WASHBURN UNIVERSITY | Allied Health Department

# Medical Dosimetry: Essential Functions

## Instructions for Applicant

As part of the Medical Dosimetry program application, prospective students must **submit the Essential Functions Form** acknowledging that they have been informed of the minimum skills and abilities required to be a medical dosimetrist. Applicants should indicate if they will be seeking accommodations to support their success while in the program. The Essential Functions Form includes space for applicants to ask questions and/or share comments, if applicable.

## What are *Essential Functions*?

Essential functions are non-academic physical, cognitive, behavioral, and performance abilities that relate to the skills and behaviors that are required to achieve success in a Medical Dosimetry program and later, in the profession. Essential functions reflect current practice standards and are guided by certification and accreditation requirements.

Defining the essential functions for the Medical Dosimetry program allows prospective students to make informed decisions about their ability to meet the demands of the program and secure employment as a certified medical dosimetrist. Program applicants are encouraged to meet with Medical Dosimetry faculty and potential clinical sites to discuss any concerns about physical or other restrictions.

## Medical Dosimetry Essential Functions

Washburn's Medical Dosimetry Essential Functions are based on the *American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) Educational Program Curriculum Guidelines*, which provide a list of the required skills, behaviors, and physical requirements for medical dosimetrists:

| | **Standard** | **Examples of necessary activities (not inclusive)** |
|---|---|---|
| Medical dosimetry applicants should possess the following general qualities: | • Critical thinking<br>• Sound judgement<br>• Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written<br>• Emotional stability and maturity<br>• Empathy and respect | • Interpreting physician prescriptions<br>• Using judgement to develop a radiation treatment plan that is accurate, safe, and deliverable<br>• Evaluating treatment plans to ensure goals are met |

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| | • Integrity and accountability<br>• Professional behavior<br>• Physical and mental stamina<br>• Ability to learn and function in a wide variety of research and clinical settings<br>• Ability to multitask | • Discussing treatment plans with physicians and other oncology staff<br>• Documenting accurately and clearly in written or electronic form<br>• Completing tasks independently and on time<br>• Collaborating with individuals from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds<br>• Ability to emotionally withstand demanding academic and clinical requirements<br>• Functioning effectively under stress |
| Medical dosimetry students must be able to: | • Demonstrate strong math skills, including knowledge of trigonometry or pre-calculus<br>• Spend extended time seated at a computer<br>• Demonstrate proficiency in computer operations<br>• Distinguish between colors on computer screens and patient markings on skin<br>• Visualize patient markings, equipment, and film while in dim lighting<br>• Interact with immunosuppressed patients and patients who may have a communicable disease<br>• Comprehend spatial relationships of objects and three-dimensional images | • Understanding and performing complex algebraic equations<br>• Recognizing computation errors<br>• Maintaining focus and attention to treatment planning computer for extended periods of time<br>• Interpreting patient anatomy in CT, MRI, and PET images<br>• Distinguishing between colored isodose lines in the treatment planning system<br>• Assisting radiation therapists with patient setups |
| Suggested physical requirements for medical dosimetry students and professionals include: | • Routinely lift 20 pounds over the head<br>• Push and pull, bend and stoop, and kneel or squat routinely<br>• Push standard wheelchairs or carts and assist in transferring patients onto and off treatment tables<br>• Hear various equipment alerts, sounds, and signals | • Assisting with plan quality assurance, including moving equipment on and off the treatment table<br>• Transporting patients between the waiting room and treatment room<br>• Assisting radiation therapists with moving patients from wheelchairs or hospital beds onto the treatment table<br>• Hearing treatment machine ‘beam on’ audio indicators<br>• Responding to patients activating the ‘emergency call’ buttons in bathrooms and waiting rooms |
| *Applicants should also understand that medical dosimetry students and professionals may be exposed to low levels of ionizing radiation during their careers.* | | |

## Arranging Accommodations

Please remember that clinical sites and employers may have their own standards for the performance of medical dosimetry duties. While it is the policy of Washburn University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, health impairments, and other disabling conditions, students in the Medical Dosimetry program must be able to meet their clinical site's standards and expectations. Prospective students are encouraged to discuss any concerns about physical requirements or restrictions with a clinical site prior to applying to the program.

At Washburn, representatives with Student Accessibility Services are responsible for arranging accommodations and identifying resources for individuals with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities MUST register and provide medical documentation from a qualified licensed professional with the office to be eligible for services. New requests for accommodations should be submitted prior to the start of the program. However, requests may be submitted at any time while in the program.

If you are a Medical Dosimetry applicant with a disability and you believe you will need accommodations or modifications to allow you to complete the program and job requirements, it is **your responsibility** to contact:

Washburn University Student Accessibility Services
317 Plass Learning Resources Center
Phone: 785-670-1622 / Fax: 785-670-1056
Email: accommodations@washburn.edu

## Non-Discrimination

Washburn University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, or marital or parental status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Michelle Godinet, Equal Opportunity Director/Title IX Coordinator, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave, Topeka, Kansas 66621,785.670.1509, eodirector@washburn.edu.

# Medical Dosimetry: Essential Functions Form

*Note: This form will be submitted electronically during the application process. It is included here for reference only.*

PLEASE CHECK ALL OPTIONS THAT APPLY:

- ❑ I have been informed of the Essential Functions of the Washburn Medical Dosimetry program
  - ☐ I do not have questions at this time, but I know that I can contact the Medical Dosimetry program director, Amanda Lisher (785-670-3103 or amanda.lisher@washburn.edu), if questions arise

    **-OR-**

  - ☐ I have the following questions:

    _____
    _____
    _____

I have reviewed the requirements, and I believe I have the ability to meet the standards, skills, and abilities listed without accommodations or modifications

-OR-

I have reviewed the requirements, and I believe I can meet the standards, skills, and abilities listed with appropriate accommodations. I will contact Student Accessibility Services to discuss my needs:

Washburn University Student Accessibility Services
317 Plass Learning Resources Center
Phone: 785-670-1622 / Fax: 785-670-1056
Email: accommodations@washburn.edu

Comments:

_____
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Signature: _____ Date: _____