



## **INHERENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **Bachelor of Science (Oral Health Therapy)**

#### **WHAT ARE INHERENT REQUIREMENTS?**

The Oral Health Therapy course at Curtin University aims to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and competencies required for the safe and effective practice of Oral Health Therapy. Certain Inherent Requirements or abilities are necessary for admission, progression and graduation. In a course such as Oral Health Therapy, students must be able to cope with the demands of the theoretical component, as well as its application in the practical and clinical placements, which requires other types of physical and intellectual capabilities. It is a requirement that Oral Health Therapy students attend the compulsory simulation clinics, tutorials and placements that may take place outside the normal academic year.

The following Inherent Requirements apply to the Bachelor of Science (Oral Health Therapy) course at Curtin University. They have been developed to ensure all prospective and current students understand what will be expected of them to meet the registration standards set by the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(AHPRA\)](#), and therefore make informed choices about their course of study.

#### **WHAT IF YOU DON'T MEET ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS?**

Curtin University welcomes applications from students with disabilities. The list of Inherent Requirements should be particularly helpful for students with disabilities to determine whether they can meet the demands of the Oral Health Therapy course. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to consult Curtin University's AccessAbility Services and the Course Coordinator – as early as possible – to determine whether reasonable adjustments to learning and/or assessment environments will enable you to meet the academic requirements of the course. If the Inherent Requirements still cannot be met following reasonable adjustments to learning and/or assessment environments, you may fail an essential component of the course. To avoid this, an advisor may provide guidance about alternative study options that better suit your abilities.

Reasonable adjustments must:

- Adhere to legislative and regulatory requirements
- Adhere to the Statutes, Rules, Policies and Guidelines of Curtin University and professional dental organisations
- Maintain ethical and professional behaviour
- Maintain the academic integrity of a course
- Attempt to provide equal opportunity to the student, without providing an unfair advantage
- Not cause unjustifiable hardship to the University or any persons concerned
- Not impact on your health and welfare, or that of others

### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 1: Compliance with Australian Law and professional regulations**

Compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements reduces the risk of harm to self and others in clinical and related settings, and ensures students are responsible and accountable for their practice.

Examples:

- Meet the requirements for student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Meet the AHPRA conditions of registration in relation to criminal convictions
- Comply with relevant legislation including child protection and safety, work health and safety, and anti-discrimination legislation

### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 2: Ethical, professional and co-operative behaviour in academic and clinical environments**

Compliance with codes of conduct, codes of ethics, standards, guidelines and policies relevant to the University and the Oral Health Therapy profession facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and those with whom they interact, and ensures their physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Examples:

- Comply with academic and non-academic codes of conduct and professional standards, including those relating to academic integrity, informed consent, privacy and behaviour that respects personal and professional boundaries
- Work with others effectively, co-operatively, and in a professional manner in diverse and changing academic and practical experience settings (classrooms, laboratories and clinical settings)

### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 3: Safe practice**

Compliance with current scope of practice, workplace health and safety, infection control procedures are required for the safety of students, staff and others.

Examples:

- Adhere to immunisation and health screening requirements for the course
- Be aware and provide evidence of blood-borne virus status at or before entry into the course
- In cases where a student tests positive to an infection with a blood-borne virus, this may preclude them from being able to undertake some of the requirements for clinical placements
- Comply with relevant Workplace Health and Safety policies for equipment use and storage
- Be able to demonstrate and practice standard infection control precautions
- Be able to wash your hands and forearms with disinfecting products
- Be able to use protective barriers which may include gloves, gowns, plastic aprons, masks, eye shields or goggles
- Dress appropriately for laboratories and clinical settings

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 4: Intellectual skills for learning, recall and reasoning**

The acquisition and recall of knowledge, consistent and effective processing of information, attention to detail, theoretical deliberation (comparison of options) and life-long learning behaviours are required for safe practice in oral health therapy.

Examples:

- Locate and evaluate evidence in a critical and scientific manner to support oral health care
- Gather, comprehend, integrate and organise patient clinical records and information
- Make safe and appropriate patient-care decisions from retained knowledge and sourced evidence
- Notice and respond effectively to small but critical changes in patient information, or reported symptoms
- Understand scientific method and the role of research in advancing knowledge and clinical practice
- Competently use information and communication technology, including search engines, common software and online forms

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 5: Metacognitive skills**

Understanding and ongoing learning about oneself is required for safe and effective development as a student oral health therapist. This includes awareness of own thinking, and the ability to evaluate and adapt to challenges in learning and clinical practice environments.

Examples:

- Manage uncertainties in scientific and clinical decision making
- Be aware of, and take responsibility for, own personal role in inter-personal and team interactions
- Recognise when one's own thinking differs from another person's perspective
- Receive and respond appropriately to constructive feedback, including learning from academic and clinical setbacks

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 6: English literacy (reading and comprehension)**

Competence in reading and comprehension in English is required for safe and effective development as a student oral health therapist in Australia.

Examples:

- Read and comprehend handwriting, online and printed materials
- Read and interpret clinical charts and records
- Integrate and summarise information in a meaningful manner

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 7: Verbal communication in English**

Effective verbal English communication with patients and university and clinical staff is required for effective learning and safe and effective practice. Verbal English must allow for fluid, precise and comprehensible two-way discussions, at conversational speed, audible speaking volume, and appropriate tone of voice.

