



## Dental Assisting Technical Standards

### Purpose Statement:

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
<b>Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills</b>	Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations.</li></ul>
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues.</li><li>• Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals during all interactions</li></ul>

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	the healthcare team, patients and families.	
<b>Communication Skills</b>	Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal and non-verbal formats with faculty, patients, families, fellow students and all members of the multidisciplinary team to monitor and assess patient and equipment function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, patients and staff in a clinical setting</li> <li>• Document and interpret actions and client responses as well as treatment procedures in a clear, professional, and timely manner.</li> <li>• Use computer to document patient information, clinical findings, and perform web-based research.</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility</b>	Physical abilities are sufficient to move in one's environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move around clinical operatories, dark rooms, sterilization rooms, and other treatment areas and position chairside in close proximity to the patient.</li> </ul>
<b>Motor Skills</b>	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>• Administer CPR procedures.</li> <li>• Access radiographic equipment which is approximately 5-6' off the floor.</li> <li>• Transfer patients from wheelchairs to dental chairs and back.</li> <li>• Move, calibrate, and use equipment, dental materials, and supplies including sharp instruments during operative procedures.</li> </ul>

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
<b>Physical Strength and Stamina</b>	Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to stand and be mobile up to an 8-hour period.</li> <li>• Ability to work sitting, standing, and often stooping over a patient.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sight</li> <li>• Sound</li> <li>• Touch</li> <li>• Smell</li> </ul>	Sufficient auditory, visual, and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor vital signs and observe patients' physical responses.</li> <li>• Note color changes in dental materials which indicate reactions occurring.</li> <li>• Exercise tactile ability to perform dental procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>Behavioral / Emotional Skills</b>	Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability and reliability; Function effectively and adapt to circumstances including highly stressful or rapidly changing situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abide by The Dental Assisting National Board's Code of Professional Conduct</li> <li>• Advocate, uphold, and defend a patient's right to privacy and doctrine of confidentiality.</li> <li>• Act in the best interests of the patients</li> <li>• Function under stress and deal with patients and others who may be experiencing stress</li> <li>• Adapt to changing environments and schedules.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental / Occupational Exposure</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow safety precautions while working in the dental setting, including safely working with potentially harmful chemicals.</li> <li>• Work in areas that are close, crowded, and/or noisy.</li> </ul>

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out job skills in an infectious and hazardous environment.</li> </ul>

*Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.*

### **Accessibility & Accommodations:**

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:accessibility@southwesterncc.edu) or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

### **Signature of Understanding:**

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date