

Vance-Granville Community College Radiography Program Staff Technologist Guide



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Revised: June 2009, April 2010, May 2011, May 2012, May 2013, October 2015, October 2016, October 2017, October 2018, June 2019, March 2022, January 2023, October 2023

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this handbook is to provide technologists who interact with VGCC's Radiography students' insight to our program goals, policies, procedures and expectations of the Radiography student.

Included in this packet is:

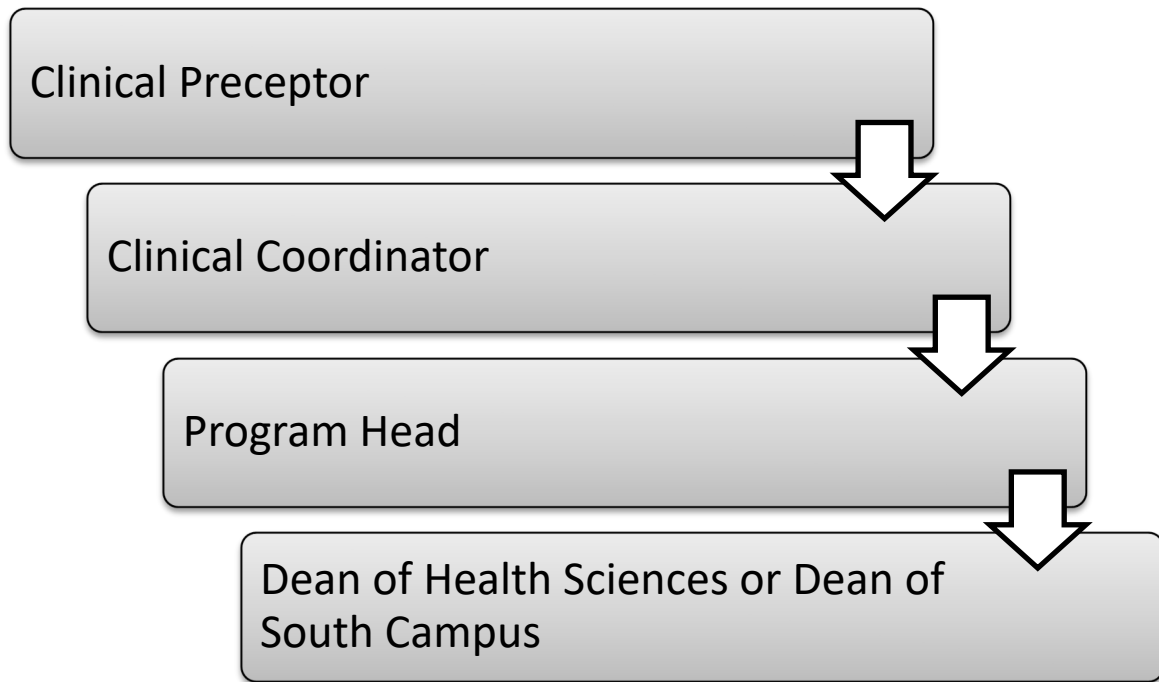
1. A copy of the Radiography Program's mission statement and goals.
2. A description of the characteristics and duties of a technologist who evaluates the Radiography student.
3. Guidelines for the technologist working with the Radiography student.
4. Direct, indirect and repeat supervision policies.
5. Commonly asked questions when grading the Radiography student.
6. Samples of various criteria and forms used for documentation and evaluation of the Radiography student's performance.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

1. To establish uniform interpretation of criteria by all technologists so that consistency will be maintained as each technologist evaluates the students' performance.
2. To provide guidelines for the technologist in carrying out the duties of a student evaluator.

Knowledge of the information contained within this packet is essential for the effective clinical evaluator. The technologist should read and understand all the information and use this document for reference. The technologist is encouraged to ask questions of the Vance-Granville Clinical Coordinator or Program Director. The number to the Clinical Coordinator is 252-738-3515. The Program Director's number is or 252-738-3539.

Chain of Command



PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Kim Sepich
Vice President of Learning, Student Engagement, & Success
Main Campus 8225
252-738-3283
sepichk@vgcc.edu

Dr. Angela Thomas, RT(R), CCMA
Dean of Health Sciences/Interim Radiography Program Head
Main Campus 5207
South Campus G2208
252-738-3397
thomasa@vgcc.edu

Jamisha Twitty, BS, RT(R)
Clinical Coordinator for Radiography
South Campus G2212
252-738-3515
twittyj@vgcc.edu

Stacey Mongelli, BS, RT(R), CCMA
Co-Clinical Coordinator/Adjunct Instructor
South Campus
919-410-7515
soless@vgcc.edu

Logan Humphries, RT(R)(N)
Part-Time Radiography Instructor
South Campus G2206
252-738-3505
lhumphries9191@vgcc.edu

Anthony Twisdale, BA, RT(R)
Adjunct Clinical Instructor
South Campus
252-738-3505
twisdalea@vgcc.edu

RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Vance-Granville Community College Radiography Program is to provide our students with a comprehensive education in radiography by which to prepare them to enter the radiographic profession as a competent entry-level radiographer

JRCERT RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM GOALS:

Goal 1: The radiography student will demonstrate clinical competency in skills related to the Radiography profession.