Examples:

- Building conversational rapport with a patient to encourage their trust and cooperation in the healthcare consultation
- Presenting clear information in a timely manner that ensures patients are advised of and understand care and treatment options to be provided
- Communicating effectively and clearly with clinical tutors and supervisors involved in the patients' care
- Questioning directions and decisions that are unclear
- Providing timely and audible responses to classes and groups in classroom, laboratory and workplace settings
- Presenting information to an audience of health professionals

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 8: Non-verbal communication**

An ability to recognise, interpret and respond to non-verbal cues is essential for effective communication as a developing health professional. Student oral health therapists need to demonstrate respectful non-verbal behaviour, and be sensitive to individual and cultural variations in non-verbal communication.

Examples:

- Communicate respectfully with people of different gender, sexuality and age, and from diverse cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds
- Use appropriate eye contact, gestures, facial expression and an open body language to build rapport and demonstrate understanding and empathy
- Sensitivity to non-verbal communication and respond appropriately (in context). E.g. patient in pain or distress

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 9: Written communication in English**

Effective communication using written English is required to produce a cohesive academic argument and demonstrate academic writing conventions, including paraphrasing. Written communication must be at an appropriate level for the audience.

Examples:

- Summarise and appropriately reference a range of literature in written assignments
- Construct written arguments using grammatically-correct and meaningful sentences
- Produce accurate, concise, clear, legally-compliant patient notes in both handwritten and electronic formats, in a timely manner
- Produce accurate, concise and clear reports from practical work

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 10: Auditory sensory ability (hearing)**

Functional hearing, using corrective aids where needed, is required to manage in the university and clinical learning environments, and for safe and effective practice.

Examples:

- Observe auditory alarms, warnings and directions in university and clinical environments
- Differentiate sound across a wide spectrum of tone, pitch and volume (including distinguishing speech and background noise)

- Understand and respond to verbal communications accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner
- Follow developing discussions with healthcare colleagues regarding patients
- Listen to nuances in patients' bodily sounds

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 11: Observation/ sensory ability (sight)**

- Assess patient appearance, behaviour, posture, movement and speech
- Monitor the broader practice environment (including observing multiple patients and events simultaneously)
- Assess, diagnose and treat within the limitations of the oral cavity including discerning spatial relationships and using reflected vision tools (mirrors)
- Judge the quality of radiographic images produced, having sufficient visual acuity to allow for distinction of optical contrast, low contrast and small image details

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 12: Tactile sensory ability (touch)**

Functional touch sensation, ability to apply appropriate pressure, and appropriate use of touch are required to manage in the university and clinical learning environments, and for safe and effective practice.

Examples:

- The ability to perform dental procedures using dental handpieces, tools and instruments in a safe and effective manner
- Be comfortable touching people of any gender, and in a professionally-appropriate manner, to observe signs and symptoms, and provide dental care as required

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 13: Gross motor ability (larger movement)**

Functional movement is required to manage in the university and clinical learning environments, and for safe and effective practice. This includes sufficient strength, range of motion, coordination and independent mobility (using mobility aids if necessary) to meet practice needs in a time-constrained and confined environment.

Examples:

- Being able to manoeuvre around equipment and in confined spaces (e.g. workstations, laboratory benches, dental cubicles)
- Maintain a standing position while using both upper limbs to perform a task
- Have the physical capability to provide emergency life support
- Travel to, and participate in, clinical placements and other fieldwork, and meet the physical demands of those sites

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 14: Fine motor ability (delicate control)**

Fine-motor manual skills and dexterity are required to perform dental procedures and deliver safe and effective treatments.

Examples:

- Manage and treat oral conditions and diseases, pain and pathology of the dentition, mouth and associated structures
- Effectively and independently manipulate small objects and carry instruments, materials and equipment used in dental care. This includes having the manual dexterity to perform a range of skills associated with patient care which includes cutting, pinching, extending, pulling and twisting
- Complete clinical tasks in a safe and reasonable time frame

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 15: Self-regulated and sustained performance**

Functional and sustainable physical, cognitive and psychosocial performance is required to complete complex and extended practice tasks safely and effectively in time-constrained environments. Interruptions to consciousness (e.g. from uncontrolled epilepsy, poorly managed diabetes, narcolepsy or repetitive fainting) present significant risks to own and others' safety in university and clinical environments.

Examples:

- Maintain a level of concentration to focus on an activity to completion
- Perform acts of dentistry over a prolonged period (5-6hours) with appropriate breaks
- Sustain study practices and clinical performance to ensure effective learning and application of that learning

#### **INHERENT REQUIREMENT 16: Behavioural stability and adaptability**

Student Oral Health Therapists will need to adapt their behaviour to manage their emotional responses in changing and unpredictable environments. Student oral health therapists will also need to demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and social interactions during times of additional stressors in their own lives; this may require seeking counselling and/or withdrawing from study.

Examples:

- Control the expression of own emotions to maintain a professional, respectful environment when working with people of varied personal and professional backgrounds and in times of increased stressors or workloads
- Manage multiple tasks and complex demands with composure and focus
- Accept and fulfil responsibilities for patient care
- Manage own physical and mental health effectively, ensuring appropriate others are aware of conditions that may fluctuate and impact performance
- Be receptive and respond appropriately to constructive feedback
- Be able to work effectively in the face of uncertainty and adapt to changing environments