



Health Division
Dental Assisting Technology Program

Essential Functions

The Trenholm State Community College Dental Assisting Program is covered by two federal laws that prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under these laws, the Program may not discriminate against a “qualified student with a disability”, which is defined as a student with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission or participation in a post-secondary educational program or activity.

The program has established essential eligibility criteria deemed necessary for enrolled students in order for the student to be able to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level dental assistant position. Upon acceptance, the student must demonstrate that they can perform the following tasks that are commonly performed by Dental Assistants, with or without reasonable accommodation. For students who believe they can meet or perform these standards or tasks with accommodation, the Trenholm State Student Disabilities Coordinator will attempt to validate their need for accommodation and will work with the program to determine if reasonable accommodation can be made. This accommodation will take into account whether accommodation would jeopardize dental assistant/patient safety or undercut an essential element or eligibility criteria of a course or clinical experience.

Students are expected at minimum to have the ability to:

- 📄 Be independently mobile and able to stand, bend, twist, stoop, squat, and sit
- 📄 Work in a confined space and remain in one location for an extended time
- 📄 Lift, push and pull 20 pounds
- 📄 Reach and position overhead equipment
- 📄 Sustain repetitive movements
- 📄 Demonstrate the physical stamina to work a minimum of an 8-hour day
- 📄 Grasp small objects
- 📄 Coordinate eye and hand movements to satisfactorily manipulate instruments, supplies and equipment with speed, dexterity and proficiency
- 📄 See with 20/40 visual acuity and possess sufficient enough peripheral vision to anticipate needs of the dentist and patient while working chair side
- 📄 Distinguish colors and discern variation in shades and tone
- 📄 Hear high and low frequency sounds within a normal range

- 🦷 Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the speaker's mouth and lips
- 🦷 Smell body and environmental odors
- 🦷 Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing, in English
- 🦷 Correctly perform simple mathematical computations
- 🦷 Be free of reportable communicable diseases and substance abuse
- 🦷 Work in a clinical environment which involves exposure to persons with physical and mental disabilities and to pain, stress, communicable disease, blood and bodily fluids, hazardous substances/materials odors and irritating particles
- 🦷 Carry out detailed, simple to complex, written or oral instructions
- 🦷 Show problem-solving aptitude sufficient to organize and complete tasks safely, accurately and within an assigned time frame
- 🦷 Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired from multiple learning experiences and make decisions which display good judgement
- 🦷 Seek supervision and consultation in a timely manner
- 🦷 Work with a diverse population including persons of various ages, ethnic, racial, religious, alternative lifestyles and socioeconomic background with prejudice
- 🦷 Readily adapt to a changing environment by demonstrating poise, flexibility, positive coping skills and effective responses, especially in emergency situations.