

# ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES - TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND RETENTION

### Dental Hygiene Department

Dental hygiene education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills essential to the profession. The curriculum is stressful requiring both emotional stability and physical stamina.

Candidates seeking enrollment into the Dental Hygiene program at Farmingdale State College must meet the safety and technical standards in the following areas: communication, observation/sensory, motor, intellectual-conceptual, and behavioral-social attributes.

**Communication:** The student must possess the ability to communicate effectively in English using reasonable spelling, grammar and syntax in both oral and written formats. In addition, the student must notice and appreciate both verbal and nonverbal communication when performing dental hygiene care. Examples of communication include but are not limited to:

- Effectively obtain a patient's history
- Accurately interpret data from medical records
- Document pertinent observations
- Interact effectively with members of the health care team
- Explain alternative treatment options
- Communicate directions during and after treatment

**Observation/Sensory:** Students must be able to observe a patient accurately, both at a distance and close at hand. In addition, the student must have the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell which are necessary in assessing patients and maintaining their safety. Examples of observation/sensory skills include but are not limited to:

- Auditory ability to monitor vital signs.
- Visual ability to determine variations in color, shape, texture and consistency i.e. early signs of inflammation, skin changes (pallor, cyanosis and ecchymosis).
- Visual acuity to read charts, records, small print, handwritten notations and instrument markings.
- Tactile ability must be sufficient for assessment and performance of dental hygiene procedures, i.e. calculus detection, tooth defect identification.
- Palpation of pulses

**Motor:** The student is required to perform gross and fine motor movements, maintain consciousness and equilibrium, and possess the physical strength and stamina which are necessary to provide safe patient care. The candidate should have full manual dexterity including the functioning of both arms, both wrists, both hands and all fingers. Examples of motor skills include but are not limited to:

- Instrumentation skills requiring dexterity i.e. grasping, fingering, pinching, pushing, pulling, holding, extending, and rotation
- Controlled intraoral and extraoral hand movements of less than one millimeter
- Operation of foot controls for low speed handpieces, ultrasonic scalers, air polishers etc...
- Responding rapidly to emergency situations (cardiac arrest, respiratory arrests, falls)
- Transferring patients
- Protect and remove patients from an area in the event of a fire or disaster

**Intellectual-conceptual:** The student must possess the ability to problem solve, establish a plan of care, set priorities, calculate, measure, analyze and synthesize objective as well as subjective data. These critical skills are essential for providing quality dental hygiene care. In addition the candidate must possess the ability to understand and comprehend three dimensional and spatial relationships. Examples of intellectual-conceptual skills include but are not limited to:

- Calculate the variations in milliamperage, kilovoltage, distance and exposure time on the resulting dental radiograph
- Measure clinical attachment loss
- Develop care plans based on individual patients needs
- Utilize appropriate instrument adaptation

**Behavioral-social attributes:** The student must possess emotional stability and flexibility, which will enable their to develop the ability to function effectively in stressful situations. This includes the ability to adapt to changing environments, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment and intervention activities and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships

with patients, families and others responsible for health care. Examples of these behavioral and social attributes include but are not limited to:

- Ability to express empathy
- Ability to think and act rationally during a crisis
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior towards staff, peers and patients according to societal norms
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Accepting constructive criticism

Admission to the dental hygiene program is open to all qualified individuals in accordance with the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). However, due to the rigors of the curriculum and the immense responsibility for safe patient treatment a student can be denied admission to the dental hygiene program or disenrolled from the program if accommodating the student's disability would pose a direct threat to patients or would compromise the academic integrity of the program.

### Medical Laboratory Science Department

Candidates seeking enrollment into the MLS curriculum must complete the College entrance requirement of a physical examination demonstrating satisfactory physical and emotional health, as well as the necessary proof of immunization against measles, mumps, and rubella. Candidates will also be expected to meet the safety and technical standards that are necessary to perform the "essential functions" of a Medical Laboratory Scientist. The technical standards are in the following areas: observation-communication, motor, intellectual-conceptual, and behavioral-social attributes.

