

Hill College  
Health and Community Services  
Essential Clinical and Technical Standard Performance

**Echocardiography**

The Essential and Technical standards are based upon required abilities that are compatible with effective performance in health careers and are intended to help potential students make career decisions. Health and Public Services students unable to meet the Essential and/or Technical are responsible for discussing the possibility of reasonable accommodations with the program coordinator before starting clinical and providing medical and other documentation related to any disability and the appropriate accommodations needed to meet the standards. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability – related needs will be determined on an individual basis, taking into consideration the Essential and Technical which must be performed to meet program objectives as well as personal and client dignity and Safety.

**Essential Clinical Performance Standards**

1. Has **visual acuity** with corrective lenses to:
  - a. Accurately read small print on medication containers, syringes, discriminate color changes, read type at 8 font, and hand-writing on college ruled paper
  - b. See objects up to 20 inches away
  - c. Accurately read monitors and equipment calibrations
  - d. Identify call lights and unusual occurrences on a unit at a distance of 100 feet.
2. Has sufficient **auditory perception with corrective devices** to:
  - a. Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, client's call bells, pagers, and telephone conversation
  - b. Hear client's heart sounds, bowel sounds, and lung sounds with a stethoscope
  - c. Receive and understand verbal communication from others
  - d. Distinguish sounds with background noise ranging from conversation levels to high pitched sounding alarms.
3. Has the **physical ability and stamina** to:
  - a. Stand for prolonged periods of time, 8-12 hours.
  - b. Transfer/position/lift up to 150 lbs with assistance
  - c. Lift and carry objects (up to 50lbs) without assistance
  - d. Push/pull equipment requiring force on linoleum and carpeted floor
  - e. Manipulate equipment through doorways and into close fitting areas.
4. Has **the manual dexterity including sufficient gross motor and fine motor coordination** to:
  - a. Pick up, grasp, and manipulate small objects with control
  - b. Perform electronic documentation and keyboarding.
5. Each Health Science program has required clinical clock hours which must be completed before the program completion. Clinical clock hours vary depending on the programs specific program clinical requirements.
6. Students must be able to travel up to 100 miles to satisfy clinical rotation requirements.

## Technical Standards

The following standards are criteria that medical imaging professionals are required to meet in order to be gainfully employed in the imaging field and to perform the essential functions of the echocardiography education program. The standards include physical, emotional and communication criteria, among others, as stated below. They will not be used as part of the process by Hill College for selection into a medical imaging program; however, it is the applicant's responsibility to review the criteria prior to applying to any medical imaging program. Students should be aware that they **must be able to meet these standards** in order to successfully complete the program.

### Communication

Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. He or she must express his or her ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. The student's necessary capacity to communicate both orally and in writing must include, but is not limited to, the ability to:

- Obtain and record patient history.
- Explain or discuss procedures.
- Discuss patient consent forms.
- Provide clear verbal instructions to patients either face to face or from a distance of several feet. This includes effectively pronouncing and enunciating the instructions and explaining instructions to patients with hearing deficits.
- Read, interpret and follow instructions in timely manner.
- Communicate proficiently with colleagues and other health professionals.
- Provide directions during treatment and post-treatment.
- Process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team.
- Demonstrate the ability to make a correct judgment in seeking timely supervision and consultation.

### Cognitive

A candidate must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information in the context of undergraduate professional study both in the classroom and in a clinical setting, including but not limited to, a demonstrable ability to:

- Complete multistep examinations.
- Retain necessary facts of the patient's history and examination.
- Apply knowledge of pathology in order to effectively complete the examination.
- Create reports or relay diagnostic information to other healthcare professionals orally or in writing.
- Read and comprehend large amounts of written materials.

## **Sensory/Observational**

A student must be able to acquire information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the classroom and in a professional or clinical setting. He or she must be able to observe a patient accurately and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing an assessment, intervention, or providing treatment. The candidate must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease or infection when manifested during physical examination. Such information is derived through images of the body, observation of organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart tones, bowel sounds, lung sounds, etc.). The student's necessary capacity for sensory and observational skill includes, but is not limited to, the ability to:

- See fine lines and to distinguish gradual changes in blacks, grays and whites is necessary to evaluate images in dim light.
- Read and comprehend department protocols for imaging procedures, patient's charts and/or files examination request, monitors and any written directions or orders.
- Distinguish various shades of gray (in regards to contrast and brightness).
- Visually distinguish structures of 0.5mm.
- Respond to questions, concerns and needs orally communicated by patients.
- Hear faint or muffled sounds from the patient's body or medical equipment when standing a distance of several feet from the patient or when the use of surgical mask is required.
- Monitor equipment operation or dysfunction which may be indicated by low sounding buzzers, bells, or visual signals on the equipment.
- Appreciate and interpret auditory signals from equipment, e.g. Doppler generated sounds.
- Physically manipulate machine locks and controls.
- Don surgical gloves, fill syringes, start IVs and handle sterile trays and equipment.
- Operate both mobile and stationary medical equipment.
- Move and operate equipment and patient carts and wheelchairs.
- Safely transfer and position a patient.

## **Behavioral/Emotional:**

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibility attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances, including stressful situations.
- 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.
- Be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy.
- Know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others.
- Be able and willing to examine and change his or her behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships.
- Possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.

**Professional Conduct:**

Candidates must demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively, efficiently, and appropriately in a professional work setting, including but not limited to:

- Possess the ability to reason morally and practice as a Medical Imaging professional in an ethical manner.
- Be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice Possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance.
- Be able to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults.

In the event a student is unable to meet any of the standards described above, it may result in the inability for the student to complete programmatic coursework, including the clinical externship component of the echocardiography program. This would result in dismissal from the program.

**Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities:**

Hill College is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodation to its services, programs, activities, education and employment for students with disabilities. The disabilities coordinator is the contact point for students with permanent or temporary sensory, physical or psychological disabilities interested in requesting reasonable accommodation due to the effects of a disability.

Students who wish to request reasonable accommodation are encouraged to contact the disabilities coordinator to start the process for documenting their disability and determining eligibility for services prior to the start of the program. While this process can be started at any time, reasonable accommodation may not be implemented retroactively so being timely in requesting accommodation is very important. Hill College does have policies regarding the type of documentation required in order to diagnose different disabilities and a process for requesting accommodation. Information regarding accommodations and disability services can be found here: <https://www.hillcollege.edu/Student/Advising/ADA.html>. This page includes a printable flier and contact information for the success coordinator at each location to assist students.

Students with disabilities will, with or without reasonable accommodation, need to adhere to the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the program. This includes performance of all the essential functions of the program, with or without reasonable accommodation. Hill College will work cooperatively with the students and the campus disability office to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodation. Please note that if the requested accommodation(s) fundamentally alters the essential requirements or functions of the program, then it is not viewed as reasonable. Hill College will make every effort to work with our students with disabilities to provide reasonable accommodation for their disability-related needs and will consider each accommodation request on a case-by-case basis.

**Accommodation for Disabilities**

Hill College is committed to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Therefore, we seek to ensure that qualified persons with disabilities are not denied admission or subjected to discrimination in admissions to or recruitment for any federally assisted programs.

With this in mind, the ADA coordinator for the college district strives to ensure that the admissions process is accessible to all applicants. The office offers reasonable accommodation to those applicants who forward appropriate documentation of a disability, with a request for accommodation.

If an applicant has a documented disability, and would like to request reasonable accommodation to be made during the application process, s/he may contact HR Director by phone (254) 659-7731. Any information an applicant supplies is strictly voluntary, and all information and documentation related to a request for accommodation will be regarded as confidential pursuant to Title I of the ADA.