



Medical Sonography Technical Standards

Purpose Statement:

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills	Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform, process, and make decisions based on sonographic images.• Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations.
Interpersonal Skills	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals during all interactions.• Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues.

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	the healthcare team, patients and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with patients with empathy and compassion.
Communication Skills	Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal and non-verbal formats with faculty, patients, families, fellow students and all members of the multidisciplinary team to monitor and assess patient and equipment function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehend and interpret verbal and written communication in both the academic and clinical settings. Obtain relevant patient clinical information, respond to questions, interpret physician's orders and communicate sonographic findings to interpreting physicians. Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, patients and staff in a clinical setting.
Mobility	Physical abilities are sufficient to move in one's environment with ease and without restriction and to provide safe and effective patient care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport, move, and or lift patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to the examination table or patient bed, and physically assist patients into proper positions for examination. Push, pull, bend and stoop routinely to move and adjust sonographic equipment and perform studies.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Motor Skills	Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to perform duties with the ability to engage in skills requiring the use of gross and fine motor manipulation of arms, hands and fingers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use hands, wrists, and shoulders to perform sonographic exams. • Ability to maintain adequate probe pressure (exert up to 20 lbs. of continuous pressure) necessary to acquire ultrasound images. • Use hand/eye coordination to perform sonographic exams.
Physical Strength and Stamina	Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move about the department, hospital, clinical facility, and patient rooms. • Ability to stand and be mobile for up to 8 hours.
Sensory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sight • Sound • Touch • Smell 	Sufficient auditory, visual, and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish color on sonograms • Monitor vital signs and observe patients' physical responses. • Work in a semi-darkened room for up to 8 hours. • Detect alarms, timers, patient call-bells, and announcements. • Examine various parts of the body by touch to perform a physical examination. • Use touch screens and computer keyboard for data entry.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Behavioral / Emotional Skills	Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability and reliability; Function effectively and adapt to circumstances including highly stressful or rapidly changing situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by The Sonography Code of Ethics. • Advocate, uphold, and defend a patient's right to privacy and doctrine of confidentiality. • Function under stress and deal with patients and others who may be experiencing stress. • Adapt to changing environments and schedules.
Environmental / Occupational Exposure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out job skills in an infectious and hazardous environment.

Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.

Accessibility & Accommodations:

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

(Please see next page)

Signature of Understanding:

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

Student name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Citations and in accordance with:

- [Department of Labor](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administrations](#)
- [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography](#)