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## PCC DENTAL HYGIENE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>Communication</b>	Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction with patients, instructors and other members of the healthcare team in verbal and written English	Able to obtain information, explain treatment procedures, initiate health education training, describe patient situations, perceive non-verbal communications and show empathy. Able to interact with patients from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds and work efficiently in a team environment.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critical thinking ability for clinical judgment	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situation; evaluate patient or disease responses; synthesize data; draw sound conclusions. Able to work effectively in emergency situations, efficiently handle bodily fluids, and manage stressful situations.
<b>Mobility And Endurance</b>	Physical abilities (including standing, walking, bending, range of motion of extremities) to move from room to room, tolerate detailed activity intensity for extended periods, and maneuver in small spaces	Able to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation; move around in patient treatment area, remain seated for 60+ minutes at a time while focused on patient care, move hands and fingers repetitively in a small area while performing delicate procedures.
<b>Motor</b>	Gross and fine motor function sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care	Uses sharp dental instruments without injury to self or to patients; manipulate dexterity sufficient to grasp and manipulate various dental instruments and materials. Type accurately.
<b>Hearing</b>	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Able to listen to breath and heart sounds when taking blood pressure. Able to hear equipment monitors, such as x-ray equipment and autoclave timers. Ability to hear patient complaints and use verbal information to clarify patient medical history and diagnosis.
<b>Visual</b>	Visual ability sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care	Able to observe patients and use instruments in the oral cavity. Adequate close vision up to 20 inches to see small lesions and deposits on teeth. Ability to see under low light conditions including those in the oral cavity, darkrooms, and dental operatories. Distinguish color and shading of gingival tissues. Use peripheral vision and depth perception in clinical settings.
<b>Tactile</b>	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and scaling skills	Able to perform palpation of a pulse, extraoral and intraoral structures. Perceive differences in surfaces characteristics, feel and remove hard and soft deposits from teeth.
<b>Technology</b>	Technological abilities sufficient to provide adequate record and documentation of dental hygiene visits	Able to perform basic tasks on computer systems including keyboarding for accurate record keeping, open/close of software programs for dental charting, radiology, or scheduling, and email use for communication with patients and other dental providers.

Extensively modified adaptation from Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing and Medical College of Georgia.

The characteristics listed above are the required essential functions for the Dental Hygiene Program that will be encountered by the student in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences as well as in private practice as a professional Dental Hygienist. By signing below I affirm that I have read the above statements and understand that these are the expectations and requirements for the Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene Program. By signing below, I am affirming that I am able to meet and maintain these standards.