

**YORK TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A DENTAL HYGIENIST:**

1. Perform patient examination:
  - A. Obtain and document patient medical/dental history
  - B. Perform intra and extra-oral examinations
  - C. Chart existing dental conditions
  - D. Take and document vital signs
2. Expose, process, mount, and interpret dental radiographs
3. Perform preventive dental procedures
  - A. Scale and root planing tooth surfaces
  - B. Polish supragingival tooth structures and restorations
  - C. Place pit and fissure sealants
  - D. Apply topical fluoride
4. Administer infiltration anesthesia.
5. Instruct patients on brushing and flossing techniques and nutrition counseling
6. Adhere to HIPAA, OSHA and ADA Infection Control Guidelines
7. Implement emergency procedures and administer first aid, including CPR

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT IN THE DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

**Physical Requirements:**

A dental hygienist must have use of both hands and dexterity in the fingers to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental handpieces, anesthetic syringes, radiographic equipment and other various types of dental equipment. The use of the feet is necessary to manipulate rheostat for handpieces and other adjunct dental equipment. Body build must fit into dental operator's stool in order to perform dental hygiene procedures. The ability to stand for a duration of time is also necessary.

**Data Conception:**

Requires the ability to gather, classify, and interpret information about data, people or things. Must be able to carry out appropriate actions in relation to the data received.

**Color Discrimination:**

Requires the ability to differentiate various shades of colors in a limited environment and space in the oral cavity. Must be able to distinguish various gradations from black to white.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT IN THE DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM (Continued)**

### **Manual Dexterity/Motor Coordination:**

Requires the ability to manipulate dental instruments to discern changes in surface textures, manipulate dental instruments without causing trauma to dental tissues, and to control pressure exerted by dental handpieces on dental tissue to prevent injury to these tissues.

### **Physical Communications:**

Ability to perceive sound through telephone, hear commands through operator's face mask, and discern blood pressure sounds through a stethoscope.

### **Reasoning Development:**

Requires the ability to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions.

### **Visual Acuity:**

Requires the ability to identify the working ends of various dental instruments and other dental implements at a 2 foot distance.

### **Language Development:**

Requires the ability to read and comprehend complex information from scientific and/or technical journals, papers, textbooks, etc. Requires the ability to communicate the same type of complex information through speech and in writing using proper format, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and using all parts of speech. Must be able to communicate technical information to patients at a level so that the patient understands his/her dental condition. Must speak clearly with correct pronunciation of dental and medical terms.

### **Numerical Ability:**

Requires the ability to determine percentages, convert fractions, ratio, and proportions as well as basic subtraction, addition, multiplication, and division. Must have the ability to understand and interpret the implications and meanings of the numerical values.

### **Form/Spatial Ability:**

Requires the ability to view in 3 dimensional relationships, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to other, discriminate intricate measurements.

### **Personal Temperament:**

Requires the ability to maintain a professional attitude and appearance. Ability to deal with stress produced by course load, clinical requirements, patient attitude. Must have the ability to adapt to change.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT  
IN THE DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM (Continued)**

**Physical Examination:**

Student is required to turn in a completed medical examination form within 3 weeks of the beginning the classes in order to be given a clinical assignment.

**Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Office (SRO) at 803-327-8007, located in the Student Services Building within the Counseling and Support Services Area. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students who self-identify their documented disability.**