

Heartland Community College Radiography Program

Non-Academic Criteria for Participation

Individuals admitted to the Associate Degree Radiography Program at Heartland Community College must possess the ability to complete all aspects of the classroom and clinical curriculum. Therefore, in addition to program prerequisites, all students admitted to the program must also possess the following abilities and meet the following expectations related to successful completion of clinical education and subsequent practice in the radiography profession.

Communication/Interactions

Be able to clearly communicate in English both verbally and in writing and interacting with all professionals connected with the program as it relates to:

- Obtaining and recording patients' histories
- Explaining or discussing procedures and patient consent forms
- Providing clear verbal instructions to patients either face to face or from the radiography control area, which is a distance of several feet
- Providing emotional support to patients during radiographic procedures
- Accepting criticism and adopting appropriate modifications in behavior
- Responding effectively and quickly to situations requiring first aid or emergency care of patients until more qualified help can arrive
- Maintaining mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances, including stressful situations
- Interacting and working collaboratively with other healthcare professionals
- Responding professionally with precise, quick, and appropriate action in stressful and emergency situations
- Learning and performing routine radiographic procedures, using intellectual capacity to select proper technical exposure factors according to the individual needs of the patient and the requirements of the procedure's standards of speed and accuracy

Visual Acuity

Be able to see fine lines and distinguish gradual changes in blacks, grays, and whites as related to:

- Reading department protocols for imaging procedures, examination requests, computer monitors, and any written directions or orders
- Properly positioning a patient in relation to the x-ray tube and image receptor
- Assessing the direction of the central ray to the anatomical part of being imaged
- Reviewing and evaluating recorded images for the purpose of identifying proper patient positioning, accurate procedural sequencing, proper radiographic quality, and other appropriate and pertinent technical qualities, all under the conditions of dimmed lighting

Hearing Ability

The student's ability to hear must include, but is not limited to:

- Respond to patient questions, concerns, and needs
- Hear faint or muffled sounds when the use of surgical masks are required
- Hear faint or muffled sounds since operator control areas are separated from the x-ray table and the patient

- Monitor equipment operation or dysfunction which may be indicated by a low-sounding buzzer or bell

Motor Functions Ability and Strength

Good manual dexterity, motor skills, hand-eye coordination, tactile sensitivity, and strength include, but are not limited to:

- Adjust, manipulate, and move a variety of x-ray machine locks, knobs, dials, and controls with speed and accuracy including both mobile and stationary equipment
- Utilize a mouse, stylus, touch screen, and keyboard of computerized equipment to input patient data and/or imaging parameters needed during multistep imaging procedures
- Bend, lift, turn, twist, grasp, and squat with full motion in congested areas
- Lift/move 25 pounds
- Provide physical support and position patients during radiographic procedures
- Have sufficient strength, motor coordination, and manual dexterity to transport, move, lift, and transfer patients from a wheelchair or cart to an x-ray table or a patient bed
- Stand unassisted and walk for long periods of time without a break
- Wear a 15-20 pound lead apron for hours while standing
- Don surgical gloves, fill syringes, start IV's, insert enema tips, and handle sterile trays/fields
- Manipulate/carry cassettes, Image Receptors, Digital Detectors (tethered and wireless), and other positioning/imaging aids to and from the exam rooms and the work area/storage area (10-20 lbs.)

The program reserves the right to require a simulated clinical test to verify an applicant's/student's ability to perform the actions listed above. The Radiography Practice Analysis compiled by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org) will be used to answer questions regarding criteria not specifically addressed by this document. In all cases, patient safety will be the primary determining factor related to the interpretation of non-academic criteria.

The College offers services for students with documented sensory, physical, learning, or other disabilities. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (309) 268-8259 to discuss any concerns associated with the program.