Radiologic Technology Essential Job Function and Technical Standards

The Radiologic Technology Program strives to create an inclusive environment that represents the diverse population of healthcare professionals and community we serve. We value the uniqueness and potential of every learner and strive to create a culture of respect and equality. After reviewing the technical standards, any learner who believes they may need an accommodation to fully participate and engage in the radiologic technology program should contact Student Accessibility Services.

Student Accessibility Services works to promote access to ensure an accessible college experience for students with disabilities. Request for accommodations can be made at any time.

If you have further questions, please contact Student Accessibility Services.

Contact Information for Student Accessibility Services:

Call: 508-854-4471

Email: sas@qcc.mass.edu *with a Coordinator at the Student Accessibility Services office, Room 246A.*

Working Conditions

Radiologic Technologists provide urgent and non-urgent care to patients of all ages and in all healthcare settings including acute care hospitals, sub-acute, and chronic care. Hospital and sub-acute care settings are generally associated with a moderate noise level. A radiographer works directly with medical providers in hospitals, clinics, imaging centers and private offices performing Radiographic examinations on patients in order to aid in the diagnosis of disease or injury. Responsibilities include positioning of the patient; handling of complex equipment; determining proper exposure factors; utilizing radiation protection devices; and processing images. In addition to these technical skills, the radiographer's duties require them to attend to the physical and emotional needs of patients who are often acutely ill or seriously injured. Successful completion of the Radiologic Technology Program requires the graduate to have demonstrated the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to safely and competently deliver patient care as a Radiologic Technologist and provide age-specific patient education.

Accordingly, Radiologic Technology Program applicants and matriculating students must meet the following technical standards:

A.) Motor

The applicant/student must have both fine and gross motor skill capabilities to perform patient care procedures and handle radiologic technology equipment, including the capability to grasp, assemble, and manipulate X-ray equipment, stretchers, wheelchairs, other equipment and/or patients. This includes turning and lifting patients of varying weight according to individual needs, including transferring patients from transportation device to X-ray table, moving heavy, bulky equipment, and maneuvering in tight places.

Radiologic Technologists must have the capacity to manually move the radiographic tube and position the tube at various angles at heights up to 7 feet, accurately draw up sterile contrast media and other solutions without contaminating the syringe and/ or needle, place cassettes in the Bucky tray and properly manipulate all locks, physically be able to administer emergency care based on assessment, remain still for long periods of time wearing lead aprons and to move around large facilities of great distances during a normal workday.

B.) Communication

The applicant/student must be able to detect and respond to verbal communication and acoustic signal on medical devices and equipment from a distance of 20 feet, understand, converse in, read and write the English language in order to accurately, effectively and sensitively communicate with patients and family members as well as colleagues, instructors, and all members of the health care team. They must also be able to effectively perceive non-verbal communication.

C.) Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Qualitative Abilities

The applicant/student is expected to comprehend, integrate, and apply didactic concepts to the clinical setting. This involves physiologic measurements, mathematical computation, information gathering, interpretation and analysis of data, critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving. The applicant/student will be expected to Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations The applicant/student will be evaluating radiographs to ascertain that they contain proper identification and are of diagnostic value including subtle differences in blacks, whites and shades of grey. The applicant/student will be expected to accurately observe patients from a distance of up to 20 feet, and at close proximity, correctly read digital, analogue or graphic gauges, scales, monitors, and written instructions, identify equipment and devices, and recognize biohazard fluids. The applicant/student is expected to select exposure factors and accessory devices for all radiographic procedures with consideration of patient weight, age, and extent of disease. The applicant/student will be expected to adapt procedures and sequences of activities to accommodate changing status of a patient's condition/mobility.

D.) Behavioral and Social Attributes

The applicant/student must possess the reasoning necessary to exercise judgment, complete patient care responsibilities, and maintain effective relationships with others in classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. Applicants/students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and function in the uncertainties inherent to the health care setting. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, dedication and motivation are all-important personal qualities.