

In order to be admitted to or continue in the CNCC Dental Hygiene Program, a student must possess and demonstrate the skills and abilities outlined below. If a student is unable to perform in an independent manner, a Clinical Review Board will be convened to determine whether the student needs to be dismissed from the program.

STANDARD	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction with patients, instructors and other members of the healthcare team in verbal and written English.	Able to obtain information, explain treatment procedures, initiate health education training, describe patient situations, perceive non-verbal communications and show empathy. Able to interact with patients from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds & work efficiently in team environment.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability for clinical judgment and treatment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situation; evaluate patient or disease responses; synthesize data; draw sound conclusions. Able to work effectively in emergency situations, efficiently handle bodily fluids, and manage stressful situations. Accept and utilize criticism to improve to improve skills.
Mobility And Endurance	Physical abilities (including standing, walking, bending, range of motion of extremities) to move from room to room, tolerate detailed activity intensity for extended periods, and maneuver in small spaces.	Able to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation; move around in patient treatment area, remain seated for 60+ minutes at a time while focused on patient care, move hands and fingers in a small area while performing delicate procedures.
Motor	Gross and fine motor function sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care.	Uses sharp dental instruments without injury to self or to patients; manipulate various dental materials.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Able to listen to breath and heart sounds. Able to hear equipment monitors, such as x-ray equipment and autoclave timers. Ability to hear patient complaints and use verbal information to clarify patient medical history and diagnosis.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care.	Able to observe patients and use instruments in the oral cavity. Adequate close vision to see small lesions and deposits on teeth. Ability to see under low light conditions including those in the oral cavity, darkrooms, and dental operatories.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and scaling skills.	Able to perform palpation of a pulse, extraoral and intraoral structures, and feel and remove hard and soft deposits from teeth.
Technology	Technological abilities sufficient to provide adequate record and documentation of dental hygiene visits.	Able to perform basic tasks on computer systems including keyboarding for accurate record keeping, open/close of software programs for dental charting, radiology, or scheduling, and email use for communication with patients and other dental providers.