

## **POLICY XIII: HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/PREGNANCY POLICY/CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING/TOXICOLOGY SCREENING**

Any time there is questionable ability to perform physically or emotionally, further examination is required. A FCE (Functional Capacity Exam) by an IME (Independent Medical Examiner) is required or a psychiatric exam if appropriate.

Due to clinical learning affiliate requirements, criminal background checks and toxicology (drug) screening is required for all Radiologic Technology students prior to participating in clinical experiences. Due to this requirement, student refusal of either the background check or drug screening will result in no acceptance into the program and/or dismissal from the program due to the inability to complete clinical learning requirements. Students must follow all instructions for obtaining criminal background checks and toxicology screenings. Students are responsible for all fees associated with screenings.

Results of criminal background checks and toxicology screenings are handled by an outside screening company that partners with the clinical facilities. If the student has received a no-clearance status, the student is contacted via the screening company. The Rad Tech Program is not included in any of the results as mandated by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents policy. The only report given to the program is that the student has a “cleared” status and can proceed to clinical assignments. The toxicology and background checks are not part of the student’s educational record as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students are required to meet “cleared” status in order to complete the educational and clinical requirement of the Rad Tech Program.

Students who have been found guilty of having committed a felony, misdemeanor and/or found to have a positive toxicology screen may be prevented from participating in clinical experiences. The program requires that student in any of the aforementioned situations, contact the ARRT for clearance to sit before the registry examination.

- A. Physical Examination and Drug Screening: PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM APPRENTICESHIP, FOR THE DALTON STATE COLLEGE RAD TECH PROGRAM, each student must provide documentation of a physical examination and drug screening. The physical may be completed by a physician, licensed family nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant (countersigned by a physician). The physical examination report must have been completed within 2 months of the apprenticeship appointment with program faculty.
- B. The drug screen test (9-10 panel type) will be scheduled for the student at a prescribed facility as designated by program faculty. Both examination costs are the responsibility of the student.
- C. The medical form includes verification of vision, hearing, and dental assessments necessary to meet the job requirements of a radiologic technologist. Should information on the completed medical form indicate areas of concern (i.e., limited vision, teeth decay, hearing loss, etc.), the student may be required to seek additional health services in order to comply with hygiene and job expectation standards.
- D. Students must have good person hygiene to include: daily showering/bathing, brushing teeth, no offensive body/mouth odors, no smell of smoke on clothing or schoolwork or documents, and no visible teeth decay.

- E. Prescribed Medications: Any student taking prescribed medicine or any over-the-counter mind/mood altering drug must disclose the situation to the Program Director. Program attendance is prohibited for any student taking Type II Narcotics or any type of drug that induces sleep, anxiety, mood altering, or any behavior change from the considered normal state.
- F. In accordance with Federal law, a positive toxicology screen for legally prescribed marijuana may prohibit a student from being placed in a clinical setting that accepts federal funding.
- G. Limitations: Any condition which might limit the student's ability to meet course objectives, jeopardize the student's health, or jeopardize the health of others/patients must be reported to the clinical coordinator. Such occurrences will require a medical release.
- H. In addition to the above health requirements, all students must have a current/valid CPR card for the entire length of the program.
- I. Prior to Admission Clinical Apprenticeship: 10-panel drug screen
- Accepted Student: 10-panel drug screen, physician's health physical, Two-Step TB skin Test, liability insurance
- Beginning Second Year: 10 panel drug screen, physician's health physical, Two-Step TB skin Test, liability insurance
- J. Some clinical sites may require that a tobacco screening test be required for students rotating through their facility. Should such a test be required, it will be the responsibility of the student to pay for the test.
- K. Students are reminded that smoking and/or use of any tobacco products is prohibited on both the college campus and clinical site's campuses. Students may not use any type of tobacco products while in the program uniform. Should a student smoke prior to attending clinicals or class, the student cannot have the lingering smell of smoke on their person or clothes.
- L. Reasonable Suspicion Screening: Students may also be required to submit to additional toxicology screening during the Rad Tech program when reasonable suspicion of impairment exists. Reasonable suspicion testing may include, but not be limited to, the following while on clinical or campus learning activities:
1. Physical symptoms such as slurred speech, unsteady gait, confusion or other manifestations of drug/alcohol use.
  2. Presence of odor of alcohol or illegal substance.
  3. Abnormal conduct or erratic behavior during clinical or on-campus learning activities, chronic absenteeism, tardiness, or deterioration of performance regardless of any threat to patient safety.
  4. Suspected theft of medications including controlled substances while at the clinical facility; and
  5. Evidence of involvement in the use, possession, sale, solicitation or transfer of illegal or illicit drugs while enrolled in the Rad Tech Program.

**M. Immunizations\***: All program applicants must be fully accepted into Dalton State College prior to enrolling in the program. Such College acceptance includes a form for proof of immunization for:

- a. MMR
- b. Measles
- c. Mumps
- d. Rubella
- e. Influenza

\* In cases of pregnancy or suspected pregnancy, immunizations may be deferred. College Admissions is responsible for immunization evaluations.

**N. Other Health Tests Required at the expense to the student:**

- a. Annual 2-step Tuberculin Skin Test (Exception: documentation of previous positive TB skin test, in which case the student must submit evidence of a chest x-ray).
- b. Hepatitis B vaccine series or wavier signed.
- c. Drug screening.
- d. Covid testing

**O. Latex Allergies**: Most clinical sites as well as the college's labs are not latex-free. Students who have a known latex sensitivity/allergy must notify the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator in writing in order to develop a plan of action.

