



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Technical Standards

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

The Clark State College Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has technical standards required of students. Technical standards refer to the physical, communication, mental, behavioral and social abilities required for satisfactory completion of the directed practice courses. These abilities are needed to ensure patient safety, provide accurate diagnostic information and function as a professional sonographer in the classroom, laboratory and clinical settings.

Clark State's DMS program is committed to attracting and educating students who will make the population of DMS professionals' representative of the national population. We actively collaborate with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and create a respectful accountable culture through our confidential disability accommodation process. We encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations. All students must be able to meet the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, as a condition of participation in the DMS program. Students should be aware that an accommodation that has been approved as reasonable for classroom instruction may not be reasonable in a clinical instruction. If a student is in need of reasonable accommodations for clinical, they should request those accommodations through the Office of Accessibility Services at least 1 week prior to the start of clinical. The DMS program faculty will work with the Office of Accessibility Services to determine if the student can be reasonably accommodated during clinical instruction and meet the technical requirements of the DMS program. Faculty will implement classroom and/or clinical accommodations after the student submits the approved OAS accommodation letter to the faculty member.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Able to be in one place for long periods of time, move frequently and maneuver equipment and stretchers in a dimmed room
- Understand information crucial for the safe, effective care and treatment of patients
- Communicate with patients to assess their needs and discuss patient evaluation with other healthcare providers
- Perform fine and gross motor skills with both hands
- Observe and assess changes in patient conditions
- Discriminate shades of gray and color distinction and assess images in two- and three-dimensional planes
- Ability to observe patients, manipulate equipment and evaluate sonographic quality
- Lift up to 50 lbs. and support 175 lbs. to ensure patient safety
- Transfer patients to and from wheelchairs, stretchers or beds

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Exhibit effective interpersonal skills with patients, fellow students, faculty and members of a health care team
- Assess non-verbal communication of patients
- Comprehend and respond to instructions and requests
- Converse with patients in an empathetic, ethical and confidential manner
- Understand and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients

MENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- Think abstractly, comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships
- Measure, calculate, rationalize, analyze, integrate and synthesize according to established procedure and standards of speed and accuracy
- Make appropriate decisions in routine and emergency situations, and in situations not clearly governed by set procedures

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrate good judgment in decision making
- Complete responsibilities related to diagnosis and care of patients without risk to self or others
- Follow established protocols
- Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others
- Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments
- Tolerate mentally and emotionally taxing workloads
- Display integrity, compassion, equity, and concern for others
- Exhibit professional skills at all times in the clinical and didactic setting
- Demonstrate respect for diverse populations
- Display the emotional/psychological ability to effectively perform the duties of a sonographer

The work of a sonographer involves risks or discomfort that requires special safety precautions, additional safety education, and health risk monitoring (i.e., infectious disease). Students are required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, protective eyewear, gloves and gowns.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 937-328-6019 or accessibility@clarkstate.edu. Although a student's self-identification as a person with a disability is voluntary, the DMS program will only accommodate those who present an accommodation letter approved by the Clark State Office of Accessibility Services.