1. Student Learning Outcome -The student will competently perform routine radiographic procedures.
2. Student Learning Outcome -The student will competently provide patient care.

Goal 2: The radiography student will effectively utilize problem solving and critical thinking skills in the performance of medical imaging procedures.

1. Student Learning Outcome -The student will competently evaluate radiographs for appropriate positioning and image quality.
2. Student Learning Outcome -The student will demonstrate competence in non-routine examinations.

Goal 3: The radiography student will be able to demonstrate appropriate communication skills.

1. Student Learning Outcome -The student will demonstrate effective communication skills.
2. Student Learning Outcome -The student will demonstrate age specific communication skills.

Goal 4: The radiography student will accept responsibility for understanding the value of professional development and growth.

1. Student Learning Outcome -The student will demonstrate appropriate professional behavior in the clinical education setting.
2. Student Learning Outcome -The student will understand the benefits of professional organizations and opportunities that foster development and growth.

Goal 5: The radiography program will meet the needs of the community by providing qualified radiographers.

1. Student Learning Outcome -The student will complete the program within 2 years.
2. Student Learning Outcome -The graduate will indicate satisfaction with preparation for employment.
3. Student Learning Outcome -The employer will indicate satisfaction with the graduate's performance.
4. Student Learning Outcome -The graduate will pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) credentialing examination.
5. Student Learning Outcome -The graduate will be employed in medical imaging within six months of graduation.

THE TECHNOLOGIST AS A ROLE MODEL

An important function of the technologist working with the student radiographer is to serve as an effective role model for the students' performance in the clinical setting. The technologist's professional development, communication skills, and technical abilities must demonstrate the standard of performance expected of students and graduates of the program.

The technologist may be the first person the student observes and whose behavior the student imitates in clinical performance. The staff technologist provides valuable instruction for the students in:

1. proper use of equipment and accessories.
2. performance of procedures.
3. adaptation of procedures to the specific equipment and situations utilizing critical thinking skills.
4. equipment trouble shooting and problem solving.
5. learning general routines of the department.
6. utilizing radiation protection for self and patients.
7. patient communication and care.
8. ethical behavior.
9. dealing with Radiologists and adjunct medical staff.
10. proper manipulation of manual technique.

By encouraging and helping the students during clinical rotations, the technologist ensures the quality of their future co-workers. Students are the people that may radiograph the technologists and their loved ones someday.

The students observe YOU and give feedback. This is their perception as to how they see a particular technologist's behavior. **THEY ARE INFLUENCED BY YOU!**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLINICAL PRECEPTORS

A. Orient New Students to the Hospital and Radiology Department

1. Demonstrate room operation
 - a. provide access to Standard of Practice (SOP) manuals and/or routine exam sheets
 - b. explain routine rooms and times for performing certain exams as well as pertinent work flow information
 - c. demonstrate proper use of technique charts and measuring devices
 - d. discuss and/or demonstrate operation of equipment in each room.
 - e. discuss and/or demonstrate proper use of control panel for each room.
2. Discuss departmental policies and procedures to include:
 - a. patient processing procedures
 - necessary paperwork
 - transportation of patients
 - release of patients
 - b. meal times
 - c. emergency procedures
 - codes
 - fires
 - evacuation
 - location of crash cart
3. Orient students to hospital layout and facilities

B. Serve as Liaison between Program Faculty and Clinical Setting

1. Direct the student's clinical experience by assigning them to rooms or areas which allow a broad experience as well as necessary specific experience in recognition of students' level of training.
2. Ensure that the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) guidelines for direct and indirect supervision and repeat polices are enforced.
3. Work with students on a one on one basis whenever possible.
4. Provide copies of student rotation schedules to Program Faculty.
5. Oversee Trajecsys entries of student's competency evaluation exams and ensure other staff technologists utilize the platform correctly.
6. Ensure image evaluation portions of the student's competency exams are being carried out by all technologists prior to awarding a competency.

7. Approve/Disapprove student's Trajecsys clinical time records and daily logs weekly.
8. Ensure the student follows the clinical sites' Standard of Practice (SOP).
9. Ensure student is adhering to VGCC's Radiography Student Handbook.
10. Maintain open communication with the Program Faculty and relate any student problems that require their attention.
11. Inform and educate the clinical staff of the facility of any policy changes or new procedures that relates to student rotations.
12. Relate to the clinical staff the knowledge level of students and appropriate expectations for them during their rotation.
13. Conference with students to resolve problems or inform them of real or perceived weaknesses and strengths. Contact Clinical Coordinator if further action is needed.
14. Ensure student/staff ratio on any given day never exceeds 1:1.
15. Ensure students are in dress code. The act of allowing a student to clock in indicates that the student is in proper dress code.
16. Completion of Student Evaluations.

