Dental College of Georgia
DCG Policy Archive
Policy Title: Performance Standards for Dental Residents
Policy Owner: DCG Academic Administration

POLICY STATEMENT
The Dental College of Georgia must ensure the safety of all patients treated by residents in advanced dental education programs. This includes the completion of treatment safely, at an acceptable level of quality and within an acceptable amount of time. In order to ensure patient safety, residents in advanced dental education programs must demonstrate and maintain the necessary cognitive and technical skills required for the safe and effective practice of dentistry. Skills that dental residents must demonstrate and maintain include observational, communicational, sensory/motor, intellectual/conceptual (integrative and quantitative), and behavioral/social skills. The observed failure or inability of a dental resident to demonstrate acceptable skills as described below may require an evaluation of the resident’s fitness for duty, temporary suspension from clinical patient care, and/or dismissal/expulsion.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS
Indicate all entities and persons within / associated with the DCG that are affected by this policy:
- Faculty
- DMD Students
- Staff
- Dental Residents
- Patients
- O Bio Graduate Students
- Visitors
- Visitors/Contractors
- Alumni

DEFINITIONS-
Performance Standards – Demonstrated cognitive and technical skills that enable the individual to satisfactorily complete the academic requirements of the training program and perform the necessary diagnostic and clinical procedures for the safe and effective practice of dentistry.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES
Motor Skills: Residents must have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute and coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional uses of the senses of touch and vision to enable them to perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests, and diagnostic procedures. Residents must have sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate and control dental instruments and devices so that they can perform dental procedures in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

Sensory/Observation: Residents must have the visual acuity to be able to acquire information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and clinical sciences to enable them to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand; to discern differences and variation in color, shape, and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues; to read charts, records, small print and handwritten notation; and interpret digitized radiographic images and other images, with or without the use of assistive devices.
Communication: Residents must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, at a level sufficient to collect data, fabricate and explain treatment options and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The resident must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Cognitive: Residents must be able to collect, organize, prioritize, analyze and assimilate large amounts of technically detailed and complex information in a timely fashion, and apply this information appropriately for problem solving and decision-making.

Behavioral: Residents must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Residents must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, to function effectively under stress, to interact appropriately with supervising faculty and co-workers, and to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

Ethics and Professionalism: Residents must maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in the DCG Code of Conduct for Advanced Dental Education Programs, the American Dental Association's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, and the Augusta University Student Code of Conduct. Residents must conduct themselves as trustworthy and responsible citizens with impeccable integrity in their interactions with all members of the dental educational community, including the public. A resident must refrain from actions that detract from the professional atmosphere of the DCG or University at all times while on the University campus as well as when attending any school-sponsored activities or off-campus professional meetings.

Policy Review Cycle: This policy will be reviewed every 3 years to confirm compliance with USG/AU guidelines.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

RELATED POLICIES
- DCG Policy No. X Technical Standards for Admissions and Matriculation

APPROVED BY:
DCG Advanced Education Committee Date: 10/13/2016