

# TECHNICAL STANDARDS

## Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist

In this program grouping, students should be able to meet specific technical standards. These standards are the essential skills and abilities needed to be successful in a program, with or without reasonable accommodation. All Technical Standards documents are available for review on the Mid-State Technical College [website](#).

**It is important to review and understand these technical standards before applying to the program.**

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made to ensure access to academic programs, activities, services, and employment in accordance with Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. If accommodation is needed, contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator at 888.575.6782, TTY 711, at least two weeks in advance of needed assistance. Services available are documented on the Mid-State Technical College [website](#).

For more information, please see Mid-State Technical College's Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination [Policy](#).

TECHNICAL STANDARD	DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF TECHNICAL STANDARD
Auditory Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to detect audible sounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detect function and warning of equipment sounds.</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to apply knowledge, skills, and experience to provide a safe work environment.</li> <li>Ability to adhere to attendance, dress code, and personal hygiene protocol.</li> <li>Ability to demonstrate appropriate impulse control and professional level of maturity.</li> <li>Ability to work in an environment with potentially infectious materials.</li> <li>Ability to demonstrate adherence to safety guidelines and regulations.</li> <li>Ability to recognize potentially hazardous conditions and take appropriate actions.</li> <li>Ability to maintain immunization and health care requirements.</li> <li>Ability to utilize personal protective equipment.</li> <li>Ability to operate equipment, adhering to safety standards.</li> <li>Ability to identify and resolve unsafe situations.</li> <li>Ability to be familiar with and follow emergency procedures.</li> <li>Ability to respond to challenging situations while maintaining composure and professionalism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize gloves, masks, eyewear, and gown.</li> <li>Adapt to stressful situations in a clinical setting.</li> <li>Maintain composure with multiple responsibilities.</li> <li>Cope with stressful situations.</li> <li>Utilize gloves, masks, eyewear, gown.</li> <li>Display integrity, honesty, respect, reliability and accountability.</li> <li>Respond to challenging situations while maintaining composure and professionalism.</li> <li>Maintain the Dental Assistant Professional Code of Ethics.</li> </ul>

<p>Communication Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to convey information in a clear, professional, and timely manner.</li> <li>• Ability to listen and respond to others in a professional manner.</li> <li>• Ability to discuss details and ask questions regarding patient care.</li> <li>• Ability to listen and respond to others in a respectful manner.</li> <li>• Possess awareness of non-verbal communication.</li> <li>• Ability to observe, interpret, and respond appropriately to surroundings, nonverbal cues, verbal, and written information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss and ask questions regarding patient care with patient, family, and health care team.</li> <li>• Provide clear verbal instructions to patients.</li> </ul>
<p>Critical Thinking Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Ability to solve problems and make decisions in a timely and professional manner.</li> <li>• Ability to apply knowledge, skills, and experience to determine best/safe practice.</li> <li>• Ability to learn different electronic dental charting systems.</li> <li>• Ability to apply broad concepts to clinical situations.</li> <li>• Ability to concentrate to perform clinical tasks.</li> <li>• Ability to recognize the need to consult with healthcare professionals.</li> <li>• Ability to anticipate needs for procedures, provider, and patient, and respond appropriately.</li> <li>• Ability to prioritize patient care duties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document treatment records.</li> <li>• Prioritize tasks to ensure completion of assigned work.</li> <li>• Draw valid conclusions.</li> <li>• Ability to make decisions without immediate supervision.</li> <li>• Ability to perform complex tasks.</li> <li>• Follow processes from start to finish.</li> </ul>
<p>Interpersonal Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to establish effective relationships.</li> <li>• Ability to display cross-cultural competency, integrity, moral reasoning, ethical behaviors, and concern for others.</li> <li>• Ability to show respect for diverse populations.</li> <li>• Ability to work cooperatively within a team.</li> <li>• Ability to adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical practice.</li> <li>• Ability to exhibit positive interpersonal skills in all interactions.</li> <li>• Ability to maintain confidentiality.</li> <li>• Ability to recognize appropriate boundaries in relationships with patients and colleagues.</li> <li>• Ability to demonstrate ability to cope with stressful situations.</li> <li>• Ability to accept and utilize constructive feedback to enhance personal and professional growth.</li> <li>• Ability to work independently and in team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to work as a team member.</li> <li>• Work as a team member.</li> <li>• Establish rapport with patients and peers.</li> </ul>

<p>Mobility and Motor Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to sit, stand, walk, and maintain balance at varying intervals.</li> <li>• Ability to bend, stretch, squat, twist, kneel, and reach.</li> <li>• Possess arm-hand steadiness.</li> <li>• Ability to move in confined spaces.</li> <li>• Possess endurance, strength, mobility, balance, flexibility, and coordination to perform client care activities and emergency procedures.</li> <li>• Possess gross and fine motor skills to perform administrative, clinical, and laboratory skills in a timely, safe, and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arm-hand steadiness.</li> <li>• Sit, stand, walk and maintain balance at varying intervals.</li> <li>• Bend, stretch, squat, twist, kneel and reach.</li> <li>• Good hand-eye coordination.</li> <li>• Simultaneous use of hand, wrist, fingers (both dominant/nondominant).</li> <li>• Sitting for long periods of time.</li> <li>• Ability to perform repetitive motions.</li> <li>• Reaching forward and/or overhead.</li> </ul>
<p>Olfactory Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to detect odors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect abnormal breath, alcohol, gases, fire.</li> </ul>
<p>Tactile Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess finger and manual dexterity.</li> <li>• Ability to squeeze, grasp, twist, pinch, and manipulate small objects.</li> <li>• Ability to detect subtle differences through skin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect depth of veins and arteries, vibrations, pulse, temperature.</li> <li>• Finger and manual dexterity (squeeze, grasp, twist, pinch, and manipulate small objects at varying strengths).</li> <li>• Detect temperature of materials.</li> </ul>
<p>Visual Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess good hand-eye coordination.</li> <li>• Ability to visually detect equipment displays.</li> <li>• Ability to visually detect environmental hazards.</li> <li>• Ability to detect objects, symbols, and numbers both near and far.</li> <li>• Ability to detect and identify different colors.</li> <li>• Ability to detect changes in skin color, temperature, and swelling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Color vision.</li> <li>• Ability to identify the subtle differences in surface characteristics.</li> <li>• Detect subtle differences through skin (vital signs).</li> </ul>

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