C. Additional Responsibilities

1. Require students to critique radiographs they have performed throughout the rotation on a routine basis.
2. Participate in student/program functions such as the Pinning Ceremony and Clinical Preceptor meetings.
3. Include students during interesting or unusual cases.
4. Provide students with clinical assignments during downtime including, but not limited to; practicing positioning, reviewing anatomy, critiquing reject films, etc.
5. Relate information disseminated at the Clinical Preceptor's meeting to the radiology staff at their site.
6. Inform the Clinical Coordinator of any perceived problems and/or student weaknesses.

CRITICAL PROCEDURES THE TECHNOLOGIST NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN WORKING WITH THE RADIOGRAPHY STUDENT

There are essential policies and procedures the student radiographer must adhere to during his/her clinical rotations. Following these policies will ensure the student meets all the necessary requirements in order to graduate.

Technologists working with student radiographers should take a few moments to familiarize themselves with these policies.

1. Students **ARE NOT** allowed to perform Practice Competencies/Competencies and/or Continued Proficiencies on any exam/procedures the student radiographer has not been tested on in the classroom and positioning lab.
2. Students must be supervised when clocking in/out of clinic to ensure they are in proper dress code and are not attempting to clock in/out outside of the clinical facility. Any qualified technologist can supervise students clocking in/out.
3. The student is **NOT** allowed to enter his/her own competency evaluations in Trajecsys. These entries must be done by a qualified technologist, preferably, the technologist who supervised the student while performing the exam.
4. The student is allowed to repeat a radiograph one (1) time. If after that repeat, another repeat is required, a qualified technologist must complete the exam. According to the JRCERT, the technologist must be present when the initial repeat is performed. The student must list all the exams he/she has observed or been involved in (Trajecsys Daily Log) and indicate if a repeat was performed. The technologist is required to approve the student's daily logs which include any procedures in which there were repeats. This approval indicates that a qualified technologist directly supervised the student during a repeat.
5. The student must visualize an armband on hospital patients to ensure they are retrieving the correct patient. In sites that do not use armbands, students must follow the patient identification protocol of the clinical site.
6. It is JRCERT's policy that students are not allowed to hold patients or image receptors during radiographic procedures (this includes fluoroscopy studies). A technologist, nurse, or family member may hold the patient once the student has properly positioned the patient for exposure. Please note anyone holding a patient and/or cassette **MUST BE** properly shielded prior to making the exposure. It is the student's responsibility to provide adequate shielding for anyone holding a patient or image receptor in order for the student to complete the exam.
7. Because a competency evaluation is comparable to a paper test in the classroom, the student radiographer **IS REQUIRED** to perform a Competency evaluation independently. Any assistance from the technologist (other than moving the patient on and off the table) will be considered an unsuccessful Competency.
8. The student radiographer is **NOT ALLOWED** to leave clinic during his/her lunch break. The student is not allowed smoke breaks and/or coffee breaks during clinic.
9. Students **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to remove patients from any monitoring device.
10. Students **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to use the hospital's computer during clinical hours unless it is for the specific use related to the student's patient (i.e. paging ordering physician, checking lab results, pulling previous reports, etc.) or clocking in/out of Trajecsys.

*Please refer to the Radiography Student Handbook for any questions regarding these policies and/or procedures. If there are any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clinical Coordinator.

GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNOLOGIST WHEN WORKING WITH VGCC'S RADIOGRAPHY STUDENT

1. In order to grade the student (Practice Competencies, Competencies and/or Continued Proficiencies), the technologist must be registered and employed at the facility for a minimum of six (6) months.
2. If the technologist is a new hire, he/she should complete the affiliates orientation period prior to working with students. The technologist should then review VGCC's Radiography Programs' Student Clinical Notebook and all appropriate paperwork with the Clinical Preceptor. If there are any concerns/questions the Clinical Preceptor is unable to answer, the Clinical Coordinator should be contacted for an individual meeting with the new technologist.
3. The technologist should allow the student to work independently whenever applicable (once the student has performed a successful Competency on the given exam/procedure). This allows the student to enhance his/her clinical knowledge when dealing with various types of equipment, difficult exams/procedures, challenging patients and/or a variety of Radiologists' methods.
4. The technologist must be aware that the student radiographer may not perform an exam/procedure in the manner and/or amount of time the technologist is accustomed to. Some technologists have been away from the educational environment for quite a while. These technologists should realize that the student is still in the beginning stages of his/her education and needs to develop a firm foundation which to build his/her career. The Radiography Program requests the patience of technologists who are working with these students. We ask that the technologist continue to uphold the Radiography Programs' policies and procedures. However, the Radiography Program also realizes there are technologists who do not prefer to work with students. If this is the case, we ask that you consult your supervisor so appropriate arrangements can be made.
5. We ask the technologist not to discuss his/her personal opinions regarding another student's capabilities and/or the Radiography Programs' policies and procedures in earshot of students. This can create a negative environment for the student, other staff members, Clinical Preceptor and/or the Clinical Coordinator. The Radiography Program strives to maintain an environment that is conducive for students. If the technologist believes there are areas that need modification and/or improvement within the Radiography Program, please do not hesitate to contact the Clinical Coordinator and/or Program Director.

