

Technical Standards for the Radiography Program

The abilities and skills which students must possess in order to complete the training associated with the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Health Sciences and Nursing Programs are referred to as Technical Standards. These Technical Standards are a group of minimal physical and cognitive abilities as well as sufficient mental and emotional stability to confirm that students are able to complete the entire course of study, participate fully in all aspects of training, and be deployable as competent Health Sciences and Nursing students, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The NOVA Health Sciences & Nursing programs have the ethical responsibility for the safety of patients with whom students will come in contact, and to the public to assure that its students can become fully competent Health Sciences & Nursing professionals. Thus, it is important that persons admitted to our programs possess the intelligence, integrity, compassion, humanitarian concern, and physical and emotional capacity necessary to practice Health Sciences & Nursing skills. Students must verify that they meet these Technical Standards at the time of matriculation to our programs and maintain them during their training. Students are obligated to alert the Program Director of their Health Sciences & Nursing program of any change in their ability to fulfill the technical standards. Students who do not meet the Technical Standards are at risk for dismissal from the program.

The NOVA Radiography Program is accredited by The Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Northern Virginia Community College Radiography Program in Health Sciences draws from the Standards approved by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. These Technical Standards will be reviewed annually by the NOVA Radiography Program Advisory Board.

Technical Standard I: Observation

- Students must be able to observe demonstrations and participate in physical examination sessions, clinical skills workshops, and observe the difference of normal versus pathological states. They must be able to obtain a medical history and perform a complete physical examination in order to integrate findings based on these observations and to develop an appropriate diagnostic and treatment plan.
- Students must have the visual acuity to read, write and assess the patient and the environment.
- Students must have the ability to read emergency monitor data.

Technical Standard II: Communication

- Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their families, and members of the health team. Students must be able to communicate effectively with patients from different social and cultural backgrounds, as well as develop effective professional rapport with patients and co-workers. Students must be able to record examination and diagnostics results clearly, accurately and efficiently. Students must be able to communicate effectively in English with patients, family and other health care professionals in a variety of patient settings.
- Students must have verbal/non-verbal and written communication skills adequate to exchange ideas, detailed information and instructions accurately.
- Students must have the ability to read, comprehend and write legibly in the English language.

- Students must have sufficient hearing to assess patient's needs, follow instructions, communicate with other healthcare workers, perceive, interpret and respond to various equipment signals.

Technical Standard III: Motor Function

- Students must possess the capacity to perform physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers. They must be able to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner and provide general and emergency care. They must possess adequate sensory function and motor coordination to fulfill minimum competency objectives for inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation necessary to perform a physical examination. They must possess sufficient postural control, neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination in order to utilize standard medical/surgical instruments to participate in the inpatient and outpatient setting and other clinical activities.
- Students must be able to raise objects from a low to high position.
- Students must be able to push, pull or transfer heavy objects between 25 and 50 lbs.
- Students must be able to walk rapidly for a prolonged period of time carrying up to 25 lbs.
- Students must have the physical stamina to stand and walk for 8 hours or more in a clinical setting.
- Students must have ability to stand on both legs, move from room to room, and maneuver in small spaces.
- Students must be able to work with arms fully extended overhead.
- Students must be able to bend downward and forward by bending at spine or waist.
- Students must have the manual dexterity, mobility and strength to perform CPR.
- Students must be able to seize, hold, grasp and turn with hands.
- Students must be able to complete finite tasks with fingers.

Technical Standard IV: Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

- Students must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; and use computer technology. Students must have the mental capacity to assimilate and learn a large amount of complex, technical and detailed information in order to formulate diagnostic and therapeutic plans.
- Student must have the ability to deal with abstract and concrete variable issues, define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions.
- Student must have the ability to interpret instructions furnished in oral, written or schedule form.

Technical Standard V: Behavioral and Social Attributes

- Students must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly, without warning, and/or in unpredictable ways.
- Students must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment, and promptly completing all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients.
- Students must be able to work effectively, respectfully and professionally as part of the healthcare team, and to interact with patients, their families, and health care personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner.
- Students must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.
- Students must be able to interact purposefully and effectively with individuals and or groups from a range of social, cultural, emotional and intellectual backgrounds. Students must be able to function safely and effectively during high stress environments.
- Students must be able to maintain a work pace appropriate to a given workload.

Technical Standard VI: Ethical and Legal Standards

- Students must be able to understand the basis and content of both general and medical ethics. The student must possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, responsibility, and tolerance. Student must be able to recognize limitations in their knowledge, skills and abilities and to seek appropriate assistance with their identified limitations. Students whose performance is impaired by abuse of alcohol or other substances are not suitable candidates for admission, promotion, or graduation. In addition, should the student be convicted of any felony offense while in the Health Sciences & Nursing Programs, they agree to immediately notify the program as to the nature of the conviction. Failure to disclose prior or new offenses can lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal.

Signature of NOVA Student

Date