

Physical Performance Requirements and Technical Standards

Students are advised of the following physical guidelines for working in the field of Sonography. These technical standards have been developed to better define the physical conditions necessary for a sonographer to function in the health care environment.

STRENGTH & MOBILITY

Rationale: In the field of Ultrasound, sonographers are very often required to lift incapacitated patients onto examination tables, to move immobile patients into appropriate positions for imaging. The inability to move, stand, or lift is an occupational deficit affecting the employment potential of the graduate.

- On your feet most of the day.
- Walking several hours of the day, either performing exams, patient transfers, or portable procedures.
- Assume varied postural positions (bending, kneeling, stretching) to work with equipment and patients meeting established procedures and standards of speed and accuracy.
- Lift heavy weight as necessary, either equipment or patients.
- Push/pull stretchers, wheelchairs, and supply carts as necessary.
- Must have a command of the English language to be able to respond in an emergency situation.
- Must be able to respond with speed to situations requiring basic first aid and emergency care.

MANUAL DEXTERITY & COORDINATION

- Able to perform manipulative skills using thumb/hand/wrist and arm and hand movements such as repetitive movement associated with scanning, positioning of equipment, assisting patient movements, operating a computer, and positioning table.
- Able to perform manipulative skills using the lower extremities, such as foot table locks.
- Wears protective clothing correctly, when necessary, such as gowns, masks, gloves, shoe covers when working with patients in isolation, and surgical gowns, caps, gloves, shoe covers for surgery cases.
- Able to perform manipulative skills bilaterally using thumb/hand/wrist and arm and hand movements

SENSORY DISCRIMINATION

Rationale: In Doppler ultrasound technique, an audible signal guides the diagnostic examination and is part of the output. A sonographer without an adequate sense of hearing and sight could not perform these examinations.

- Able to see objects distinctly and clearly with or without corrective devices.
- Must be able to hear patients when at a distance of 10-15 feet.
- Must be able to communicate with patients effectively
- Must hear audible sound between 3-15,000 MHz.

MENTAL ABILITIES

Follow oral and written instructions correctly