

Baltimore City Community College  
Dental Hygiene Program  
**ESSENTIAL STANDARDS**

All candidates for the Dental Hygiene Associate in Applied Science Degree must possess essential skills and abilities. These specific skills and abilities are necessary to complete the Dental Hygiene curriculum successfully, with or without *rational* accommodations for any disabilities the individual may possess.

***Baltimore City Community College Dental Hygiene Program required standards for all dental hygiene students are as follows:***

❖ **COMMUNICATION**

Convey, accept and interpret verbal and non-verbal communication that transpires between the instructor, colleagues, college personnel, and the patient. This shall include obtaining medical/dental/social history from the patient, parent, or guardian, and precisely translate and record all patient's findings accurately in patient's record.

❖ **ASSESSMENT AND SENSORY SKILLS**

Visually assess, bimanually palpate, and tactfully interpret hard and soft anatomic structures. Student must have appropriate depth perception with vision from a distance of 18 inches with or without corrective lenses. Identify and respond to symptoms of a medical emergency.

❖ **MOTOR SKILLS AND MANUAL DEXTERITY**

Perform OSHA infection control procedures (use of disinfectant and chemicals) properly. Utilize personal protective devices. Tolerate surgical gloves, face mask/shield, safety eyewear, and laboratory coat. Access the patient from a standing or seated position, with or without an assistive device (wheelchair).

Perform CPR for the Healthcare Provider and maneuver body weights of an adult or child with assistance per clinical/laboratory protocol. Activate all levers, switches, and knobs (hand and foot activated) to maneuver the operations of the dental chair. Execute dental hygiene procedures (scaling, polishing, x-ray exposure, and/or per course requirements), and manipulate dental materials properly.

❖ **CONCEPTUAL/ANALYTICAL REASONING**

Use concepts and judgments that are part of the standard of care for the dental hygiene profession.

❖ **SOCIAL SKILLS**

Exhibits respect and concern for all patients. Demonstrate a professional attitude and behavior under stressful conditions. Student must be able to interact with peers, patients, and faculty in an emotionally stable and ethical manner. Student must respect diversity of cultures among clinical patients, peers, and college personnel. Student must exhibit a team approach in performing necessary responsibilities in all settings.

❖ **ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

Upon acceptance into the program students may be exposed to Blood-Bourne Pathogens. As a part of the curriculum, students will be educated on CDC Guidelines and OSHA Standard Precautions and Universal Precautions in DH 150 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene course.

*I have read, understand, and believe that I will be able to meet the essential standards if I were to become a dental hygiene student at Baltimore City Community College.*

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*Print or type name*

*Student Banner ID #*

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*Signature*

*Date*