

Dear Radiography Applicant,

In addition to the information made available on the SMCC website and through our Enrollment Services office, I want to share with you some additional information which I hope might be helpful to you.

Radiography is a profession which utilizes highly sophisticated equipment and imaging systems to perform diagnostic studies. Although radiography is highly technical, a primary motivation in pursuing any of the healthcare programs needs to be the desire to provide professional, quality, and empathetic care to patients. The curriculum not only requires many technical courses which focus on equipment specifications and imaging factors but also on many patient care and procedural courses. Since the radiographer is responsible for patient radiation protection, the physical characteristics of ionizing radiation, the biological effects of radiation, and the measures necessary for patient and personnel protection from radiation are also a large component of our curriculum.

Science courses require great attention to informational details as well as the ability to apply specific learned facts to real life and problem solving situations. It is important that applicants assess their skills, strengths and weakness in these technical areas. A career counselor or enrollment advisor can provide you with assistance in determining if radiography is the best career choice for you.

Didactic courses require a **75** or better to pass and clinical courses require an **85** to pass. The didactic curriculum is demanding and the clinical courses require not only the application of information in the performance of radiographic exams, but clinical environments demand a number of affective or attitudinal characteristics. Consider the following questions:

- Do you function well as a member of a team?
- Can you accept ongoing performance evaluation?
- Can you follow protocols and specific directions?
- Can you show empathy to patients?
- Can you work in stressful and critical situations?
- Do you have good written and verbal communication skills?
- Can you maintain confidentiality of information?
- Can you **access** your own skills accurately and to ask for assistance when indicated?
- Can you adhere to professional ethical standards?
- Have you prepared yourself financially, personally and emotionally for the commitment of time and dedication that is required for successful completion the program?

If you answer “no” to any of these questions, you may want to select course(s) and develop a support system which will help prepare you for a healthcare career program of study.

A criminal background check is required annually on all students accepted into the radiography program

and all of our clinical facilities receive the results. As a result of the criminal background results, a clinical facility may opt to not allow a student into their facility for clinical practicum.

If any facility denies access to a student, the student would be dismissed from the program. In other words, a student must be acceptable to all of our clinical facilities. The national certification exam taken at the completion of the program as well as the state of Maine licensing requirements also require criminal background checks as part of their application process.

The clinical environment requires a mandatory dress code which is discussed fully with students prior to any clinical assignment. In addition to specific requirements regarding dress and foot attire, no facial jewelry or visible tattoos are allowed in clinic.

We strongly suggest that interested students contact the director of a Radiography department at a hospital close to their home and arrange to do a "job shadow" in diagnostic general radiography of at least 4 hours. Observation should be done primarily in general or routine radiography not in MRI, CT, or Sonography. Although MRI, CT, and Sonography represent areas of specialization for graduate radiographers, clinical assignments in a radiography program focus on general radiography.

If you have specific questions, contact Louise C. Ouellette, SMCC Radiography Program Director, at (207) 741-5595 or [louellette@smccme.edu](mailto:louellette@smccme.edu).