Essential Functions of the Dental Assisting Program
Lake Area Technical Institute

All individuals who apply for admission to the Dental Assisting Program must be able to perform essential functions included in this document either with or without accommodations. These essential functions are congruent with the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry, the Dental Assisting National Board and the Commission on Dental Accreditation expectations of any individual seeking Certification or Registration as a Dental Assistant.

Essential functions are the basic activities that a student must be able to complete. Any student applicant who has met the necessary prerequisites and who can perform the essential functions of the dental assisting program, either with or without reasonable accommodations, will be considered for admission. A candidate must be able to perform the identified essential functions in a reasonable independent manner. The use of trained intermediaries is not permitted, in that the candidate's judgment would be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

The essential functions are the basic physical, cognitive, psychomotor, social and affective activities that are necessary for the successful completion of the Lake Area Technical Institute's Dental Assisting curriculum. Basic functions included are: gross motor skills, fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, mobility, hearing, visual, tactile, smell, reading, arithmetic competence, emotional stability, analytical thinking, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, and communication.

A student who has been accepted into the Dental Assisting Program and plans to attend will:

- Read the "Essential Functions" of the Dental Assisting Program.
- Return the signed and dated document related to Essential Functions to LATI Admission's Office, PO Box 730, Watertown SD 57201.
- If you have a documented disability and would like to receive accommodations, please provide the most recent copy of your IEP/504 plan or medical/psychological evaluations to Kristina Cloutier, Disability Coordinator at Lake Area Technical Institute. (For more information, go to www.lakeareatech.edu; click on Current Students; click on Student Services; then click on Disability Services), and discuss with your program director.

PSYCHOMOTOR FUNCTIONS	TASKS
Gross motor skills: sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective dental patient care	• Move within confined spaces • Sit and maintain balance for long periods of time • Stand and maintain balance for long periods of time • Reach above shoulders and below waist • Stoop and squat • Squeeze with hands
Fine motor skills: sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills and coordination of skills	• Squeeze with fingers. • Write with pen or pencil • Pick-up and grasp small objects and dental instruments with hands
Physical endurance: sufficient physical tolerance and stamina	• Sustain repetitive movement • Complete an entire assigned shift in a dental office • Push/pull over 50 pounds • Lift 40 pounds

Mobility: ability to carry out physical activities without jeopardizing patient safety	• Maneuver in small spaces • Move independently • Respond rapidly to emergency • Walk, without a walker, or wheelchair
OBSERVATION/SENSORY FUNCTIONS	**TASKS**
Tactile abilities: sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment	• Feel vibrations • Feel differences in sizes, shapes • Detect temperature changes • Feel differences in surface characteristics
Visual abilities: sufficient for accurate observation and performance of dental care	• Visual acuity (corrected) within normal range of eye chart of 20/20 and able to read fine print • Use of depth perception • Use of peripheral • Color distinction of restorations, warning lights and dental instruments
Hearing abilities: sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of patient health care needs	• Hear faint body sounds • Hear a range of tones • Hear normal speaking level sounds
Olfactory abilities: sufficient to detect significant environment and patient odors	• Detect and distinguish odors from patient and environment
INTELLECTUAL and COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS	**TASKS**
Reading ability: sufficient to comprehend	• Read and understand English printed documents • Read measurement marks and graphs
Arithmetic abilities: sufficient to do computations	• Use measurement tools recognized as central to care
Analytic Thinking: sufficient to perform deductive and inductive reasoning	• Evaluate outcomes • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another • Prioritize tasks • Use long and short term memory
Critical thinking abilities: sufficient to exercise sound judgment in patient care	• Synthesize knowledge and skills • Identify cause and effect relationships • Sequence information
Concentration and Attention Span: sufficient concentration on moderate to fine detail	• Daily tasks within the office, charting, completing procedures • Focus required for extended periods of time sometimes with or without interruptions
PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES	**TASKS**
Communication	• Be able to communicate effectively with Standard English, both verbally and written • Understanding direction from patients, dentists, families and other health care workers. • Responding professionally and effectively in unexpected situations
Interpersonal Skills	• Negotiate interpersonal conflict • Respect differences in patients • Establish rapport with patients • Establish rapport with co-workers • Demonstrate cultural sensitivity • Support and promote fellow students and other health care professionals.

Emotional Stability	• Establish therapeutic boundaries • Adapt to changing environment/stress • Deal with the unexpected • Focus attention on tasks • Recognize potential hazardous situations and proceed safely • Seek help with needed • Accept constructive criticism and work to improve performance

STUDENT VERIFICATION of ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

If an individual's health changes during the program so that the essential competencies cannot be met with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will be withdrawn from the Dental Assisting Program. The Dental Assisting Program faculty reserves the right at any time to require a medical release from a physician in order to assist with the evaluation of the student's ability to perform the essential functions.

Read the declarations below and initial only one (1) option. If you are unable to fully meet any criterion, you will need to direct your request to the DSSC at Lake Area Tech.

_____ I have reviewed the Essential Functions for this program and I certify that to the best of my knowledge, I currently have the ability to perform these functions. I understand that further evaluation of my ability may be required and conducted by the dental assisting program faculty if deemed necessary, to evaluate my ability prior to admission to the program; for retention in the program; and for retention and progression through the program.

_____ I have read the Essential Functions for this program and I currently am unable to fully meet the items indicated without accommodations. I understand that if I need accommodations, it is my responsibility to contact the DSSC.

Signature _____ _____

First and Last Name Date