UNIFORMS

Students will wear the uniforms that will be ordered at the time of orientation. If students should need to order additional uniforms later in the program, they will make those requests directly to the supplier. Students are not allowed to wear uniforms of a different brand name while in the

program. The uniforms selected for each class are the only accepted and approved uniform for the radiologic class. Other brand names may look similar, but exact matching is impossible. The cost will be the responsibility of the students.

LOGGING EXAMS IN TRAJECSYS

Practice competencies, Competencies, and Continued Proficiencies will be filled out in the following manner:

- a. The student is responsible for maintaining his/her daily log in addition to ensuring that the technologist who must log the student's exam has all patient information needed for logging in Trajecsyst. Students must also maintain his/her ARRT Checklist document in his/her clinical notebook. This document will serve as a tracker for exams that the student has completed and needs to complete. Technologists are free to access this document at any time during the clinical day.
- b. If a student intends to complete a practice comp, comp, or continued proficiencies, he/she must state that prior to retrieving the patient and/or starting the exam. If the student indicates he/she will be using the exam for a grade, the evaluating technologist will supervise the student performing the exam.
- c. Once the exam is complete and the patient is discharged, the technologist will review the radiographs with the student asking pertinent questions (anatomy, what this position best visualizes, etc.).
- d. Should the student be successful in the completion and critique of images, the evaluating technologist will enter the student's practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency into Trajecsyst by end of week.

Failure to enter student's competency exams in Trajecsyst by end of week will result in the student having to repeat the exam for credit.

Requirements of Technologist

1. The technologist must be registered by the ARRT in order to sign off on any student competencies, daily logs, or time record approvals.
2. The technologist must have been working in the field for a minimum of six (6) months in order to sign off on any student competencies, daily logs, or time record approvals.
3. If the technologist is a new hire, the technologist will not sign off on any Practice Competencies, Competencies, or Continued Proficiencies until he/she has completed the department's orientation period and has had the opportunity to review the Staff Technologist Handbook and student's clinical paperwork with the Clinical Preceptor and/or Clinical Coordinator. The new hire must also create a Trajecsyst account in order to access student competency, daily log, and time clock information.

CLINICAL COMPETENCY GRADING AND EVALUATION FORMS

FAQ

- Q. How much help can the student receive during a Practice Competency?
- A. The student should receive only minimal assistance during a Practice Competency. The student is required to know proper CR location, collimation size, collimated field orientation, projections required, SID etc.
- Q. Can the student have a repeat on his/her Competency?
- A. Yes, but the student must be able to correct his/her mistake without assistance or guidance from the technologist. If the student must be told what to do to correct the position on the repeat image, the competency will be deemed unsuccessful.
- Q. What if the student did not perform all criteria successfully on his/her Competency?
- A. Be honest with each score. The student has a right to know what he/she is doing wrong, the student can never improve if the situation is not addressed. If you do not feel confident the student could perform the exam unassisted the next time, the student does not deserve the Competency. The student is required to know proper CR location, collimation size, collimated field orientation, projections required, SID etc.
- Q. The student performed the exam/procedure without informing me he/she wanted a Practice Comp or Comp. What should I do?
- A. The Radiography student is required to inform the technologist that he/she requests a Practice Competency and/or Competency PRIOR to the patient entering the exam room. The technologist should award a practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency if the student requests credit for the exam during or after the exam/procedure.
- Q. A student has asked me to sign off on a Continued Proficiency he/she says was performed with me the previous clinical day. What should I do?
- A. If the student did not state he/she would be using the exam as a continued proficiency prior to performing the exam, the technologist should not award that exam to the student.
- Q. If I am grading a student and the patient goes into distress what should I do?
- A. Take over the exam, the patient's health and well-being always come first.

