



Essential Functions

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

West Georgia Technical College

Overview

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography profession requires the application of knowledge, technical skills, clinical judgment, and professional behaviors necessary to provide safe and effective patient care.

To be considered for admission, progression, and graduation, students must be able to perform the essential functions listed below, with or without reasonable accommodation, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1. Observation and Sensory Ability

Students must be able to:

- Observe patients, procedures, and ultrasound images accurately in real time.
- Distinguish subtle differences in grayscale and color Doppler images.
- Hear patient responses, equipment signals, and verbal instructions in clinical environments.
- Recognize changes in patient condition, behavior, or level of distress.

2. Communication Skills

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

- Communicate clearly and effectively in spoken, written, and electronic formats.
- Obtain accurate patient histories and provide appropriate patient instructions.
- Interact professionally with patients, families, faculty, physicians, and healthcare team members.

- Document clinical information and technical findings accurately and promptly.

3. Cognitive and Critical Thinking Skills

Students must be able to:

- Learn, interpret, and apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and sonographic principles.
- Integrate clinical information to make appropriate scanning decisions.
- Distinguish normal from abnormal findings and adapt procedures as needed.
- Demonstrate sound judgment in patient care and clinical problem-solving situations.

4. Motor and Physical Abilities

Students must possess sufficient physical capability to:

- Stand, walk, and remain in clinical environments for extended periods.
- Lift, push, pull, bend, reach, and assist patients safely (often up to 50 pounds with assistance).
- Perform repetitive hand and wrist movements required for transducer manipulation.
- Move and position ultrasound equipment and patients in confined clinical spaces.
- Complete full clinical shifts while maintaining safe and effective performance.

5. Professional Behavior and Emotional Stability

Students must be able to:

- Provide compassionate, respectful care to patients of all ages and backgrounds.
- Function effectively under stress, time constraints, and emotionally demanding situations.
- Demonstrate integrity, responsibility, and accountability in all academic and clinical settings.
- Adhere to ethical standards, confidentiality requirements, and healthcare regulations.
- Work collaboratively as part of the healthcare team.

6. Clinical Participation Requirements

Students must be able to:

- Participate in all scheduled laboratory and clinical learning experiences.
- Perform sonographic examinations and related patient-care tasks safely and competently.

- Meet program health, safety, and background screening requirements required by clinical affiliates.
- Comply with infection control, HIPAA, and institutional policies.

Reasonable Accommodations

West Georgia Technical College is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities.

Students who require accommodations should contact the Office of Accessibility Services. Reasonable accommodations will be considered; however, accommodations must not compromise patient safety, clinical competency requirements, or essential sonographic skill performance.

Acknowledgment

All admitted students will be required to sign an Essential Functions Acknowledgment Form confirming their ability to meet these requirements.