

ESSENTIAL ABILITIES OF A RADIOGRAPHER

The Radiologic Technology Program at Coastal Bend College is quite intense and requires many hours of study to be successful. Students must be able to meet the following physical and mental abilities for successful completion of the radiology technology program:

1. Must have the physical ability to move radiography equipment and manipulate the x-ray tube located 70-80 inches above the floor.
2. Lift and/or support at a minimum 75 pounds in order to lift and carry x-ray accessories.
3. Have the ability to appropriately position patients for radiographic procedures and safely transfer patients who may weigh in excess of 300 pounds.
4. Must be able to push a portable x-ray machine for bedside radiography.
5. Ability to articulate clear verbal commands to the patient while the patient is being positioned for a procedure from a distance of 7-12 feet.
6. Have the ability to select and calculate proper x-ray exposure factors based on exam type and patient body habitus.
7. Must be able to manage stressful situations that relate to patient care, procedure, and technical standards.
8. Must be able to evaluate radiographs for proper patient positioning, proper exposure factors, and other essential factors for the purpose of image quality control.
9. Have sight corrected to observe patients from a distance of 5-20 feet, read and adjust the x-ray control panel, and position patients correctly.
10. Have hearing corrected, with the ability to hear patients at a distance of 5-12 feet.
11. Have sufficient tactile ability in order to access a patient's pulses, in addition to changes in a patient's physiologic status (i.e. changes in edema, skin temperature, etc.).
12. Have the ability to smell odors that may signify a change in the physiologic status of a patient or an unsafe environmental condition.
13. Have the ability to read and comprehend written class room material, medical documents, and institution procedures and policies.
14. Have the ability to write legible in English in a style that is readable.
15. Must be able to accurately calculate in order to prepare medications, administer proper dosage of radiographic contrast material, and count pulse and respirations.
16. Must be able to move freely with full manual dexterity of both upper and lower extremities, have unrestricted movement of 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.
17. Must be prepared to directly handle barium and iodinated contrast media and be in the vicinity of latex products.
18. Cannot be dependent on any chemical or substance. Have the ability to react appropriately and quickly in emergency situations.

19. Must be poised, well-groomed and neat in appearance, discreet, tactful, diplomatic, professional, versatile, ethical, and dependable.
20. Must have the ability to comprehend written and verbal instructions correctly in academic and clinical health care settings.
21. Must exhibit the capacity for reasoned judgment and calm in a health care environment.
22. Must not have physical or mental medical disorders that limit the ability to perform the duties of a radiology technology student. Must be stable emotionally, as this type of work involves life and death situations. Must show honesty and integrity in all matters.
23. Enjoy working with people and patient contact.

After starting the radiology technology program, the student shall immediately notify the program director, if any of these stated functions change. An evaluation may occur to determine if the student is able to continue in the program. A student may be removed from the program if a health condition significantly limits the student from performing the routine functions of a radiologic technology student and/or present a danger to the safety and health of patients.

I have read and understand the Essential Abilities of a Radiographer. I acknowledge and accept these performance standards.

Signature

Date

For further information contact:
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