



## **Dental Assisting Vocational-Technical Standards**

The dental assisting student will need to develop the skills necessary to relate to others, to demonstrate the characteristics of self-awareness, awareness of others and the ability to communicate that awareness.

Students will also be required to perform certain physical functions in order to successfully complete the program. They will perform them throughout their coursework and clinical experience and later in their employment. These functions are not conditions for admission into the program; they are listed for the purpose of alerting students to what physical functions may be required of them.

### **Mobility:**

In the course of performing dental assisting duties, the dental assistant may have to sit, stand, and reach overhead while standing or sitting. A dental assistant must be able to move quickly should an emergency occur.

### **Hearing:**

A dental assistant must be able to hear faint sounds such as those generated while taking a blood pressure or examining the teeth with dental instruments.

### **Visual Discrimination:**

A dental assistant must have sufficient vision to be able to discern gradations of colors and to see details that are not readily apparent in the mouth.

### **Coordination and Manual Dexterity:**

A dental assistant needs to possess hand-eye coordination skills and fine and gross motor skills to manipulate dental instruments and equipment with both upper extremities. Be free of pre-existing conditions that limit manual dexterity of their hands (example: carpal tunnel syndrome).

### **Communication Skills:**

A dental assistant must be able to communicate both orally and in writing with other healthcare providers and clients. Working as a dental assistant requires knowledge of communication through body language as well.