- Q. I do not want the student to be mad at me, but I do not feel comfortable successfully passing the student on a Competency. What should I do?
- A. **DO NOT PASS THE STUDENT.** If the technologist does not feel comfortable that the next time the student performs this exam and/or he/she will be able to perform with indirect supervision only, do not pass the student. Remember the next time the exam may be performed on you or your loved one.
- Q. I did not see the student verify patient identification. How should I grade the Practice Competency/Competency?
- A. If the technologist does not see the student verify patient identification, the Practice Competency/Competency is unsuccessful.
- Q. If the student's marker is not identifiable on **any or all** of the radiographs but I saw the student place his/her marker on the cassette/bucky how should I mark that on a Competency?
- A. If any radiograph **DOES NOT** have a visible marker with the student's initials on it, the Practice Competency, Competency and/or Continued Proficiency has not been achieved. The Radiography faculty randomly audits radiographs at each clinical site. If there are not markers visible in its entirety on **ALL** the radiographs the student claims he/she has performed, the completed paperwork can be deemed falsification of documentation which is grounds for immediate, permanent dismissal for the student.
- Q. If the student had to repeat a radiograph and the repeat still needs repeating how should I grade the Practice Competency and/or Competency?
- A. According to the JRCERT, a student is allowed to perform one (1) repeat per position. Any additional repeats **require** that the technologist takes over the exam. Therefore, the Practice Competency and/or Competency should be marked as unsuccessful.
- Q. If the student forgot to shield the patient during a Practice Competency, Competency, and/or Continued Proficiency but the patient is over 50 years old, how should I grade the Competency?
- A. VGCC's Radiography Program's policy on shielding is students **must shield ALL patients** regardless of age.
- Q. I have not worked with this particular student before, but he/she is telling me he/she wants to perform a Practice Competency, Competency and/or a Continued Proficiency, what should I do?

- A. Technologists cannot tell a student he/she is not going to allow him/her to perform a Competency or Continued Proficiency unless the patient has requested that a student not perform his/her study. The student will continue with the procedure.
- Q. The student did not ask a female patient last LMP, but the patient is 45 years or older, how should I grade the Practice Competency/Competency?
- A. According to the Radiography Program's range (10-60yrs old) for asking females last LMP, the technologist should mark the Practice Competency/Competency as unsuccessful.
*Please note, the student is responsible for following the clinical affiliate's Standard of Practice (SOP) regarding the appropriate age to inquire about pregnancy in order to receive a practice competency/competency/continued proficiency.
- Q. The patient needs to be held during the exposure and the student is performing a Practice Competency or Competency, how should I handle the situation?
- A. It is JRCERT's policy that students are not allowed to hold patients or image receptors during radiographic procedures (this includes fluoroscopy studies). A technologist, nurse, or family member may hold the patient once the student has properly positioned the patient for exposure. Please note anyone holding a patient and/or image receptor **MUST BE** properly shielded prior to making the exposure. It is the student's responsibility to provide the adequate shielding for anyone holding a patient in order for the student to complete the exam.
- Q. The student requests a Competency on a fluoroscopy procedure. The student was too nervous to communicate with the Radiologist regarding history, patient prep, etc. How should I grade the student?
- A. The student is required to independently complete all aspects of the exam/procedure per the site's SOP. If the student does not complete these areas of the Competency, the technologist should mark the student down in that particular area or, depending on the amount the student did not accomplish, mark the Competency as unsuccessful.
- Q. The student wants to use a bilateral hand request on a patient as a **Practice Competency and Competency**. How should I grade the student?
- A. The student is **NOT ALLOWED** to perform a Practice Competency **and** Competency of the same body part on one (1) patient. This is because the student needs to be graded on patient identification, LMP, etc. twice (once for the Practice Competency and once for the Competency). The student is allowed to perform a Competency and a Continued Proficiency on the same patient with the same body part (example: bilateral hands).

*If there is any doubt as to whether the student passed a Practice Competency and/or

Competency, please consult the Clinical Preceptor, the Radiography Program's Student Clinical Notebook, and/or the Clinical Coordinator.

DIRECT SUPERVISION, INDIRECT SUPERVISION AND REPEAT SUPERVISION OF THE RADIOGRAPHY STUDENT

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPERVISION PROCEDURE

(Memo and signature page at end of document. Must be completed yearly.)

1. Until a student achieves and documents competency in any given procedure, all clinical assignments shall be carried out under direct supervision by qualified radiographers. The parameters of direct supervision are outlined as follows:
 - a. A qualified radiographer reviews the request for examination in relation to the student's achievement.
 - b. A qualified radiographer evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to the student's knowledge.
 - c. A qualified radiographer is physically present during the entire conduct of the examination.
 - d. A qualified radiographer reviews and approves the radiographs.

***At no time is the student allowed to perform portables, fluoroscopy exams, operating room procedures and/or emergency department exams/procedures without DIRECT SUPERVISION.**

2. After demonstrating competency in a given procedure, a student may perform that procedure with **indirect supervision**. The parameters of **indirect supervision** are as follows: A qualified radiographer must be **immediately available** to assist students and must review and approve all radiographs. **Immediately available** is interpreted as the presence of a qualified radiographer in or adjacent to the room or location where a radiographic or fluoroscopic procedure is being performed. This availability applies to all areas where ionizing radiation equipment is in use.

