

Professional Description:

A Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, also known as a sonographer, utilizes a transducer, which uses sound waves to obtain images of various organs and tissues in the body. The profession includes abdominal sonography, obstetrics and gynecology sonography, cardiac sonography, vascular sonography, and various subspecialties. Sonographers are highly skilled healthcare professionals who utilize ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures, working under the delegated authority of the licensed supervising physician, to provide clinically relevant information to assist the physician with the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Diagnostic medical sonographers use independent, ethical and professional judgement, effective communication and critical thinking to provide appropriate health care services.

Sonographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, mobile services, private offices, education, and in industry. Sonographers may be required to work various shifts to provide 24-hour coverage. Some facilities will require staff to be on call to cover evening, weekend, and overnights. Sonographers are responsible to obtain and maintain the appropriate certification in the areas of clinical practice as required by employers. The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) are among several organizations that offer certification for sonographers. Certain states also require state licensure.

Technical Standards*:

Technical standards and essential functions have been established to ensure that students have the abilities required to participate and potentially be successful in all aspects of sonography. Students are required to meet technical standards and essential functions for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program outlined below with or without accommodations. If an applicant or student is unable to meet all the outlined technical standards with or without accommodations, he/she may be withdrawn from the program.

The following are essential functions an applicant or student must possess:

1. Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal and written formats with patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team.
2. Gross and fine motor skills for manipulation of equipment, computer usage and patient care.
3. Ability to stand or walk for prolonged periods of time.
4. Ability to bend, squat, or kneel to care for and position patients and adjust equipment.
5. Ability to assist with moving and lifting patients and equipment of up to 50 lbs or more, up to 50% of the time.
6. Ability to lift routinely.
7. Ability to push and pull routinely.
8. Must have full use of both shoulders, hands, and wrists.
9. Physical abilities to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
10. Ability to actively listen; oral comprehension, to perceive and react to audible communication or noise. Sufficient hearing to receive instruction, identify phones, alarms, beepers, and distress calls from staff or patients.
11. Ability to visualize and distinguish specific anatomy on monitors. The ability to visualize settings on medical equipment and to distinguish shades of gray and color.
12. Possess the emotional health and stability to be able to respond appropriately and efficiently even under stress or amidst distractions. The ability to exert self-control when dealing with patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team.
13. Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and make decisions.
14. Work independently to organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic exam in the appropriate sequence.
15. Possess the ability to demonstrate professional behaviors, a strong work ethic, and adhere to a high standard of medical ethics at all times.