

Technical Standards

The following activities are examples of the kind of activities which a student in the Medical Sonography program will be required to perform to successfully complete the program. If an accepted applicant believes that he or she cannot meet one of more of the standards without accommodations or modifications, the applicant should contact the staff of Accessibility/Disability Services (accessibilityservices@gaston.edu).

Requirements		
Issue	Standard	Example
Critical Thinking	A Medical Sonography student should possess critical thinking and problem-solving skills sufficient for clinical judgment.	A student must be able to correlate clinical information with patient findings.
Interpersonal Skills	Medical Sonography students shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	A student must be able to establish rapport with patients, families and other health care members.
Communication Skills	Medical Sonography students shall possess communication skills sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	A student must be able to explain exams to the patient and or family members, write reports, and verbally explain all findings to a physician.

Mobility/Physical Stamina	Medical Sonography students shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, stand and walk for extensive periods of time. Students should also possess the ability to lift and/or manipulate 45-50 lbs.	A student must be able to move around in patients' rooms, workspaces, and treatment areas; push stretchers with patients on them up and down hallways and into rooms. Maneuver patients in wheelchairs. Bend, stoop, reach and lean often. Move ultrasound equipment throughout hospitals and into patient rooms. Ability to transfer patients from stretchers and wheelchairs to exam tables. Put on sterile gloves used for guide biopsy procedures.
Motor Skills	Medical Sonography students shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care procedures.	A student must be able to set up, calibrate and use equipment; position patients/clients; perform CPR. Have range of motion sufficient to reach across a stretcher or exam table. Transducer manipulation using fingers of one hand while other hand uses keyboard to type and adjust machine knobs.
Auditory	Medical Sonography students must possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	A student must be able to hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, respond to patients in need while they are turned in the opposite direction, and gather information about patients' health history.
Visual Acuity	Medical Sonography students shall possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for patient care.	A student must have the ability to distinguish colors and shades of gray correctly. Operate ultrasound equipment in a dimly lit room while watching images on a monitor. Distinguish normal from abnormal anatomy.
Tactile/Hand-eye Coordination	Medical Sonography students shall possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	A student must have the ability to perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention. Manipulate patient properly to complete each sonographic exam (e.g. ability to palpate a

		breast lump, feel for a pulse, properly mark areas on the body for drainage).
Emotional Resilience	Medical Sonography students shall possess the ability to cope with stress and pressure of working in high-stakes healthcare environments.	A student must be able to provide care to patients/clients that are critically ill, are facing life-and-death situations, and are dealing with anxieties related to health conditions.
Requirements		
Issue	Standard	Example
Cognitive Abilities	Medical Sonography students shall possess the ability to be oriented to time, person, and place, organize responsibilities, and make decisions.	A student shall assess patient/client complaints and implement appropriate treatment.
Occupational Exposures	Medical Sonography students may be exposed to communicable disease and/or body fluids, toxic substances, and medicinal preparations. Students shall use appropriate precautions at all times.	Student may be assigned to a client/patient with a communicable disease and shall provide total care using universal precautions.
Ethical and Professional Behavior	A Medical Sonography student shall possess ethical and professional behavior, including maintaining patient confidentiality and adhering to professional standards and guidelines.	A student must not share patient information, including taking photos of any patient that could violate HIPPA regulations or hospital and school social media policies. A student must follow the standards and school guidelines regarding aseptic technique and professional scope of practice at all times.

Please note: Examples are not all inclusive.