

Programmatic Essential Functions Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The SHRP-Essential Functions were developed to assist each student in evaluating their capabilities and chances for success in a particular program. In order for students to do this accurately, program specific Essential Functions must indicate what is required to do well in the academic program, as well as, the skills/functions required to be successful in that particular allied health professional role. The following standards pertain to particular cognitive, motor, behavioral and social skills that are associated with the educational process for your allied health program:

Programmatic Standards

Observational Standards

- Obtain, review and integrate pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results
- Observe/see patient conditions such as skin color and response to pain evaluation
- Ability to distinguish fine detail on a visual diagnostic image and have the ability to distinguish among many color variations
- Perceive high and low pitched sounds of variable intensities to evaluate, monitor and diagnose hemodynamic changes in blood vessels
- Hear/respond to verbal directions; communicate verbally in English to patients and coworkers

Communication Standards

- Communicate effectively with patients and health care professionals
- Understand and interpret oral and written instructions, perform appropriate procedures and record anatomical, pathological and/or physiological data for interpretation by a physician or other health professional
- Record and process test data and other pertinent observations made during the procedure for presentation to the interpreting physician or other health professional
- Documents necessary information in the patients' medical records and on other forms, and communicates the information to members of the health care team
- Speak and write to communicate in English pertinent information (e.g., patient evaluation data and diagnostic impressions)

Intellectual/Conceptual Standards

- Read typed, handwritten, or computer information in English
- Uses problem solving to identify and correct sonographic instrumentation
- Maintains confidentiality, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession
- Perform frequent practical, oral and written examination and/or demonstrations
- Attends and participate in didactic and clinical education and training, on and off campus

Motor Skills Standards

- Ability to walk, bend, squat, and stand; lift, push and pull heavy patients or equipment
- Push/pull and move large, wheeled equipment, e.g., mechanical ventilators, beds and stretchers
- Fine motor skills – eye/hand coordination ability: sufficient to perform multiple diagnostic tasks simultaneously
- Possess spatial aptitude sufficient to operate diagnostic equipment
- Initiates, conducts, and modifies prescribed diagnostic procedures related to the profession
- Work lengthy and irregular hours attending to patients
- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment.
- Ability to move about and function effectively in confined spaces
- Scoop, kneel and/or crouch to perform procedures or adjust equipment
- Manipulate with precision any knobs, dials or keypads used with diagnostic devices
- Palpate/feel with precision the location and character of normal/abnormal anatomic structures (e.g., pulses, artery locations, breast masses)

Behavioral and Social Standards

- Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills to work productively with patients, families, staff and co-workers
- Accepts and follows through on directives and instruction
- Function safely, effectively and calmly under stressful situations (life-threatening emergencies, dealing with terminally ill patients and their families).
- Prioritize multiple tasks; maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Exhibit the social skills needed to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, and coworkers of the same or different cultures; exhibit respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, discretion.
- Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care
- Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the professions

Other

- Participate in peer physical examination practicum, invasive and non-invasive procedures and emergency care.
- Conduct exposure prone procedures (Sonographers are involved in invasive procedures which include sonography needle-guided biopsies. Also, needle guided biopsies are performed endovaginally)