**Observation-Communication:** The student must possess the ability to communicate effectively and read, write and use the English language. In addition, the student must have the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell. Examples of observation-communication include but are not limited to:

- Read and interpret laboratory endpoints such as color, cloudiness/turbidity and texture.
- Identify stained and unstained cellular elements using a microscope.
- Report results in writing, orally, or by computer entry.
- Possess a sense of touch and temperature discrimination.
- Work safely with potential chemical, radiological and biological hazards.

**Sensory/Motor:** The student is required to perform gross and fine motor movements, maintain consciousness and equilibrium. Examples of sensory/motor skills include but are not limited to:

- Demonstrate manual dexterity of both upper limbs to operate laboratory equipment, and perform manual laboratory procedures such as pipetting, venipuncture, and plating microorganisms.
- Possess eye-hand coordination to operate a microscope.
- Respond rapidly to an emergency situation (spills, fire, disaster)

**Intellectual-conceptual:** The student must possess the ability to problem solve, prioritize work, calculate, measure, analyze and synthesize objective as well as subjective data. Examples of intellectual-conceptual skills include but are not limited to:

- Perform statistical calculations to interpret test results
- Sample measurement and evaluation
- Interpret quality control results
- Work on multiple tasks simultaneously

**Behavioral-social attributes:** The student must possess emotional stability and flexibility, which will enable their to develop the ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct in stressful situations. Examples of these behavioral and social attributes include but are not limited to:

- Fulfill commitments and be accountable for actions.
- Maintain composure in stressful situations, i.e. under pressure and with time constraints.
- Willingly follow directions.
- Recognize emergency situations and react appropriately.
- Maintain patient confidentiality.

A person who cannot perform the "essential functions" of the profession will not be considered qualified for entrance into the program and may be denied access without being subject to legal action for discrimination. Both section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against "otherwise qualified" persons with a disability. Those persons not meeting the technical

standards are not considered "otherwise qualified" to enter into the profession.

### **Nursing Department**

Candidates seeking enrollment into the nursing program at Farmingdale State College must meet the safety and technical standards in the following areas: observation-communication, motor, intellectual-conceptual, and behavioral-social attributes.

**Observation-Communication:** The student must possess the ability to communicate effectively and read, write and use the English language. In addition, the student must have the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell which are essential in assessing patients and maintaining their safety. Examples of observation-communication include but are not limited to:

- Listening to heart and breath sounds
- Responding to alarms
- Visualizing early signs of distress/complications, e.g. changes in skin color; assessing surgical wounds
- Detecting the presence of a foul odor or drainage
- Feeling pulses
- Effectively obtain a patient's history
- Accurately interpret data from medical records
- Document pertinent observations
- Interact effectively with members of the health care team

**Sensory/Motor:** The student is required to perform gross and fine motor movements, maintain consciousness and equilibrium, and possess the physical strength and stamina which are necessary to provide safe nursing care. Examples of sensory/ motor skills include but are not limited to:

- Transferring patients
- Performing skills requiring dexterity (insertion of tubes, medication injections, instilling injections, inserting suppositories, tracheostomy care)
- Responding rapidly to emergency situations (cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, falls)
- Protecting and remove patients from an area in the event of a fire or disaster

**Intellectual-conceptual:** The student must possess the ability to problem solve, establish a plan of care, set priorities, calculate, measure, analyze and synthesize objective as well as subjective data. These critical skills are demanded of nurses in today's complex health care settings. Examples of intellectual- conceptual skills include but are not limited to:

- Calculating medication dosages, IV flow rates
- Measuring intake and output
- Developing teaching plans for individual patients

**Behavioral-social attributes:** The student must possess emotional stability and flexibility, which will enable their to develop the ability to function effectively in stressful situations. This includes the ability to adapt to changing environments, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment and intervention activities and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships with patients, families and others responsible for health care. Examples of these behavioral and social attributes include but are not limited to:

- Ability to express empathy
- Ability to think and act rationally during a crisis
- Demonstrating appropriate behavior towards staff, peers and patients according to societal norms
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Accepting constructive criticism