

ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES

DENTAL ASSISTING

A prospective dental assisting candidate must demonstrate the physical and psychological ability to provide safe, competent patient care. Every prospective student must assess his or her ability prior to choosing dental assisting as a career. To understand the physical and psychological qualifications needed for successful dental assisting the functional abilities have been listed below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential training elements, cause undue hardship, or produce a direct threat to the safety of the patient or student.

Students must certify the ability to meet the functional abilities of the profession by a signed statement in the beginning of the program.

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES
CRITICAL THINKING	Ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause and effect relationship in clinical situations. Assimilate knowledge from lecture, laboratory and clinical arenas. Utilize basic mathematical skills.
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	Abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with clients, families and colleagues.
COMMUNICATION	Abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Explain treatment procedures and oral health instruction as well as document treatment procedures and client responses.
MOBILITY	Physical abilities sufficient to move in one's environment with ease and without restriction.	Move around clinical operatories, dark room, sterilization room, and other treatment areas. Position chairside in close proximity to patient. Administer CPR and BLS procedures. Reach radiographic equipment which is approximately 5-6' off floor. Transfer patients from wheel chairs to dental chairs and back.
MOTOR SKILLS	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective dental assisting skills.	Move, calibrate, and use equipment, dental materials and supplies including sharp instruments during operative procedures. Use ancillary aids chairside – mannequins, small equipment, etc.

HEARING	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hears patients, cries of distress, sound of instruments being properly utilized, sound of slow/high speed hand piece, and monitor vital signs.
VISUAL	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in dental procedures	Observes client responses such as skin color and facial expression. Monitors vital signs. Evaluates radiographs for technical quality including density, contrast and distortion. Reads records. Note color changes in dental materials which indicates reactions occurring.
TACTILE	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Performs selective coronal polishing, placement of sensors and retraction cord; mixing and placing alginate impression material, sealants and removing excess cement.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College is invested in full ADA compliance. The Disability Services Office is part of the K Ray Bailey Student Services Center. For detailed information contact the Disability Support Services Office at supportservices@abtech.edu or (828) 398-7581. An appointment with the Disability Services Coordinator is recommended in order to discuss any special concerns.