

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Technical Standards

Technical Standards have been established to serve as a guidance tool for students entering into the profession of sonography. These standards present a realistic standard for students to function successfully in the program and ultimately in the profession.

Objectives of the program may require the student to possess:

- Sufficient ability to monitor the patient and machine controls from a distance of 20 inches in a darkened room
- Sufficient ability to detect and monitor vital signs and receive communication from patients and members of the health care team
- Sufficient communication skills to relay instruction and/or needs promptly and efficiently to patient and health care workers
- Sufficient gross and fine motor skills to:
 - manipulate equipment by pushing buttons, operating keyboards, and turning dials
 - simultaneously manipulate controls with one hand and manipulate the transducer with the other hand - maintaining steady pressure on the patient
 - stretch around/over patients and carts to achieve optimal scanning planes yet maintain contact with the machine controls
 - transfer, move or lift patients from wheelchairs or stretchers to the exam table or patient bed
 - lift a minimum of 50 pounds
 - stand or walk a minimum of 50% of clinical time
 - push heavy equipment across carpeted floors and up ramps
- Satisfactory intellectual and emotional functions to:
 - review images and evaluate for completeness of examination
 - utilize independent judgment and discretion in the safe technical performance of sonography procedures
 - adapt to changing environments such as flexible schedules and emergency conditions

The work of a sonographer involves risks and discomforts that require special safety precautions, additional safety education and health risk monitoring. It also may involve working with sharps, chemicals, infectious disease, and debilitating illnesses. Sonographers may be required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, goggles and gloves.