1:1 TECH TO STUDENT RATIO

The number of students assigned to the clinical setting must not exceed the number of assigned clinical staff. The student to clinical staff ratio must be 1:1; however, it is acceptable that more than one student may be temporarily assigned to one technologist during infrequently performed procedures.

REPEAT RADIOGRAPH PROCEDURE

If a student produces a radiograph of unacceptable quality, after evaluation and determination of necessary corrective action in consultation with a clinical preceptor or qualified technologist, the student may perform the repeat examination. ***A registered radiographer must physically go into the room and check the student's corrections before**

the repeat radiograph is taken. If the repeat is of poor quality, the student **will not** perform another repeat, but should assist the radiographer. The student will not receive a passing mark on the examination if the exam is a practice competency, competency, or continued proficiency.

Students may refuse to repeat radiographs if qualified radiographer is not present.

Students must notify clinical coordinator or program faculty member if they are made to violate policy or requested to violate this procedure.

RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The clinical affiliates reserve the right to refuse admission to any radiography student who is involved in any activity not considered professional or conducive to proper patient care. **Any student refused admission to any clinical affiliate is grounds for immediate permanent dismissal from the Radiography program.**

DISMISSAL FROM CLINICAL AFFILIATE

If a student has the unfortunate event of being asked to leave a clinical affiliate, not to return due to an incident or occurrence at that site, the following steps will occur.

1. The student will have a meeting with the clinical coordinator to discuss the events which resulted in the request.
2. If it is found that the student has violated the following: 1) Vance-Granville Community College Code of Conduct, 2) ARRT Code of Ethics, 3) Student Conduct as described in the *Radiography Program Student Handbook* or is deemed a danger to patients, the student will be dismissed from the program.
3. The student will have the right to appeal; however, if the student's appeal is not overturned, he/she will be permanently dismissed without the opportunity to return into the Radiography Program or any other Health Science Division program at VGCC.
4. If the student has not violated any of the above, the student may be relocated to another clinical affiliate at the discretion of the clinical coordinator. This relocation is allowed as long as 1) it does not violate the number of students approved to be at any given clinical affiliate, 2) the student does not work for the clinical affiliate at which there is an open slot, and 3) no other student has to be relocated to accommodate the student.
5. If the request not to return to the clinical affiliate does not fall into #2, but the clinical coordinator still decides to dismiss the student, the student has the right to an appeal.
6. Students should follow the appeals process as outlined in the *Student College Catalog*.

GROUND FOR POSSIBLE DISMISSAL

Breaching any of the following may be grounds for dismissal from the Radiography program.

Clinical Prep:

- Report to clinic prepared for his/her room assignments and exams performed in that particular room.
- Report to the clinical assignments in an alert condition.
 - a. No sitting/standing/leaning on counters, etc. in clinic
 - b. No sleeping
 - c. Not be in the possession of drugs, or liquor, nor engage in their use before or during clinical assignments.
- Report to the clinical assignments in the proper complete uniform.
- Students should review positioning, anatomy, radiographs, equipment manipulation, etc. during slow periods.

Clinical Performance:

Students should be aware that the following is a list of the activities that are not allowed during clinic regarding student's performance.

- "Picking and choosing" exams/procedures.
- Performing an incorrect projection/exam/procedure on a patient.
- Performing extra views not requested by the ordering physician and/or required according to the clinical sites' SOP in order to obtain a practice competency and/or competency.
- Repeating a radiograph because the student's marker is not visualized in its entirety.
- Performing repeat radiographs without a technologist present.
- Walking out in the middle of an exam/procedure.
- Performing Operating room exams, portable exams and/or Emergency Department exams without a technologist physically present.
- Receiving assistance from a technologist and/or student during the attempt of a competency on an exam/procedure.
- Refusing to accept assignments by the Clinical Preceptor commensurate with their capabilities, or to take directions from an individual designated by the Clinical Preceptor.

Clinical Professionalism:

Students should be aware that the following is a list of the behavior that is not allowed during clinical.