**P. Students with Accommodations**: Students who have been accessed for the need of accommodations as deemed by the DSC Office of Disability Services, are required to share the level of accommodation needed for the student while enrolled in the Rad Tech Program. If a student needs accommodations for the ARRT examination, it is the student's responsibility to contact the ARRT and complete the documentation with the ARRT.

**Q. Pregnancy Policy:**

1. Should a student become pregnant while enrolled in the radiologic technology program she has the right to "Declare" her pregnancy to the program faculty or remain "Undeclared". The policy is a "voluntary" policy.
2. A "declared" pregnant student chooses to voluntarily inform (in writing) program officials of her pregnancy to include the expected date of delivery.
3. A "Declared Pregnant Student Statement" form is required to be completed by the student if she declares her pregnancy. The Form is found at the end of this policy.
4. The Declared Pregnant student has the right withdraw the declaration at any time by submitting a written withdrawal declaration to the Program faculty.
5. A declared pregnant student will have the option of continuing the educational program without modification or interruption, or take a leave of absence from clinical and class assignments or withdrawing the declaration. If a leave of absence is chosen: Any missed class assignments/tests must be made-up upon returning from maternity leave. Any missed clinical hours can use "banked" time. Please read below (#8) for specific details.
6. All leave time, assignments, clinical competencies and tests must be completed prior to the program graduation ceremony in order to participate in ceremony exercises. If needed, a program extension can be granted using an Incomplete "I" grade for courses in the last semester of the program. The "I" is required to be cleared by the mid-term of the subsequent semester.
7. **Maternity leave**: Used when a student has formerly (in writing) "declared" her pregnancy to the program director. A written physician's note must be submitted to the program

director stating the estimated length of recovery. Maternity leave extends from true- labor- childbirth to the return of program activities as scheduled. Students are strongly encouraged to return to classroom attendance within three weeks of giving birth due to the nature of course progression. All classroom assignments, tests, and lab sessions/evaluation are required to be made up by the end of the semester or an “I” (Incomplete) will be the earned grade in each course. The “I” must be completed by the mid-term of the subsequent semester. For clinical attendance, the student can use the “banked” hours up to a maximum of 96 hours of schedule clinical time. Pre and post-natal and/or child doctor visits follow the normal program attendance policy for absences and are not included in the maternity leave or banked hours (time). Should a student choose to return before the banked time is completed, the banked time is considered expired and cannot be transferred to another student.

8. **Banked absences time:** Students are strongly encouraged to “bank” clinical time on a weekly basis to account for the time missed during a scheduled surgical or maternity leave. Banked time cannot exceed the 40 hour per week program involvement activity rule and cannot exceed three weeks of clinical hours. Such a ‘banking’ plan must be documented and discussed with the clinical coordinator. Banked time expires upon the student returning to the program as a full-time student (including both class and clinical assignments). Pre and post-natal student and/or child doctor visits follow the normal program attendance policy for absences and are not included in the maternity leave or banked hours (time). Other program students may donate hours to the student’s “bank”. Such donations require a written notice (of hours donated and who is donating the hours) to the Clinical Coordinator prior to the student leaving for maternity. Should a student choose to return before the banked time is completed, the banked time is considered expired and cannot be transferred to another student.
9. The student has the option of purchasing a second radiation dosimeter to monitor the radiation levels of the fetus.
10. No clinical rotational changes are necessary for a pregnancy. The student will be allowed to actively participate in all routine aspects of program activities (clinical and class). The student will utilize the ALARA radiation protection principles (Time, Distance, Shielding) as required by all enrolled radiologic technology students.
11. For program re-entry, the student must follow the established program Reinstatement Policy procedures.
12. The program follows the recommendations for a pregnant student or staff as established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
13. Maximum Permissible Occupational Radiation Exposure Limits:

Amount	Annual	Monthly
Occupational Effective Dose	50 mSv	
Lens of eye	150 mSv	
Cumulative	10 mSv x age	
Declared Pregnancy Fetal Dose	5 mSv entire gestation	0.5 mSv per month of gestation

Declared Pregnancy Form: Dalton State College Rad Tech

In Accordance with the NRC's regulations (10 CFR 20.1028), "Dose to Embryo/Fetus", I wish to declare that I am pregnant. My estimated date of conception was \_\_\_\_\_  
(month and year only)

I understand that an embryo/fetus shall not receive in excess of 5 mSv unless that dose has already been exceeded between the time of conception and submitting this form, during the term of the pregnancy.

I understand that I will be given information directing me to read NRC regulatory guides for radiation concerns and dosages for the embryo/fetus.

I understand that I have the option of continuing my educational program without modification or interruption or take a leave of absence from class and clinical assignments with time/classwork to be made up. Banking of a maximum of 96 hours is allowed which can be used for clinical absences.

I understand that no clinical rotational changes are necessary for my pregnancy.

I understand that any time missed over my allotted personal days will have to be made-up in accordance to program policies.

I understand that I have the option of purchasing a second radiation dosimeter to wear at the level of the fetus for the remainder of the pregnancy.

I understand that I can withdraw my declaration at any time by submitting a written withdrawal letter to the Program Director.

I understand that signing this declaration is totally voluntary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Declaration)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student)

RECEIPT OF DECLARATION ACKNOWLEDGED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date