

READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY STUDENTS

The Essential Functions have been established as a tool for realistically informing students of the minimum requirements needed, with or without reasonable accommodation to successfully participate in the Program. Applicants should carefully review the Essential Functions and ask questions if not familiar with the activities or functions listed.

In order to be admitted into the Program, the DMS applicant must affirm in writing their ability to comply with the following:

I. COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

- Ability to articulate clear verbal commands to the patient while the patient is being positioned for a procedure from a distance of a few feet
- Present cases to educators or physicians through concise verbal or written communication
- Act upon verbal and/or written directions quickly and under pressure
- Communicate and interact effectively with all parties in a healthcare settings (patient, families, co-workers, attending/referring physicians)

II. COGNITIVE ABILITY

- Must have the ability to comprehend written and verbal instructions correctly in academic and clinical health care settings
- Must be able to complete assigned tasks in a reasonable and acceptable time frame
- Have the ability to read and comprehend written classroom material, documents and settings on the computer screens, medical documents, and institutional policies and procedures
- Must be able to evaluate proper patient positioning and other essential factors for the purpose of quality control.

III. MOBILITY

- Must be able to move freely with full manual dexterity of both upper and lower extremities, have unrestricted movement of hands, neck, shoulder, back, and hips in order to assess, observe and perform emergency patient care, assist with all aspects of patient care, and be able to touch the floor for the removal of environmental hazards
- Hand-eye coordination
- Have good right and left wrist and hand grip and maintain prolonged arm positions for scanning
- Have the ability to appropriately position patients for procedures and safely transfer patients who may weigh in excess of 300 pounds (in wheelchairs and/or litters)
- Ability to keep arm and hand steady while manipulating transducer

IV. PHYSICAL ABILITY

- Must have the physical ability to move sonography equipment and manipulate the handheld transducer
- Stand and walk for extended periods of time (several hours)
- Lift and/or support at a minimum 75 pounds in order to lift and carry accessories
- Push heavy equipment up to 200 pounds

V. HEARING ACUITY

- Discriminate subtle sounds and audible Doppler signals
- Obtain patient history and pertinent information while patient is turned away from you or speaking from a distance

VI. VISUAL ACUITY

- Able to visually adapt to varying levels of light
- Acute enough to distinguish parenchymal texture changes and shading differences
- Distinguish colors and interpret color flow signals

VII. TACTILE ABILITY

- Feel anatomical landmarks
- Have sufficient tactile ability in order to assess a patient's pulses and changes in physiologic status (i.e. changes in edema, skin temperature, palpation of masses/lesions etc.)
- Ability to manipulate small knobs and equipment settings

VIII. OLFACTORY ABILITY

- Have the ability to smell odors that may signify a change in the physiologic status of a patient or an unsafe environmental condition

IX. PROFESSIONALISM

- Must be poised, well-groomed and neat in appearance, discreet, tactful, diplomatic, professional, versatile, ethical, and dependable in various situations .
- Must exhibit the capacity for reasoned judgment and calmness in a health care environment
- Must show honesty and integrity in all matters with peers, faculty, staff and patients
- Must display compassion, empathy, and concern for others condition
- Must demonstrate accountability, problem solving, and listening skills at all times