

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

To ensure patient safety and welfare, the Allied Health Programs have established “Essential Functions” which must be met by the student in order to practice in the profession. Specifically, the Dental Assisting program has established certain “Essential Functions” which must be met by the student in order to practice clinical and laboratory activities, as well as practice in the Dental Assisting profession upon graduation. Students must be able to perform all the Dental Assisting program’s “Essential Functions”. They are as follows:

1. Students must possess sufficient motor function, strength, and endurance with both hands and arms, as well as utilize digital fine motor skills to deliver patient care for varying lengths of time throughout the day.
2. Students must have the ability to adjust body mechanics ergonomically, move around in an operatory, work spaces, and laboratory areas, as well as lift 50 lbs.
3. Students must have the ability to tolerate frequent hand washing and/or use of disinfectants including hand sanitizing agents. Also, students must have the ability to wear protective gloves when indicated.
4. Students must have the ability to perform CPR in the management of a patient during an emergency.
5. Students must possess the physical capacity to participate in required laboratory, preclinical, and clinical experiences, as well as lift and operate equipment with necessary strength and dexterity.
6. Students must have the ability to utilize auditory and sensory perception sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs.
7. Students must possess normal or corrected visual ability in order to assess oral health conditions and perform clinical procedures on patients.