

Sonography students must perceive and integrate information from a variety of sources. The sources include oral instruction, printed material, visual media, and live demonstrations. Students must participate in classroom discussion, present oral reports and successfully pass written and computer based examinations which include the interpretation of sonographic images. Completion of these tasks requires cognitive skills. In addition to the cognitive skills necessary in the classroom setting, students must demonstrate fine psychomotor skills to manipulate sonographic transducers, and sonographic equipment. Students must also demonstrate general professional behaviors such as team cooperation and the ability to communicate with others. Clinical education courses associated the sonography programs involve the application of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom and laboratory setting to actual patients in the clinical environment. Students must demonstrate intellectual skills by relating in a respectful and caring attitude toward all patients. The following outlines the technical standards and essential functions a sonography student must be able to perform for upon admission into the GTC DMS program. The sonography student must maintain these standards as he/she progresses through the program in order to continue with their didactic and clinical education.

Communication and Observation:

1. Communicate in a clear and concise manner in English language to people in various departments.
2. Read and apply appropriate instructions in charts, notes, and records.
3. Comprehend and apply clinical instructions given from departmental personnel.
4. Utilize keyboard for inputting clinical data into console, computers, and charts.
5. Visually monitor patients and review images in dimmed light.
6. Ability to hear within normal limits (aided or non-aided).
7. Ability to visualize colors.
8. Visual acuity of 20/60 in at least one eye (glasses or contacts permitted).
9. Accept constructive criticism.

Physical Capabilities:

1. Move immobile patients from stretcher to exam table using proper ergonomics with assistance from department personnel.
2. Push wheel chairs, stretchers and perform CPR.
3. Move loads of up to 50 pounds several times a day.
4. Reach up to six (6) feet off the floor.
5. Reach to position and roll patients side to side when necessary.
6. Maneuver ultrasound system throughout the clinical facility as needed for bedside exams.
7. Standing most of an 8 hour day.
8. Walking 4-6 hours a day.
9. Manual dexterity.
10. Ability to work long and/or irregular hours.

Intellectual and Communication Skills:

1. Ability to work in a noisy environment with many interruptions.
2. Ability to remember and recall a large amount of information.
3. Ability to accurately read and transcribe illegible handwriting or to know when to verify.
4. Ability to assess patient and other situations rapidly, determine the course of action, delegate activities to co-workers, and/or respond as appropriate.
5. Ability to explain procedures and patient preparations clearly, verbally or written.
6. Ability to calmly and politely cope in stressful situations, in emergency patient situations, or situations with other staff members.
7. Ability to assess work demands; organize and perform or delegate as needed.

8. Ability to effectively communicate in the medical environment with other health care professionals and patients/family members.
9. Ability to apply critical thinking skills when obtaining a clinical history from the patient and correlating that information with exam findings accurately.
10. Ability to maintain patient confidentiality at all times (HIPAA).
11. Demonstrate respect for a diverse patient population.

Technical Skills:

1. Adequately perform and continually perfect sonographic imaging techniques.
2. Understand and manipulate the ultrasound system's knobology.
3. Perform using fine motor skills to manipulate the transducer and equipment.
4. Perform all procedures and protocols without critical errors.
5. Work in the dark.
6. Recognize and interpret patient body language.
7. Distinguish and interpret Doppler sounds produced by sonography equipment.