



## **Dental Hygiene Vocational-Technical Standards**

The dental hygiene 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. Dental hygienists are licensed individuals and are therefore held to a certain level of job performance by the State.

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 hygiene duties, the dental hygienist may have to sit, stand, and reach overhead while standing or sitting. A dental hygienist must be able to move quickly should an emergency occur.

### **Hearing:**

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

### **Visual Discrimination:**

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

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

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