- Speaking about other student's clinical performance, attendance and/or tardiness, speed during exams/procedures and/or quality of work to other students, technologists and/or faculty members.
- Students leaving their assigned area within the Radiology Department without specific permission by the Clinical Preceptor, Clinical Coordinator and/or program faculty.
- Falsifying and/or alter clinical documents.
- Accepting competency exams that were not earned independently even though the technologist gave a passing grade.
- Engaging in theft of any articles from the clinical affiliate.
- Engaging in inappropriate conduct, as defined by the Clinical Sites agreement and regulations, and the student handbook, while on clinical assignment. (Depending on the infraction may result in dismissal from the program).
- Leaving the clinical assignment for meals, or clock in early or late for meals.
- Loitering in the radiology department of the clinical affiliate at times not specified for clinical assignment.
- Chewing gum while on clinical assignment.
- Taking smoke breaks during clinical hours other than the designated lunch break. If the student is assigned to a clinical site that is smoke free, he/she is expected to abide by the smoke free policy.
- Using the clinical affiliate's telephone for personal use
- Discussing possible employment with management during clinical hours.
Other than the designated lunchtime.
- Having or using audible beepers, pagers, cell phones, tablets, laptops, or any other personal electronic device in the clinical setting.
- Using clinical affiliate's computers for anything other than appropriate hospital use.

Patient Care:

Students should be aware that the following is a list of behavior that is not allowed during clinic.

- Not properly identifying patient using multiple identifiers such as, but not limited to; armband, birthdate, social security numbers, home address.
- Leaving patients unattended while undergoing diagnostic procedures.
- Mistreating, be verbally abusive or inconsiderate of the patient's feelings and/or needs.
- Leaving an inpatient unattended in the transport area (unless approved by clinical affiliate).
- Not obtaining appropriate patient history (signs/symptoms).
- Not thoroughly explaining exam/procedure to the patient.
- Not providing assistance to patient such as, but not limited to; providing urinals/ bed pans, emesis basins, sheets/blankets/pillows, etc.
- Walking out on a patient who is vomiting, screaming in pain, having incontinence issues, defecating on himself/herself, etc.
- Making exposures on patients without properly shielding patient.
- Making exposures on patients without properly providing protective shields for others having to remain in the room such as family members, prison guards, sitters/patient aids, doctors, nurses, etc.

*Students should practice appropriate patient care and customer service. Including, but not limited to;

- a. Address patient with Miss, Ms., Mrs., Mr.
- b. Ensure the patient comprehends instructions.
- c. Assist patient to and from wheelchair/stretchers, etc.
- d. Hold back of chairs when patient is moving.
- e. Ensure stretcher is locked prior to patient moving.
- f. Ensure bed rails are up when not performing exam/procedure.
- g. Answer any and all questions to patient's satisfaction.
- h. Not use pet names when addressing patient (i.e., honey, sweetie)
- i. Engage only in polite/professional conduct.

Students **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to participate in any extracurricular activities during clinic. This is to include, but not limited to:

- a. Blood drives

- b. Job fairs
- c. Uniform sales
- d. Participate in solicitation offers during clinical hours such as, but not limited to, Tupperware sales, Avon sales etc.
- e. Departmental parties (unless during 30 minute lunch break).

Radiography students should adhere to appropriate guidelines as published by the college for initiation of grievances concerning any aspect of clinical coursework. (see college catalog for student Code of Conduct). This includes maintaining a professional attitude when in the presence of other students, staff technologists, program faculty, physicians, and patients.

The program faculty will counsel students guilty of any infraction of the Radiography Program Student Code of Conduct. Each infraction will be handled by the program faculty according to the seriousness of the situation and in accordance with the published current College Code of Conduct. Please be aware that any of these infractions could be grounds for immediate and permanent dismissal from the Radiography Program.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

It is VGCC Radiography Program's goal to ensure that all clinical paperwork is true and accurate. The following are the Radiography Program's guidelines to ensure that the code of ethics is being upheld at all times.

1. Clinical Related Documents/Files/Logs – Clinical Documents
 - a. The student must have the clinical preceptor or authorized technologist approve time logs by end of each week. Approval of time logs indicates that the clinical preceptor ensures that the records are true and accurate. If there is an unmatched time record, the student may need to enter a time exception. Approval of this time exception by the clinical preceptor indicates the exception is true and accurate. Time records must be approved by end of week and any discrepancies should be reported to the student so corrections can be made. Time logs must not be approved without review of the information entered.
 - b. It is the student's responsibility to maintain possession of his/her clinical exams performed for credit as well as the daily log information. Students are also responsible for ensuring technologists have the information needed to log exams into Trajecsys. Students must keep an accurate record of completed exams on his/her ARRT checklist.
2. Practice Competencies, Competencies and Continued Proficiencies
 - a. The student will inform the evaluating technologist of his/her intent to practice comp and/or comp, prior to retrieving the patient.

