



Dental Assisting Program

Eligibility Criteria

Students enrolled in the dental assisting program are required to successfully complete both academic and clinical requirements. The purpose of the Eligibility Criteria is to delineate the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills deemed minimally necessary for admission, progression, and graduation, and for the provision of safe and effective client care as a dental assistant.

The Alabama Community College System endorses the Americans' with Disabilities Act. Prior to enrollment in the Dental Assisting program students are provided the Eligibility Criteria. If a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate reasonable accommodations through the Student Disability Services Office.

Dental assisting students are expected to have the ability to:

1. Be independently mobile, with or without assistive devices, and be able to stand, bend, twist, stoop, squat, and sit.
2. Work in a confined space and remain in one location for an extended period of time.
3. Lift, push, and/or pull 20 pounds.
4. Reach and position overhead equipment.
5. Sustain repetitive movements.
6. Demonstrate the physical stamina to work a minimum of an 8-hour day.
7. Grasp small objects.
8. Coordinate eye and hand movements to satisfactorily manipulate instruments, supplies and equipment with speed, dexterity, and proficiency.
9. See with 20/40 visual acuity and possess sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate needs of the dentist and patient while working chair side.
10. Distinguish colors and discern variation in shades and tone.
11. Hear high and low frequency sounds within a normal range or otherwise distinguish conditions by equivalent visual signals.
12. Understand muffled communication without visualization of the speaker's mouth and lips.
13. Smell body and environmental odors.
14. Communicate effectively, including written documentation.
15. Correctly perform simple mathematical computations.
16. Be free of reportable communicable diseases and substance abuse.
17. Work in a clinical environment which involves exposure to persons with physical and mental disabilities, pain, stress, and communicable disease, blood and body fluids, hazardous substances / materials, odors, and irritating particles.
18. Carry out detailed, simple to complex, written or oral instructions.

19. Show problem-solving aptitude sufficient to organize and complete tasks safely, accurately and within an assigned time frame.
20. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired from multiple learning experiences and make decisions which display good judgment.
21. Seek supervision and consultation in a timely manner.
22. Work with a diverse population including persons of various ages, ethnic, racial, religious, alternative lifestyle, and socioeconomic background without prejudice.
23. Readily adapt to a changing environment by demonstrating poise, flexibility, positive coping skills, and effective responses, including emergency situations.

Safety is paramount in all health programs. Students shall not pose a direct threat to themselves or others. Direct threat is defined as a substantial risk of harm based on facts and that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through reasonable accommodation. A direct threat also includes an individual who knowingly engages in unsafe practices or disregards safety rules or procedures which results in a substantial risk of harm to themselves or others or in a substantial risk of damage to property.