

Radiography Program Essential Abilities Form

The Radiography program essential abilities listing is to make you aware of the physical, cognitive, and mental capabilities you may encounter once employed in a radiography position. These abilities are typical of the demands of a radiographer in the work setting. The curriculum requires demonstrated proficiency in a variety of cognitive, problem-solving, manipulative, communicative and interpersonal skills. If you have any questions regarding these, you should contact the Program Director or the Admissions advisors. Please sign and turn in this completed form with your checklist.

Physical Activity Requirements

Occasional

- Crouching - positioning patients for exams and stocking supplies
- Repetitive motions - entering computer data
- Grasping - positioning patients for exams and procedures
- Pulling - moving items that can weigh as much as 100 pounds

Frequent

- Pushing - transporting patients in wheelchairs or on carts using up to 50 pounds of force. Moving portable and C-arm equipment with up to 50 pounds of force to areas of the hospital.
- Pulling - assisting and moving patients off and onto carts using 8 to 40 pounds of force.
- Lifting - moving patients (who can weigh more than 50 pounds) from wheelchair/cart or stretcher off and onto exam tables.
- Fingering - entering computer data and setting radiographic exposure techniques for exams.
- Carrying - carrying imaging cassettes that can weigh as much as 25 pounds.

Routine

- Stooping - positioning of exams and assisting patients in and out of wheelchairs.
- Reaching - positioning patients and manipulating portable equipment.
- Standing - all clinical assignments require standing.
- Walking- transporting and assisting patients into dressing/exam rooms. Walking to other areas of the department and hospital to do exams or have images interpreted.
- Talking - must be able to communicate verbally in an effective manner with patients, co-workers, and physicians.
- Hearing - perceiving the nature of sounds during auscultation (listening) and percussion (tapping on a surface to determine the underlying structure).
- Feeling - perceiving attributes of patients and objects such as when positioning patients for procedures or palpating veins for IV insertion.

Visual & Hearing Acuity Requirements

- During clinical assignments, students are required to use a computer console and select the proper exposure techniques on the x-ray equipment.
- Clinical assignments require critiquing (evaluation) of radiographs.
- Clinical assignments require working with printed and/or written documentation.
- Students must be able to assess patient's condition, i.e., color, respiration, motion, etc.
- Students must be able to hear in order to communicate with patients while taking a history, giving positioning instructions, or interacting with other team members.
- Students must be able to hear instructions from doctors under conditions such as: in a darkened fluoroscopy room & in surgical attire.

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Intellectual and Emotional Requirements

- Students must be able to critique (evaluate) radiographs and determine diagnostic quality.
- Students must be able to make adaptations and respond with precise, quick and appropriate action during emergency situations.
- Students must maintain patient confidentiality.
- Students must be able to maintain a high standard of courtesy and cooperation in dealing with co-workers, patients, and visitors with satisfactory performances despite the stress of a hospital/clinic work environment.
- Students must be able to learn to analyze, synthesize, solve problems and reach evaluative judgment.
- Students are expected to be able to learn and perform routine radiographic procedures. In addition, students must have the mental and intellectual capacity to calculate and select proper technical exposure factors according to the individual needs of the patient and the requirements of the procedure with speed and accuracy.
- Students must be able to accept criticism and adopt appropriate modifications in their behavior.
- Students must demonstrate appropriate emotional health required for utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment.

Clinical Situations

- Students may be subjected to electrical, radiant energy, and chemical hazards.
- Students may be subjected to trauma situations or surgical experiences.
- Persons in the radiologic sciences have been identified as having the likelihood of occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and, therefore, are included in the OSHA Exposure Control Plan with its specifications to prevent contact with the above materials.

If you have a documented disability, there may be accommodations that can be made to assist in your successful completion of the program, please see a college counselor.

The inability to meet all of the Program Essential Abilities will in no way prohibit your acceptance to the Radiography Program.

The Americans with Disabilities Act bans discrimination of persons with disabilities, and in keeping with this law, Minnesota State College Southeast makes every effort to ensure quality education for all students. It is our obligation to inform students of the essential abilities demanded by the program and of the occupation. Students with documented disabilities which require accommodations or special services to meet the Essential Abilities of the program should contact the Office of Accessibility (accessibility@southeastmn.edu) for assistance, advising and arrangement of appropriate accommodations.