

**CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR: DENTAL ASSISTING AND DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS**

*Students: The following are the requirements that I must be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to enter, remain in and complete the dental program and become employable.*

| Category of Essential Function        | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Example of Technical standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| Critical Thinking/<br>Problem Solving | Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply information, evaluate the meaning of data and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting</li> <li>• Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations</li> <li>• Concentrate to correctly perform clinical tasks within the scope of practice and transfer knowledge from one setting to another</li> <li>• Respond appropriately to constructive feedback</li> <li>• Manage time effectively.</li> <li>• Prioritize actions safely and efficiently</li> <li>• Ability to solve math problems with determination of time, weight, measure, flow, volume and other basic mathematical calculations (ratios, fractions, etc.)</li> </ul> |
| Communication                         | Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal and non-verbal formats with faculty, patients, families, fellow students and all members of the multi-disciplinary team to monitor and assess patient and equipment function | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to actively listen, clarifying, responding to verbal and non-verbal behavior, respecting the personal space of others.</li> <li>• Use professional, appropriate grammar and cultural sensitivity in written and oral communication</li> <li>• Utilize computers correctly, effectively and professionally to acquire information and to communicate with others</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Interpersonal                         | Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with healthcare team, patients and families                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capable of establishing and recognizing interpersonal boundaries.</li> <li>• Interacts appropriately with all individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.</li> <li>• Shows respect for individuals of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, religion and/or sexual orientation.</li> <li>• Employs basic conflict management skills, demonstrating professional demeanor and behavior and must perform all aspects of work in an ethical manner in relation to peers, faculty, staff and patients.</li> </ul>                                                                                                |
| Behavioral Skills                     | Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability and reliability.                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate caring for others, initiative, flexibility, enthusiasm, honesty, cooperation.</li> <li>• Recognize personal limitations and request assistance as appropriate.</li> <li>• Performs duties efficiently, willingly, and thoroughly.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to conform to appropriate standards of dress, appearance, language and public behavior.</li> <li>• Advocate, uphold and defend a patient's right to privacy and the doctrine of confidentiality</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Emotional                             | Function effectively and                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capable of managing heavy schedules and deadlines; multiple priorities; and perform in fast-paced situations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| Stability/Coping Skills     | adapt to circumstances including highly stressful or rapidly changing situations.                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal with the unexpected, capable of focusing attention on the task at hand.</li> <li>• Adapt to change, and to focus in an environment with multiple extraneous stimuli.</li> <li>• Establish therapeutic boundaries</li> <li>• Adapt to a variety of workplace situations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Physical Abilities          | Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform patient care that demonstrates the ability to lift, push, pull and manipulate 35 pounds</li> <li>• Extended periods of sitting, standing, bending and walking</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Motor Skills (fine & gross) | Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to perform duties with the ability to engage in skills requiring the use of gross and fine motor manipulation of arms, hands and fingers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safely maneuver equipment and patients to safely perform duties within scope of practice.</li> <li>• Grasp small objects, pick up objects with hands</li> <li>• Ability to seize, grasp, grip, hold, turn or otherwise work with hands and fingers</li> <li>• Manipulate and work with fingers to manipulate dental instruments to discern changes in surface textures without causing trauma to dental tissues, and to control pressure exerted by dental handpieces on dental tissue to prevent injury to those tissues.</li> <li>• Ability to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures</li> <li>• Manipulate instruments with a steady grasp</li> <li>• Utilize both hands in a coordinated fashion</li> <li>• Hand-eye coordination adequate to utilize indirect vision</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Sensory Abilities           | Sufficient auditory, visual and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual – (corrected as necessary) recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, observation of oral conditions, patient observation and assessment, ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions and density in radiographs, be able to see in a darkroom, good depth perception and adequate close vision to see small lesions, deposits on teeth and distinguish color change; read and understand written documents.</li> <li>• Auditory – (corrected as necessary) recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb, equipment/emergency alarms, and effectively use devices for the measurement of vital signs, heart, breath, and abdominal sounds.</li> <li>• Tactile – palpate a pulse and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone and joint movement. Perform palpation of nodes and glands in the oral cavity and head/neck region in physical assessment</li> </ul> |

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_