



TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR DENTAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS

University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry is committed to the principle of diversity. Consistent with that commitment, admission to the School of Dentistry is open to all qualified individuals and complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1993). These technical standards reflect performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the dental and dental hygiene school curriculum, including the clinical component, which involves treating the Universities' patients.

The following technical standards describe the essential functions that all students must demonstrate in order to be admitted and fulfill the dental and dental hygiene programs, and thus, are required for advancement through and graduation from the program. To successfully complete the dental programs at Detroit Mercy Dental, students must be able to meet the following technical standards with or without a reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodations do not require a change in fundamental program requirements of the curriculum, create a direct threat to the health or safety of others, or create an undue burden on the university.

1. **Sensory/Observation**

Students must be able to acquire defined levels of required information and skills as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic, behavioral, biomedical, and clinical sciences. A student must be able to observe patients accurately and understand verbal as well as non-verbal communication when assessing a patient.

The student must be able to:

- Perform dental examinations and treatments that require the use of sight and touch
- See fine detail, focus at a variety of distances, and distinguish the differences and variations in color, shape, size, and texture of soft and hard tissues, including discerning accurate depth of field
- Employ tactile sensitivity to diagnose directly by palpation or indirectly by sensations transmitted through instruments
- Use visual acuity to read charts, radiographs, computers, videos
- Acquire information from written documents and evaluate information presented as images from paper, films, slides, photographs, or video
- Interpret radiographs and other (illustrative) images

2. **Cognitive**

A student must be able to use critical thinking skills to problem solve, measure, calculate, reason,



analyze, integrate, and synthesize. A student must be able to perform these problem solving skills in a timely fashion for effective patient treatment and as required in emergency clinical situations. The student must also be able to:

- Comprehend and mentally visualize three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures

3. **Motor Skills**

A student must have sufficient motor function to execute movements essential to providing all necessary patient treatment. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements and equilibrium. This includes the use of motor skills for:

- Performing palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic exercises
- Performing hard and soft tissue surgical procedures (dental only)
- Coordination of gross and fine muscular movements
- Maintaining self-equilibrium
- Functional uses of the senses during dental procedures such as touch and vision
- The ability to operate controls for the use of high-speed or low-speed dental hand pieces
- The ability to use hand instrumentation for such procedures as scaling, root planning, and surgical interventions

4. **Communication**

A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, faculty, staff and classmates in an effort to:

- Convey or exchange information at a sufficient level that produces an accurate health history
- Identify health and treatment problems and provide alternative solutions and treatment options using evidence-based decision making skills
- Provide patient directions during treatment and post-treatment
- Provide and understand effective and efficient instructions with all members of the health care team

5. **Emotional and Behavioral**

A student must possess the physiological, psychological, and emotional health competencies essential for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities. This includes:

- Exercising good judgment in a professional manner at all times including classroom, clinical, and social situations
- Development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and colleagues
- Enduring physically and mentally challenging workloads and functioning effectively under stress
- Managing apprehensive patients with a range of behaviors in a respectful and congenial manner
- Accepting criticism and responding with appropriate modification of behavior

6. **Ethics and Professionalism**

A student must maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in



The American Dental Association's and The American Dental Hygiene Association's Codes of Ethics, The ADEA Statement on Professionalism in Dental Education and the DETROIT MERCY DENTAL Academic Policies Handbook. The Standards are as follows:

- **Autonomy**- respecting the confidentiality of patients, faculty, staff and classmate's information and relationships as a demonstration of the value we place on individual autonomy. We acknowledge our obligation to justify any violation of confidence.
- **Non-maleficence**- accepting our fundamental obligation to provide service in a manner that protects all patients and minimizes harm to them and others involved in their treatment.
- **Beneficence**- recognizing the primary role is promoting the well-being of individuals and the public.
- **Justice**- value justice and support fairness by demonstrating consistency and even-handedness in dealings with others.
- **Veracity**- accepting our obligation to tell the truth and expect that others will do the same. We value self-knowledge and seek truth and honesty in all relationships.
- Being accountable for one's actions, recognizing and acting upon the special obligations to others that one assumes in joining a profession.
- Develop collaborative professional relationships and exchange knowledge to enhance our own lifelong professional development.
- Acquiring and maintaining the high level of special knowledge, technical ability, and professional behavior necessary for the provision of clinical care to patients and for functioning in the dental education environment.
- Being honest and demonstrating congruence between one's values, words, and actions.

The Dental and Dental Hygiene Admissions Committees reserve the right to deny admission for any applicant who does not fulfill the required technical standards listed above.

These technical standards are not all inclusive and may be updated, revised, or withdrawn at the discretion of Detroit Mercy Dental without notice.

Approved by Dental and Dental Hygiene Admissions Committees, June 2017