

The Essential Qualifications to be acquired, demonstrated, and needed for successful continuance by a student in the Dental Hygiene Program at Bellingham Technical College include, but are not limited to the following:

MOTOR SKILLS

Dental Hygiene students should have sufficient motor function to be able to execute movements required to provide care to clients in health care settings.

The student must be able to perform and function in emergency situations.

The student must be able to be on their feet for long periods of time and lift heavy objects.

The student must be able to observe a patient accurately, gather information using all senses, especially sight, hearing and manual dexterity, in order to perform dental hygiene procedures.

The student must possess the ability to develop fine motor skills for hand instrumentation.

COMMUNICATION

The student must:

- Communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, clients, family, and other professionals.
- Express ideas and feelings clearly, and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback.
- Be able to communicate effectively in English in oral and written forms.
- Be able to convey or exchange information.
- Be able to process and communicate information accurately and in a timely manner. The appropriate communication may also depend upon the student's ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

COGNITIVE

The student must be able to:

- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and integrate within the context of a dental hygienist.
- Quickly read and comprehend extensive written material.
- Evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.
- Possess short- and long-term memory sufficient to perform tasks.

BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL

The student must possess:

- The emotional health required for the full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the dental hygiene care of patients and families.
- The emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.

In addition, the student must:

- Be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with a diverse population of patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances, including highly stressful situations.
- Understand that personal values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect their perceptions and relationships with others.
- Be able and willing to examine and change personal behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships.
- Possess the skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.
- Be able to function independently, as well as cohesively.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The student must:

- Possess the ability to reason morally and to practice in an ethical manner.
- Be willing to learn and abide by the professional standards of practice.
- Possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

Upon admission, a student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation must provide documentation of his or her disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations. The College will provide reasonable accommodations, but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program or provide auxiliary aids that present an undue burden to the College. To matriculate or continue in the program, the student must be able to pass each course, performing all the essential functions, either with or without accommodation.

