

Chattahoochee Technical College

Health Sciences Division

Dental Assisting Technical Standards

Applicants and students should be able to perform these essential functions or with reasonable accommodations, such as the help of compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices and be able to demonstrate ability to become proficient in these essential functions.

Essential Function	Technical Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking and problem-solving ability sufficient for appropriate clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, use problem solving methods to assess, plan, and carry out dental issues. Make appropriate judgment decisions in an emergency or where a situation is not clearly governed by specific guidelines.
Interpersonal Skills	Sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	Establish and maintain effective working relationships with patients, peers, the public, and clinical and college personnel. Respect and care for clients whose appearance, condition, beliefs, and values may conflict with your own.
Communication Ability	Sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. Read, write, and speak with sufficient skill to communicate. Computer literacy desirable.	Communicate in fluent English, both verbally and in writing with the patient, family, college, and clinical personnel, to transmit and receive information. Hear verbal responses from the patient, and clinical personnel while performing appropriate procedures. Be able to explain treatment procedures and oral health instructions, as well as document treatment procedures and patient responses.
Physical/ Psychological Ability	Physical abilities sufficient to move around rooms in the dental environment, maneuver in small spaces and reach needed equipment. Remain continuously on task for several hours while standing, sitting, walking, lifting, bending, and /or moving/transporting patients.	Very mobile and able to tolerate long periods of standing, sitting, and heavy workload. Lift and/or move patients and equipment. Withstand the stress and demands of an active position. Move around clinical operatories, dark room, sterilization room, and other treatment areas. Position oneself chair-side in close proximity to patient. Administer CPR and BLS procedures. Reach radiographic equipment, which is approximately 5-6' off of floor.
Skin Condition	Skin must be in good condition. Lesions on the face, hands, or forearms will prevent student from attending clinical rotations (examples include but are not limited to: eczema, psoriasis, etc.).	Perform handwashing and/or surgical scrub and wear appropriate gloves. A written excuse from a physician is mandatory for students who are latex sensitive.
Adequate Height	Ability to reach and operate overhead equipment.	Reach, manipulate, and operate all equipment.

Essential Function	Technical Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from area to area and maneuver in small spaces; full range of motion; manual and finger dexterity; and hand-eye coordination.	May be exposed to kicking, biting, or scratching injuries. May be exposed to equipment related hazards. Withstand long hours of standing, walking, stooping, bending, sitting.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective assistance to patients and co-workers. Ability to operate equipment.	Demonstrate manual dexterity and good hand-eye coordination in daily work. Be able to move, calibrate, and use equipment and dental materials and supplies including: sharp instruments during operative procedures. Use ancillary aides and small equipment.
Hearing Ability	Auditory ability sufficient to access non-direct essential information.	Must be able to hear and understand verbal instructions. Must be able to hear soft whispers of patients, equipment alarms, equipment malfunctioning sounds, and emergency signals within normal hearing range. Must be able to tolerate loud, sustained, high pitched noises. If corrective hearing devices are required, must be worn while on duty.
Visual Ability	Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for observing, patient physical assessment and/or treating of patient, ability to discriminate between subtle changes in density (black to gray) of a color in low light/ability to discern color variations.	Read procedure manuals, standard operating procedures, patient identification bracelets, and other pertinent materials for patient care and professional practice. Evaluate radiographs for diagnostic quality using density, contrast, distortions. If corrective lens devices are required, they must be worn while on duty.
Tactile Ability	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation, functions of physical examination, functions related to care giver. Perception relating to touch, textures, temperatures, weight, pressure, and one's own body position, presence or movement.
Olfactory Ability	Olfactory senses (smells) sufficient for maintaining environmental safety, and patient needs.	Must be able to distinguish odors. Must be able to distinguish smells which are contributory to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status or environmental safety. Has significant tolerance to foul smells which may be part of the routine job.
Professional Presentation	Ability to present professional appearance and attitude; implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health and emotional stability	Demonstrate emotional stability and psychological health in the day to day interactions with patients, peers, and personnel related to the work environment. Work under stressful conditions and irregular hours. Show concern for others.
Exceptions	None	