

## MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE TECHNOLOGY

### Core Performance Standards

The following performance standards provide descriptions of basic cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor requirements for successful Dental Hygiene Program completion. Applicants and students who cannot meet one or more of the standards will be considered on an individual basis in terms of whether reasonable modification/accommodation can be made. Reasonable accommodations will be examined in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as the Core Performance Standards. In order to successfully complete the dental hygiene program, an applicant/student must be able to do the following:

**Demonstrate critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.** *Examples:*

- cause-effect relationships in the clinical setting
- recognize changes in client's condition

**Display interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups in a variety of settings in the community.** *Examples:*

- respect differences among clients and exhibit an attitude accepting of clients as individuals
- establish rapport in order to communicate effectively with clients, families, significant others, and health team members
- work effectively in small groups as a team member

**Demonstrate appropriate verbal and written communication skills.** *Examples:*

- speak English coherently to clients, families, and other staff members
- clearly explain procedures for clients, families, or groups based on age, lifestyle, and cultural considerations
- provide clear, understandable client documentation based upon proper use of the English language
- convey information to other caregivers

**Exhibit physical ability sufficient to assist clients to meet health care needs in a variety of settings, including moving from room-to-room, to maneuver in small spaces, and to negotiate stairwells when necessary.** *Examples:*

- physical mobility and strength sufficient to propel wheelchairs, etc. through doorways and close fitting areas alone or with assistance
- stand, walk up to 75% of 6 to 12 hour shifts
- stoop, bend, squat, reach overhead as required to reach equipment and provide care
- lift a minimum of 20 pounds of weight
- perform CPR satisfactorily and respond quickly in an emergency situation

**Demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.**

*Examples:*

- demonstrate physical dexterity and coordination in delivery of care
- perform procedures requiring the use of 2 hands
- pick up, grasp, and effectively manipulate small objects
- calibrate and use equipment

**Display auditory, visual, and tactile ability sufficient to safely assess and care for clients.**

*Examples:*

- hear monitors, alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help, telephone, intercom interactions, and public address systems (codes)
- perceive and receive verbal communications from clients, families, and health team members
- read written words and information on paper and computer screens, small print, gauges, measuring cups, and other equipment
- discriminate colors; changes in color, size and continuity of body parts
- discriminate alterations in normal body activities such as breathing patterns and level of consciousness
- observe hazards in environment (water spills, safety rails, restraints) and harmful situations