



PARKLAND COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Students matriculating in and graduating from a Parkland College Dental Hygiene health career program must be able to meet the Essential Qualifications of the program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, or themselves. As an incoming dental hygiene student you will need, at a minimum, the following types of skills and abilities and will need to maintain and demonstrate these abilities throughout the program.

Students are encouraged to discuss their specific academic needs with the course instructor/program director prior to beginning a course of study. Consultation between Accessibility Services, the student and the program director are encouraged in order to address concerns.

If you have any concerns regarding these standards, please contact Laura Hettinger, Program Director at 351-2386 or by email at lhettinger@parkland.edu

Essential Qualifications	Behaviors
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn and perform quickly without repetition of instructions. • Utilize a variety of teaching/learning methods and strategies in both individual and collaborative learning situations. • Engage in decision-making and problem-solve in stressful situations. • Access, evaluate, and use a variety of information resources such as library services, electronic catalogs, databases in an efficient, ethical and legal manner. • Demonstrate the ability to self-reflect and respond to feedback. Comp I, II, III
Affective	Demonstrate professional attitudes including but not limited to excellence, accountability, initiative, responsibility, honesty, service, integrity, respect for others and compassion . Comp I.A, D, II, III
Psychomotor	Stoop, bend, reach, pull and push with full range of motion of body joints. Sit for long periods of time. Repeat same motions. Maintain adequate skin integrity, without the presence of open, weeping lesions of the skin. Provide direct patient care and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (as needed). Distinguish right from left. Utilize fine motor skills, such as finger dexterity and eye-hand coordination for manipulation of the x-ray equipment, to grasp and hold a variety of dental instruments, to perform data entry on a computer, for patient assistance and written communication. Comp II
Communication	Utilize the English language to communicate effectively in a rational, coherent manner with others, both orally and in writing, with individuals of all professions and social levels. Comp I.B, II, III
Sensory/Observation	Examine and critically analyze images or other forms of output created by diagnostic equipment. Observe and assess a patient with functional visual and auditory acuity to sufficiently assist and perform diagnostic procedures. Effectively attend to multiple features of a task, while focusing on personal and/or group interaction, and use divided/alternating attention between two or more tasks in a quick and safe manner. Comp II
Behavioral/Emotional	Maintain composure when subjected to high stress levels. Respond in an emotionally controlled manner in learning situations and emergencies. Refrain from intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs in such a manner as to adversely affect performance or activities in the classroom, lab or clinical setting. Comp II
Professional Conduct	Organize and efficiently use time to prepare for class and clinical. Maintain punctuality, positive work attitude and respect for others, professionalism and the ability to interact with persons of diverse backgrounds. Access transportation to attend classes and clinical assignments in a timely manner. Recognize and abide by the ADHA Code of ethics regarding education, licensure, quality patient care, and responsibility of actions toward ourselves, family, friends, clients, colleagues, employers, community and society. Deliver appropriate and compassionate care to all patients, maintaining honesty and confidentiality. Commit to lifelong learning to maintain competence. Comp I, II, III
Criminal Background Checks	No disqualifying conditions according to IDFPD which may prevent Illinois state licensure at time of application.

Revised November 2024