

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Skills or abilities for success in this profession and this program:

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program curriculum offers a foundation of training pertaining to extensive, direct patient contact that may include performing and assisting with invasive procedures. The sonographer must be able to interact compassionately and effectively with people who range from healthy to critically ill. The professional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Obtaining and recording an accurate patient history
2. Performing diagnostic procedures and obtaining diagnostic images
3. Analyzing technical information using critical thinking skills
4. Using independent judgment in recognizing the need to extend the scope of the procedure according to the diagnostic findings
5. Provide an oral and written summary of the technical findings to the physician for medical diagnosis
6. Provide quality patient care
7. Collaborate with physicians and other members of the health care team using above average command of English language, writing and language skills
8. Ability to accept and learn from constructive criticism from instructors and clinical coordinators.
9. Maturity to manage difficult situations and disgruntled patients, and to take responsibility for your own actions. Ability to accept direction and instruction, and acknowledge when incorrect/wrong. To ask for clarification.
10. Ethical and honest in all areas of life, professionalism, and good work ethic.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

1. Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
2. Push and pull routinely
3. Bend and stoop routinely
4. Have full use of both hands, wrists, and shoulders
5. Distinguish audible sounds of at least 30 decibels for both ears for Doppler assessment
6. Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
7. Work standing on their feet 80% of the time for 8-10 hours per day depending upon scheduled
8. Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured
9. Assist patients on and off the examining table
10. Communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals
11. Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence
12. Sustain repetitive motion of both upper extremities

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography student must have sufficient strength, motor coordination, manual dexterity, and mental or intellectual capacity and sensory function to be able to:

1. Transport, move, lift, or transfer patients from a wheelchair or gurney to the sonography table or to a patient bed.
2. To maneuver a totally helpless adult to the side of a bed and to turn and position the patient.
3. To physically maneuver and support a helpless adult.
4. Move, adjust, and manipulate a variety of ultrasound equipment (including the physical transportation of portable ultrasound machines) in order to arrange the equipment and align it properly with respect to the patient according to the established procedure and standards of speed and accuracy.
5. Maneuver well enough to physically protect oneself from possible injury caused by an emotionally disturbed or developmentally disabled patient.
6. Respond rapidly to situations involving the health and safety of patients, providing physical and emotional support to the patient during a sonographic

procedure which may require basic first aid and emergency care in the absence or until the physician arrives.

7. Handle stressful situations related to technical and procedural standards and patient care situations.
8. Hear well enough (average of 30 decibels for both ears) to respond to directions or calls for help from individuals remote from the location of the student.
9. Communicate verbally in an effective manner in order to explain and direct patients as it relates to their examination.
10. Calculate and select appropriate sonography image parameters according to the individual needs of the patient and the requirements of the procedure with speed and accuracy.
11. View and evaluate the recorded images for the purposes of identifying proper patient position, accurate procedural sequencing, proper sonographic density and other established technical qualities.
12. Have the mental capacity above normal and stable- free of stress related health concerns (i.e. migraines, substance abuse, depression)
13. Physical stamina- ability to stand for 8 hours per day not including breaks.