healthcare professionals ● Demonstrate problem-solving skills ● Anticipate needs for procedures, provider and patient, and respond appropriately ● Prioritize tasks to ensure completion of assigned work ● Draw valid conclusions ● Ability to make decisions without immediate supervision ● Ability to perform complex tasks ● Follow processes from start to finish ● Ability to problem solve complex situations while maintaining a professional demeanor
Professionalism	Student must demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish effective relationships ● Display cross-cultural competency, integrity, moral reasoning, ethical behaviors and concern for others ● Show respect for diverse populations ● Work cooperatively with all professional teams ● Adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exhibit positive interpersonal skills in all interactions ● Maintain confidentiality ● Demonstrate appropriate impulse control and professional level of maturity ● Recognize appropriate boundaries in relationships with patients and colleagues ● Demonstrate ability to work as a team member ● Demonstrate ability to cope with stressful situations ● Adhere to attendance, dress code, and personal hygiene protocol ● Display integrity, honesty, respect, reliability and accountability ● Accept and utilize constructive feedback to enhance personal and professional growth ● Work independently and in team



Dental Assistant Program Technical Standards

Ability	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to challenging situations while maintaining composure and professionalism

Gateway Technical College is committed to providing access and equal opportunity for all. Reasonable accommodations are provided for all education services, programs, and activities for individuals with disabilities. Students must be able to demonstrate these abilities with or without reasonable accommodations. Accommodations are determined and provided by disability support services. For more information related to the accommodations process, please visit <https://www.gtc.edu/DSS>.

Student's Name (printed) _____

Student's Name (signed) _____

Date _____