

Essential Competencies of Candidates for Graduation within Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences

The MIRS graduate should demonstrated competence in his/her chosen modality and have the ability to pass the national credentialing examination in that chosen modality. Health professionals are given a high level of public trust and respect. Maintaining professional integrity is essential for professional practice.

The curriculum of the degrees offered from this department require students to engage in diverse and complex experiences that are essential to acquiring and practicing specific skills and functions including judgment in decision making. The education of a healthcare professional requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills and development of decision making skills required to perform patient care. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. These functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, peers, faculty and other healthcare providers. Therefore, students in MIRS department must be accountable for their actions throughout the program.

The faculty and students of the Department of MIRS are held to these academic, technical and professional standards as communicated through the Department Philosophy and Technical Standards. This Essential Competencies Document communicates expectations to the student and establishes a mechanism to mentor students so that they can accomplish these goals.

In addition to the standards of behavior and academic conduct set for by the College and University, the following are standards that students must demonstrate in both the academic and clinical environments. These competencies are derived from national standard set by national organizations that accredit the MIRS programs and the national organizations which guide the professions standards in the clinic. These essential abilities include but are not limited to the following:

I. Technical/Motor Skills

- Appropriate response to patient needs, general safety and radiation safety
 - Examples such as CPR, proper body mechanics, machine adjustments, etc.
- Critical thinking and problem solving abilities sufficient for clinical judgment of imaging and/or treatment
- Execution of physician's orders
- Practice within professional Scope of Practice
- Demonstration of appropriate technical skill level for current program year

II. Sensory/Observation

- Observe and predict patient need from afar or near
- Accurately interpret non-verbal cues
- Perceive signs of disease as manifested through physical examination and/or auditory information

III. Communication and Confidentiality

- Maintain confidentiality of patient information and department information
- Demonstrate effective communication with faculty, patients, clinical personnel, family members, other students and professionals
- Demonstrate appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication
- Demonstrate appropriate oral and written communication
- Express ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate willingness to give and receive constructive feedback
- Exchange information at an appropriate level when discussing information with physicians, patients, other students, and faculty
- Demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills to make appropriate clinical judgments related to imaging and/or treatment

IV. Interpersonal Skills and Professional Conduct

- Demonstrate dependability and accountability
- Accept and make adjustments based upon constructive feedback
- Recognize one's own strengths and limitations
- Display ability to reason morally
- Demonstrate respect, honesty and integrity
- Engage in care for all populations including children, adults, disabled, of cultural diversity and varied mental capacity
- Demonstrate appropriate initiative
- Possess attributes of compassion, empathy, and tolerance
- Recognition and respect for lines of authority
- Follow dress code and maintain personal hygiene

V. Behavioral and Emotional Stability

- Exercise good judgment and prompt completion of responsibilities related to imaging and/or treatment
- Maintain mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty and other professionals
- Function under stressful situations and adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning
- Examine and alter behavior when/if it interferes with productive individual and team relationships
- Possess skills necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments

VI Cognition

- Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in the context of undergraduate or graduate professional study
- Comprehend extensive written material
- Evaluate and apply information
- Use critical thinking and problem solving skills to make appropriate judgments