

## **Essential Qualifications for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program**

The following essential qualifications address the physical, cognitive, attitudinal and behavioral abilities essential to this program. Students must meet these essential qualifications in order to be admitted and retained in the program. Students are required to meet the standards with or without reasonable accommodations. Students with documented disabilities who wish to request reasonable accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act must follow the college's procedure for requesting accommodations. The college reserves the right to reject requests for accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of an educational program, lower the academic standards, cause an undue hardship on the college, or endanger the health or safety of a student with a disability, other students, clinic patients, or any other member of the college community.

State Fair Community College (SFCC) Associate of Applied Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography certifies that the holder of that degree has been educated to competently enter practice as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, having demonstrated competency in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Both professional coursework and general education requirements contribute to the development and completion of these competencies. To be eligible to sit for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers' certifying examination, all components of the degree program must be completed. In order to successfully complete these competencies and to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow candidates, faculty, and other health care providers, the abilities listed on the following pages are required. These requirements are consistent with the employment requirements of our clinical education sites. Each person who completes a letter of recommendation form will also be evaluating the applicant's ability to meet the Essential Qualifications, and one or more concerns from the person completing the recommendation form may result in the student not being accepted to the program.

### MOTOR SKILLS

Candidates should have sufficient motor function so that they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and examination to patients in all diagnostic imaging settings. In general, this requires candidates to be able to regularly lift at least 25-100 pounds (in assisting in patient transfers); stand/walk 6-7 hours per 8 hour shift with prolonged standing; bend, stoop and twist repetitively, lasting several minutes each time, carry up to 20 pounds, move carts weighing 200 lbs, and reach a height of 6 feet to activate emergency call buttons and reach equipment. Fine and gross motor movement of the upper extremities is required in all of the above.

### SENSORY

Candidates must be able to observe a patient accurately, align the transducer with the body parts to be imaged, and observe and appreciate both verbal and non-verbal communications when performing diagnostic imaging studies. Candidates should have normal functional vision with corrective eyewear. Candidates should have auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of client health needs, which includes hearing faint body sounds, faint voices, hearing and assessing minute changes in pitch, hearing situations when not able to see lips, and hearing auditory alarms with or without auxiliary aids.

### BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL

Candidates must have emotional stability in order to approach situations and apply critical thinking skills in a systematic and professional manner. They must be capable of exercising good judgment and promptly completing the responsibilities involved in the examination and care of patients. Candidates must communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other

professionals. Candidates must be able to deal effectively with the stresses encountered in nearly 40 hours of class work per week in addition to family and life demands. They must express their ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback.

#### COMMUNICATION

Candidates must be able to effectively explain diagnostic imaging procedures to both the patient and family members, utilize questioning techniques to obtain accurate clinical histories, and give directions during the study. Candidates must be able to communicate orally and in writing with individuals of all backgrounds and educational levels.

#### COGNITIVE

Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in the context of undergraduate Diagnostic Medical Sonography education. Candidates must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material. They must also be able to recall, evaluate, and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

#### PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Candidates must possess the ability to reason morally and practice diagnostic medical sonography in an ethical manner. Candidates must be willing to learn and abide by professional practice standards. They must possess the attributes that include compassion, empathy, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance. Candidates must be able to engage in examination and patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients and vulnerable adults. Candidates who are selected for the program must pass a criminal background check as required by our clinical education sites.

While these abilities are required to successfully complete the competencies leading to the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree, successful completion of the requirements for a degree does not guarantee eligibility to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography or the American Registry for Radiologic Technologists Certifying exams. Eligibility for examination requires that the candidate be of good moral character. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony may indicate a lack of good moral character for ARDMS/ARRT purposes. The ARDMS and ARRT Ethics Committees conduct a thorough review of all convictions. Documentation required for a review includes written personal explanation of the activity and court records to verify the conviction, sentence, and completion of the sentence.

It is important that the candidate understand there is a moral character requirement for eligibility for examination. Anything less than complete and total disclosure of any and all convictions will be considered as having provided false or misleading information to the ARDMS/ARRT. This is grounds for permanent denial of eligibility for certification. The ARDMS and the ARRT may conduct criminal background searches whenever appropriate. If you have concerns regarding your eligibility to sit for the ARDMS or ARRT examinations, please contact the ARDMS at:

**American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600 Rockville, MD 20852 Tel: (301) 738-8401 or (800)-541-9754 \* Fax: (301) 738-0312**

Or the ARRT at:

**The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists 1255 Northland Drive St. Paul, MN 55120  
Tel: (651) 687-0048**

Or CCI at:  
**Cardiovascular Credentialing International**  
**1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102**  
**Raleigh, NC 27607**  
**Phone: (800) 326-0268 \* Fax: (919) 787-4916**