The SHRP-Essential Functions were developed to assist students in evaluating their capabilities and opportunity for success in a particular program. Therefore, program specific Essential Functions indicate what is required to meet the academic challenges of the Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene Programs and the skills/functions required to be successful as an allied dental professional.

The following standards pertain to the specific cognitive, motor, behavioral and social skills associated with the educational Programs in the Department of Allied Dental Education:

**Programmatic Standards**

**Observational Standards**

The students must be able to:

- acquire a defined level of required information as presented through educational experiences in the basic and clinical sciences such as: information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstration in animals, microbiological cultures and microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.

- observe a patient/client accurately and safely and to acquire information from health care providers and other sources including: written documents and images from paper, films, slides or videos.

- interpret data (e.g., x-rays and other graphic images, such as digital intra oral radiographs).

Such observations and information acquisitions necessitate the adequate functional use of visual, tactile, and other sensory modalities. When a student’s ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to observe or acquire the essential information conveyed in this fashion.
Communication Standards

The students must be able to:

- gather, utilize and disseminate information in ENGLISH effectively, efficiently, and professionally using a variety of communication modalities.
- master basic computer and Internet skills and be able to communicate via e-mail, access course documents in the University’s course learning management system and to perform literature and other searches as part of course requirements.
- obtain oral or written permission from the course instructor prior to the start of the semester to use any communication or recording devices in lecture and/or classroom sessions and identify any restrictions.

Intellectual/Conceptual Standards

The students must be able to:

- measure, calculate, reason, analyze, process, integrate, synthesize, apply and retain facts, concepts and data related to the art and science of health care and provision of direct patient services including pertinent legal and ethical issues.
- perform problem-solving tasks in a timely manner.

Motor Skills Standards

The students must be able to:

- demonstrate the gross and fine motor skills needed to perform the necessary movements reasonably required to conduct allied health work in the Dental Assisting/Hygiene Program. (These may include, but are not limited to: diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures, such as the use of clinical instruments, diagnostic and laboratory tests and handling and transferring patients).
- perform prescribed infection control techniques (properly wash hands, wear protective devices, etc.) and utilize universal precautions to minimize exposing him/herself and others to pathogens (e.g., bacteria and viruses).
Behavioral and Social Standards

The students must be able to:

- demonstrate emotional stability with appropriate interpersonal relationships with peers, faculty and patients and be able to utilize effective communication skills.

- exercise good judgment and sustain an attention level necessary to complete all responsibilities promptly; be attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and develop mature, sensitive, professional and effective relationships with patients/clients (in well and diseased states from every socioeconomic status and cultural group) and health care workers.

- tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress.

- adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical setting.

- demonstrate compassion, integrity, concern for others, appropriate hygiene, professional appearance, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation throughout the educational processes.

Note:

Enrollment and continued enrollment of accepted students to Rutgers-School of Health Related Professions is conditional, based on fulfilling immunization requirements (see Exhibit 1, or Rutgers policy 00-01-45:52:00- Student Immunizations and Health Requirements) and the results, and the HIV, HBV and HCV policy (see Exhibit II or Rutgers Policy 00-01-40-40:10- Management of Occupational/Educational Exposures to HIV, HBV and HCV).