

## **Technical Skills**

### **Intellectual, Conceptual, Cognitive**

A student must be able to use critical thinking skills to problem solve, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize. A student must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion for effective patient treatment and as required in emergency clinical situations.

### **Communication**

The student must possess the ability to communicate effectively in English with patients, faculty and staff using reasonable grammar and syntax in both oral and written formats. In addition, the student must notice and appreciate both verbal and nonverbal communication when performing dental hygiene care.

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

### **Reading Comprehension**

The student must have the ability to learn, retain and understand information from college-level textbooks and academic journals and understand written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

### **Technology**

The student must possess basic technological abilities sufficient to be able to use a computer, dental software, and digital scanning and radiographic equipment.

The student must possess the ability to send and retrieve information from a variety of electronic forms and to be proficient using a digital learning management system.

### **Professional Behavior**

The student must maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in The American Dental Hygienists' Association's Codes of Ethics and The ADEA Statement on Professionalism in Dental Education. The Standards are as follows:

- **Autonomy-** respecting the confidentiality of patients, faculty, staff and classmate's information and relationships as a demonstration of the value we place on individual autonomy. We acknowledge our obligation to justify any violation of confidence.
- **Non-maleficence-** accepting our fundamental obligation to provide service in a manner that protects all patients and minimizes harm to them, and others involved in their treatment. o **Beneficence-** recognizing the primary role is promoting the well-being of individuals and the public.

- Justice- value justice and support fairness by demonstrating consistency and evenhandedness in dealings with others.
- Veracity- accepting our obligation to tell the truth and expect that others will do the same. We value self-knowledge and seek truth and honesty in all relationships.
- Being accountable for one's actions, recognizing and acting upon the special obligations to others that one assumes in joining a profession.
- Develop collaborative professional relationships and exchange knowledge to enhance our own lifelong professional development.
- Acquiring and maintaining the high level of special knowledge, technical ability, and professional behavior necessary for the provision of clinical care to patients and for functioning in the dental education environment.
- Being honest and demonstrating congruence between one's values, words, and actions

### **Time Management**

The student must be able to manage one's own time and be respectful to the time of others.

### **Visual and Perceptual Skills**

The student must be able to observe a patient accurately, both at a distance and close at hand and to see details at close range.

The student must be able to differentiate various shades of colors in a limited environment and space in the oral cavity and must be able to distinguish shades of grey for dental radiographic interpretation.

The student must also be able to comprehend and mentally visualize three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures

### **Motor**

The student must have sufficient motor function to execute movements essential to providing all necessary patient treatment. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements and equilibrium. This includes the use of motor skills for:

- Performing palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic exercises
- Performing hard and soft tissue surgical procedures (dental only) o 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 use of the slow-speed dental hand piece
- The ability to use hand instrumentation for such procedures as scaling and root planning.

### **Other Sensory Skills**

The student must possess emotional stability and flexibility, which will enable him/her to develop the ability to function effectively in stressful situations. This includes the ability to adapt

to changing environments, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment and intervention activities and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships with patients, families and others responsible for health care.

The student must be able to demonstrate cross-cultural competency, concern for others, integrity, ethical conduct, accountability, interest and motivation

The student must have the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell which are necessary in assessing patients and maintaining their safety.