

FUNCTIONAL CAPABILITIES

Physical and Psychological Requirements

Applicants to the Wilkes Community College Radiography Program must be able to meet the following functional capacities. They are “non-academic” criteria and are functional capabilities required of radiography students and radiography professionals. A prospective radiography candidate must demonstrate the physical and psychological ability to provide safe patient care. Learners who believe they will not be able to meet one or more of these requirements without accommodation must notify the Program Director and a determination will be made on a case by case basis whether reasonable accommodation may be made. In no instance will an accommodation be made which will put the applicant, other learners, or patients at risk.

Function	Requirement	Example Tasks
Vision	Adequate to ensure safety of self and others in didactic and clinical settings and to discriminate between black, white, and a scale of grays.	Discriminate diagnostic quality of images; view images in dimmed lighting; read department protocols for imaging procedures, examination requests, monitors, and any written directions or orders; observation and visual assessment of a patient’s condition.
Hearing	Adequate and effective communication with others in close proximity (15 feet) and remote areas (30 feet).	Hear patients, clinical staff, and others; hear faint and muffled sounds when the use of surgical masks are required; telephone communication; patient assessment, responding to beepers and overhead announcements; monitor equipment operation or dysfunction which may be indicated by low sounding buzzers or bells.
Gross Motor Strength and Coordination	Adequate to allow effective mobility of self, imaging equipment, and patients for at least 50 feet, lift 25 pounds from the ground to waist level and extend that weight out from the body at a minimum of 12 inches, and stand/walk for a minimum of 8 hours.	Safe transfer of patients; mobility and strength to move patients and equipment; safe and efficient mobility in a sterile environment, coordinated movement in the performance of mobile imaging procedures; safe and efficient movement of medical imaging equipment; stand unassisted for long periods of time.
Fine Motor Strength and Coordination	Adequate to allow use of medical and imaging equipment maintaining a safe environment to patients and others.	Technical factor selection on control panels; assisting catheter manipulation during imaging procedures; placement and movement of image receptors; positioning of imaging equipment at standard parameters; manipulation and operation of all associated equipment.
Critical Thinking Ability	Adequate to allow mastery of course content and demonstrate sound judgment in simulated and clinical situations; adaptability to cope with constant environmental/patient changes.	Adapt non-routine radiographic procedures to produce diagnostic images; identifying cause and effect relationships in patient positioning and related anatomy; identifying relationships of accessory devices utilized in image formation.
Interpersonal Skills	Adequate to facilitate effective working relationships with peers, instructors, patients, and families.	Interaction with severely injured or critically ill patients; providing patient education; working in a stressful environment; providing quality patient care; demonstrate caring behaviors.
Communication	Adequate communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Obtaining and recording patient history; providing clear verbal instructions to patients either face-to-face or from the radiography control area, which is a distance away from the patient; discussing patient consent forms; interaction with clinical staff.
Emotional	Adequate to maintain emotional stability and composure during stressful situations.	Cope effectively with stress in the workplace; cope with individual and peer emotions calmly; receive corrective feedback calmly.
Environmental	Adequate to tolerate environmental stressors	Adapt to variations in clinical schedules; perform imaging exams safely with equipment used in healthcare settings: function in areas that are close, crowded, or noisy.