

## Essential Requirements

Radiography students and professional technologists must provide high quality patient care while performing diagnostic medical imaging procedures. Students who expect to enter and successfully progress through the professional phase of the Radiography Program must possess the knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment to function in a broad variety of clinical situations with a diverse patient population. Candidates must demonstrate the capacity to develop emotional maturity and leadership skills to function effectively as a member of the medical team.

The Radiography Program has a responsibility to train competent radiologic technologists that demonstrate critical judgment, extensive knowledge, and well-honed technical skills. All students must possess essential skills and abilities necessary to complete the curriculum successfully. These include both academic standards (e.g., grade point average, exam scores, project evaluations) as well as the following technical standards:

Observation: The student/candidate must be able to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercises, group discussions, online presentations, and clinical experiences in the professional phase of the degree program. Such observations and participation usually requires the functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.

Communication: Students must have the ability to recognize, understand, and interpret required instructional materials including written documents, printed documents, computer-information systems, auditory information and non-book resources. They must be able to communicate with accuracy, clarity, efficiency and sensitivity when dealing with patients, nurses, doctors, preceptors, faculty, colleagues and others encountered in any clinic or academic setting.

Intellectual/conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities: Problem solving is an integral part of becoming an excellent radiographer. This requires that the student have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate and synthesize. Students must be able to use cognitive ability, exercise proper judgment, and efficiently complete all responsibilities. They must have the ability to follow standard precautions against contamination and cross contamination with infectious pathogens, toxins and other hazardous chemicals in order to protect their patients and themselves. The student must work in a safe manner, including the application of proper radiation safety standards. They must be able to identify and respond appropriately to emergencies and urgencies.

Psychomotor abilities: The student must have the ability to manipulate the stationary and mobile x-ray equipment, instruments, apparatus, and other medical devices. They must be able to manipulate knobs, buttons, switches, and computer devices that control radiation exposure and image production. They must be able to safely transfer patients to x-ray tables from such devices as wheelchairs, carts, stretchers, and hospital beds. Students must have sufficient motor function to successfully complete bedside radiographic examinations. Imaging procedures often require accurate and precise use of syringes, placement of intravenous catheters, and preparation of contrast media. Students must be able to withstand wearing heavy protective lead apparel (e.g., aprons, wrap-around skirts, vests, thyroid shields) for long periods of time.

**Behavioral and social attributes:** The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of responsibilities of patient care, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with other persons. They must demonstrate emotional stability to function effectively under stress and be able to adapt to changing environments inherent in the clinical setting. They must be able to acknowledge feedback and respond appropriately. The student is expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the didactic and clinical curriculum. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, commitment and motivation are personal qualities which each student should possess.

Because of the Essential Requirements of a radiographer, the Radiography Program strongly discourages the use of surrogates to perform these functions as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. It is necessary that each degree candidate herself or himself be able to observe and perform each task required by the curriculum of the Program which is written in accordance with our national organizations, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and our national accreditation body, the Joint Review of Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Similarly, the Program does not consider a waiver of required examinations and competencies a reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. All students must possess proficiency in a variety of abilities to fulfill Program and national organization requirements for an entry level radiography position. Students with disabilities, when appropriate, may be granted additional time on required examinations be examined in separate testing facilities, or accommodated in other reasonable ways. However, they will not be exempted from the requirements to take and pass such test.

The Essential Requirements should be used to assist students in determining whether accommodations or modifications are necessary to meet the performance levels. This policy applies to applicants and current students. If a student has a disability and requires accommodations to meet these requirements, the student must provide the Radiography Program documentation from the Office of Disability Services upon admission to the program of study or as soon as a need is identified. The Program will endeavor to make reasonable modifications and accommodations for students with disabilities, without compromising the essential requirements.

The Radiography Program makes no pre-admission inquiries concerning an applicant's disability. Information related to an applicant's disabilities is not a part of the information reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Determination is made on an individual basis as to whether or not any accommodations or modifications can reasonably be made. Students who have questions regarding these technical standards or who believe they may need to request reasonable accommodations in order to meet the standards are encourage to contact the MU Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/> , S5 Memorial Union, Columbia, MO 65211, **Voice:** 573-882-4696 | **TTY:** 573-882-8054 | **Fax:** 573-884-5002 **E-mail:** [disabilityservices@missouri.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@missouri.edu) ) or the Radiography Program at 573-884-2623.