

**Southern Illinois University
Dental Hygiene Program
Technical Standards**

The students enrolled in the SIUC Dental Hygiene Program should be able to meet the established technical standards identified below. The technical standards for the Dental Hygiene Program are representative of those found in the Dental Hygiene profession.

Ability	Standard	Examples (not inclusive)
Physical Skills	<i>Students must have the ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of their hands, arms, and legs. This includes fine motor abilities like finger dexterity, manual dexterity, arm-hand steadiness and trunk strength. This must be done in a timely manner for safe and effective patient care.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the ability to bend, stretch, twist, or reach with your body, hands, and arms • Ability to stand or sit in one spot for an extensive amount of time as well as during procedures • Ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects with good hand-eye coordination • Ability to move your hand and forearm, and to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects/instruments. Constant repetitive motion with fingers, hands, and arms with the body usually in a seated position • Ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position
Sensory Skills	<p><i>Students must have hearing sufficient to perform tasks. Possess auditory ability to monitor and assess needs of the dental team and patient.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have vision sufficient for observation and assessment necessary during procedures.</i></p> <p><i>Students must have tactile ability to perform dental hygiene duties in a timely manner.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near Vision – The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer) • Utilize indirect vision during patient care • Hear and understand muffled communication without visualization of the person's mouth and lips • Hear questions/concerns/expressions of discomfort by patients during dental hygiene procedures • Detect warning signals on equipment • Have the ability to see instruments and supplies clearly without holding items closer than 12 inches from the face with or without corrective lenses and wearing safety glasses • Demonstrate sufficient peripheral vision to anticipate patient movement • Hold and operate instruments with correct strength for procedures • Able to tolerate exposure to a wide range of chemical and biological agents that could be potentially harmful
Communication Skills	<i>Students must have the ability to effectively communicate verbally, nonverbally, in writing, with groups and using information technology. The student must be able to interact appropriately with patients, peers, and with all members of the dental team. Students must be able to interpret and convey information gathered from communications.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convey appropriate information regarding confidentiality and informed consent to patients • Complete medical history documentation, including accurate pronunciation of terminology • Ability to discuss and ask questions regarding dental procedures • Ability to convey information in a clear, accurate, professional and timely manner • Listen and respond to others in an accepting and respectful manner
Critical Thinking Skills	<i>Students must have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data in a timely manner. They must demonstrate critical thinking, problem-solving and the decision-making ability needed during the dental hygiene process of care. They must</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to problem solve the dental hygiene process of care • Ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted • Ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events)

	<i>demonstrate clinical competency and the ability to participate in all clinical experiences.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem • Recognize medical conditions and treatment for medical conditions which require special precautions or considerations prior to and/or during dental hygiene treatment • Recognize the need to consult with healthcare professionals
Professionalism	<i>Students must demonstrate cross-cultural competency, integrity, moral reasoning, ethical behaviors and concern for others. They must have the ability to acquire interpersonal skills for professional interactions with diverse individuals and communities. They must be able to work cooperatively with intra and inter professional teams, adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice, and function effectively under stress.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a professional working rapport with the dental team, other health care professionals, and patients • Exhibit positive interpersonal skills during patient, staff and faculty interactions • Demonstrate appropriate impulse control and professional level of maturity • Recognize appropriate boundaries in relationships with patients and colleagues • Demonstrate good team building skills • Must possess the ability to handle demanding clinical assignments and handle the stress that goes with it • Demonstrate calm and effective behavior and responses, especially during emergency situations • Adhere to professional standards and policies with regard to attire, attendance, appearance, punctuality and behavior in professional settings • Practice according to the State Practice Act and maintain the necessary credentials for continuing practice
Safety	<i>Apply knowledge and experience to provide a safe environment for the patient, self, and the dental team.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently employ the infection control policies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and required by the Occupational and Safety Health Administration as this profession may expose the worker to diseases or infections presented by the public • Wear personal, protective equipment for safe practices (masks, eyewear etc.) • Maintain and operate equipment for safe use • Provide dental hygiene services safely in a variety of clinical settings that mirror standard dental hygiene work environments

Please note that you are provided with the opportunity to individually discuss the technical standards with a university representative. Contact Disability Support Services for further assistance
Student Health Center 220 Mail Code 4705 - 374 East Grand Avenue - Carbondale, Illinois 62901
618-453-5738 | F: 618-453-5700
disabilityservices@siu.edu
VP: 618-615-4492

Indicate your acknowledgement and understanding of the Technical Standards adopted for the Dental Hygiene Program by signing below:

Student Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

**Adapted from WCTC*