

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Alabama College System endorses the Americans' with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy, when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities.

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective health care. The applicant/student must be able to meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the technical standards performance requirements delineated for sonographers with or without reasonable accommodations. The sonography program and /or its affiliated clinical agencies may identify additional technical standards. The DMS program reserves the right to amend the technical standards and performance requirements as deemed necessary.

In order to be admitted and to progress in the DMS program one must possess a functional level of ability to perform the duties required of a sonographer. Admission or progression may be denied if a student is unable to demonstrate the technical standards and performance requirements with or without reasonable accommodations.

The technical standards delineated are those deemed necessary for safe and effective sonography care. No representation regarding industrial standards is implied. Similarly, any reasonable accommodations made will be determined and applied to the respective sonography program and may vary from reasonable accommodations made by healthcare employers.

The technical standards delineated below are necessary for DMS admission, progression and graduation and for the provision of safe and effective sonography care.

Technical Standards

The technical standards include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Push, pull or lift 50 pounds routinely and more than 50 pounds occasionally.
- Bend, stoop, kneel, squat or sit and reach routinely.
- Independently perform CPR as defined by the American Heart Associational guidelines.
- Adequately control imaging transducer and manipulate equipment weighing up to 500 pounds on wheels.
- Have full use of hands, wrists, and shoulders.
- Adequately visualize and perceive image data on computer and video monitors to acquire and interpret sonographic image data with color distinction.
- Sufficiently distinguish fine audible differences including Doppler signals, patient and co-worker communication and patient conditions such as respirations or movements.
- Work standing on their feet 80% of the time.
- Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured to include good communication skills.
- Assist patients on and off examining tables.

- Fluently demonstrate English language skills to provide optimum communication with patient and healthcare team members.
- Follow verbal and written instructions to provide optimum care for patients.
- Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure.

Performance Requirements

The Sonographer must have sufficient strength, motor coordination and manual dexterity to:

- Transport, move, lift and transfer patients from a wheelchair or cart to a sonography table or to a patient bed.
- Move, adjust and manipulate a variety of sonographic equipment, including the physical transportation of mobile sonographic machines, in order to complete examinations on the patient according to established procedure and standards of speed and accuracy.

The Sonographer must be capable of:

- Handling stressful situations related to technical and procedural standards and patient care situations.
- Providing physical and emotional support to the patient during the sonographic procedures, being able to respond to situations requiring first aid and providing emergency care to the patient in the absence of, or until the physician arrives.
- Communicating verbally in an effective manner in order to direct patients during sonographic examinations.
- Visually recognizing anatomy on CRT screen.
- Reading and interpreting patient charts and requisitions for sonographic examinations.

The Sonographer must have the mental and intellectual capacity to:

- Calculate and select proper technical factors according to the individual needs of the patient and the requirements of the procedure's standards of speed and accuracy.
- Review and evaluate the recorded images on a CRT and archiving system for the purpose of identifying patient pathology.

Upon admission, an individual who discloses a disability can request reasonable accommodations. Individuals will be asked to provide documentation of the disability in order to assist with the provision of appropriate reasonable accommodations. The respective College will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to substantially alter the requirements or nature of the program or provide accommodations that inflict an undue burden on the respective College. In order to be admitted one must be able to perform all of the technical standards and performance requirements with or without reasonable accommodations. If an individual's health changes during the program of learning, so that the technical standards and performance requirements cannot be met with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will be withdrawn from the DMS program. The DMS faculty reserves the right at any time to require an additional medical examination at the student's expense in order to assist with the evaluation of the student's ability to perform the technical standards and performance requirements. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to the campus ADA coordinator. Only the ADA coordinator can determine reasonable accommodations.