



Technical Standards & Essential Functions

The following information outlines the reasonable expectations of a student in the DMS program. These skills are reflective of the typical job functions of a sonographer. The sonography student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a variety of classroom, lab, and clinical situations while performing these essential functions.

Please note, reasonable accommodations may be available through DACC's Student Accessibility Services office.

Observation/Visualization

Ability to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercises, and clinical experiences in the professional program component.

Ability to assess and comprehend the condition of all clients assigned to him/her for examination, diagnosis, and treatment.

Such observation and information usually requires use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.

Examples:

- See objects up to 20 inches away (ex. information on computer screen, skin conditions)
- See objects up to 20 feet away (ex. client in a room)
- See objects more than 20 feet away (ex. client at end of hall)
- Use depth perception
- Use peripheral vision
- Distinguish color (ex. color display on monitors, color codes on supplies, charts, bed)
- Distinguish color intensity (ex. flushed skin, skin paleness)

Communication

Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal, and written formats with faculty, other students, clients/patients, families of clients, and all members of the healthcare team.

Ability to read English and interpret without assistance.

Examples:

- Explain examination and procedures to clients
- Provide oral information (ex. to physicians/providers/clients)
- Interact with others (ex. health care workers, client families, clients)
- Speak on telephone
- Direct activities of clients (ex. positioning for test, instructions)
- Convey information through writing
- Collect, interpret and integrate information to make decisions

Motor

Sufficient motor ability to execute the movement and skills required to be a Diagnostic Medical Sonography student.

Gross Motor Skills

- Move within confined spaces
- Sit and maintain balance
- Stand and maintain balance (ex. at client side during exam, for extended periods of time during procedures or surgeries)
- Reach above shoulders
- Reach below waist
- Twist, bend, stoop/squat
- Move quickly (ex. respond to emergency)
- Climb stools/stairs
- Walk

Fine Motor Skills

- Pick up objects with hands
- Grasp small objects with hands
- Write with pen or pencil
- Key/type on computer and/or other devices
- Pinch/pick up, and otherwise work with fingers
- Twist objects (ex. doorknob)
- Sustain repetitive movements

Physical Strength

Sufficient physical strength to execute the movement and skills required to be a Diagnostic Medical Sonography student

Examples:

- Push and pull 50 pounds (ex. positioning clients)
- Support 50 pounds of weight (ex. ambulate client)
- Lift 35 pounds (ex. pick up child, transfer client)
- Move light objects weighing up to 10 pounds
- Move heavy objects weighing from 50 to 200 pounds (ex. portable ultrasound equipment, transport patients in wheelchairs/stretchers)
- Defend self against combative client
- Carry equipment/supplies
- Use upper body strength (ex. perform CPR, physically restrain a client)
- Squeeze with hands (ex. operate fire extinguisher)
- Maintain physical tolerance (ex. work entire shift)

Hearing

Recognize and interpret a variety of sounds.

Examples:

- Hear normal speaking level sounds (ex. person-to-person)
- Hear faint voices
- Hear faint sounds (ex. Doppler, blood pressure sounds)
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips (ex. when masks are used)
- Hear auditory alarms (ex. monitors, fire alarms, call bells)

Behavioral and Interpersonal skills

Possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgement, the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients and other members of the health care team.

Examples:

- Negotiate interpersonal conflict
- Respect differences in clients
- Possess the ability to tolerate taxing workloads
- Function effectively under stress
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical settings with patients
- Possess compassion, integrity, concern for others and motivation
- Possess the ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and a strong work ethic