**Lake Land College Dental Hygiene Program**

**Essential Functions**

All students in the Lake Land College Dental Hygiene program must be able to perform diverse, complex, and specific functions and skills. Functional ability is a state of wellness. Therefore, these functions and skills are essential to ensure the health and safety of clients, peers, faculty, and other healthcare providers. The functions and skills include, but are not limited to, the following abilities:

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| **Motor Skills**   * Move within confined space * Sit/stand & maintain balance for prolonged periods * Reach above shoulders & below waist * Sustain repetitive movement * Sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, percussion, & other assessment maneuvers | **Fine Motor Skills**   * Pick up/grasp small objects with hands * Write with pen or pencil * Keyboard/type (use a computer) * Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers * Twist & squeeze with finger |
| **Critical Thinking Skills**   * Identify cause and effect relationships * Plan/control activities for others * Synthesize knowledge & skills * Sequence information | **Sensory**   * Visual & auditory acuity within normal range (with correction if needed) in order to observe a patient accurately at a distance & close at hand * Auditory interpretation of normal speech * Accurately interpret faint voices * Auscultate body sounds * Use depth perception & peripheral vision * Accurately interpret small print on medication contains, syringes, discriminate color changes, read type at 8 font, & document mentation * Accurately read monitors & equipment calibrations * Detect odors * Feel vibrations, differences in surface characteristics, sizes, shapes |
| **Physical Strength & Mobility**   * Push or pull patients to ensure proper positioning * Support patient during treatment, lift for transfer * Move heave objects, carry equipment/supplies * Defend self against combative patients * Use upper body strength * Squeeze with hands * Twist, bend, stoop, squat, climb * Move quickly * Physical endurance to complete a minimum 8 hour a day shift | **Interpersonal Skills**   * Negotiate interpersonal conflict * Respect differences in patients * Provide patient with emotional support * Establish rapport with patients & co-workers * Teach in an accurate & effective manner * Report patient information * The ability to use the English language to communicate effectively in a rational, coherent manner, both orally & in writing, with individuals of all professions & social levels. |
| **Emotional Stability**   * Establish therapeutic boundaries * Provide patient with emotional support * Adapt to rapidly changing environmental support * Deal with unexpected (crisis), handle strong emotions * Focus attention on tasks * Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently * Maintain behavior decorum in stressful situations * Maintain adequate concentration & attention in patient care settings * Maintain composure when subjected to high stress | **Analytical Thinking Skills**   * Transfer knowledge from one situation to another * Problem solve & prioritize, evaluate outcomes * Use short & long term memory * Identify cyanosis, absence of respiration, & movements of patient rapidly & accurately * Accurately process information on medication container, dentists/physicians orders, printed documents, medication administration/other medical documents |
| **Arithmetic Competence**   * Read & understand columns of writing * Read digital displays & graphics printouts * Calibrate equipment * Convert number to/from metric * Read graphs * Measure time, count rates * Calculate medication dosages * Use & read measuring tools |  |