- b. The evaluating Technologist will observe the student throughout the entirety of the exam; if he or she is successful, the competency can be awarded upon completion of anatomy review.
 - c. Once the exam is complete and the patient is discharged, the technologist will review the radiographs with the student asking any pertinent questions (anatomy, what this position best visualizes, etc...).
 - d. The technologist will enter the competency in Trajecsys by end of week. The student will be responsible for ensuring the technologist enters the exam in Trajecsys under the correct exam time (practice comp, comp, continued).
3. The technologist must enter continued proficiencies by the end of the week in which they were performed. The student is responsible for ensuring the exams are entered correctly. If edits should be made, the student must inform the technologist and/or the clinical coordinator.
 4. The technologist must be registered by the ARRT in order to sign off on any student exams.
 5. The technologist must have been working in the field for a minimum of six (6) months in order to sign off on any student exams.
 6. If the technologist is a new hire, he/she will not sign off on any exams until he/she has completed the department's orientation period and has gone over all pertinent paperwork with the clinical preceptor and/or clinical coordinator.

Falsifications and/or alterations of any of these items will be grounds for immediate dismissal of the student.

DRESS CODE

Any student reporting to the clinical affiliate in improper uniform or attire will be sent home. In the event the student is carpooling, he/she will be required to sign out of clinic and wait in a designated area until clinic is over.

1. Students will wear uniform scrubs (color and style designated by the Radiography Program faculty).
2. Shirts under the designated uniform must be solid black with no decals showing. The student may also wear a turtleneck in the appropriate color.
3. Solid black socks will be worn
4. Black leather uniform shoes or black leather athletic shoes must be worn. If the student chooses an athletic shoe, it must:
 - NOT be a high-top shoe
 - be solid black with no bright colors
 - NOT display a prominent brand-name label
 - be **leather**, not canvas
 - be free of dirt and in good condition.

Uniform clogs are not acceptable. Any shoe that does not cover the entire foot should not be worn.

5. Lab coats are not required, but the student may purchase one from a uniform shop. If worn, they must be black in color, long-sleeved, and below the hips.
6. No perfume or after-shave may be worn. Make-up should be applied conservatively.
7. Jewelry should be limited to a watch, a wedding/engagement ring(s), and one small pair of post-earrings (worn in the first piercing closest to the jaw line). No earrings will be worn in the upper cartilage of the ear. No dangling or hoop earrings are allowed. No necklaces, additional rings, or bracelets may be worn for safety/hygienic reasons. For professional reasons, tongue rings, nose rings, or eyebrow rings may not be worn. Any dermal anchors that are visible must be covered during clinic. **Smart Watches are not allowed in the clinical setting.**
8. Hair must be clean, dry, and out of the face at all times. **Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back and off the shoulders.** Hair ornaments should be small and discrete.
9. Facial hair must be kept shaved in order to accommodate custom fit facial masks.
10. Fingernails must be kept natural, short, and clean. The student's nails should not be seen past the finger tips. Colored nail polish is not acceptable. No acrylic nails.
11. Tattoos must be covered at all time.
12. Personalized radiopaque image markers are part of the approved uniform for radiography students and must be with the student during clinical rotations.
13. Radiation monitoring devices (TLDs) and name tags are required items to be worn on the uniform. Name tags must be worn on the upper left hand corner of the uniform top. TLDs must be worn along the collar of the uniform top.
14. In addition to the required radiation monitoring device (TLD) and identification badge, some clinical affiliates require facility identification badges. These will be distributed by the facility and will be worn in conjunction with the Radiography Program's radiation monitoring device (TLD) and identification tag.

If in doubt, the student should ask the program faculty prior to wearing questionable attire to the clinical site.

CLINICAL COMPETENCY/CONTINUED PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES

The following are the criteria for obtaining Practice Competencies/Competencies and Continued Proficiencies for the clinical aspect of VGCC's Radiography Program. In order to ensure all clinical paperwork is completed accurately and correctly please follow these guidelines.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **TESTING PRIOR TO PERFORMING PRACTICE COMPETENCIES, COMPETENCIES AND CONTINUED PROFICIENCIES IS REQUIRED**

Students are not allowed to perform practice competencies/competencies in the clinical setting until:

- a. He/she has been tested in the classroom on the specific exam/procedure.
- b. Has performed the lab practicum for the specific exam/procedure.

2. **LAB SIMULATIONS**

Students who successfully complete his/her lab practicum will be automatically awarded a lab

simulation for those exams designated as Mandatory (M) by the ARRT. If a student is unsuccessful during his/her lab practicum, he/she must make an appointment to perform a separate lab simulation on the exam. Upon successful completion of the lab simulation, the student may begin performing these exams in the clinical setting.

If the exam is an elective exam or an exam that is not a mandatory (M) exam, the student does not have to perform a practice competency prior to performing the competency in the clinical setting.

For example: If a toe exam came into the department and the student stated they would like to use it for a comp, he/she may do so as long as the student has tested and performed practicum on the material.

3. **HOLDING PATIENTS OR IMAGE RECEPTORS**

Students are not allowed to hold a patient or an image receptor even if that student is obtaining a practice competency or competency (this excludes fluoro studies if required). The student will position the patient and if necessary, have the technologist, nurse or a family member hold the patient or image receptor in position during the exposure. Anyone remaining in the room with the patient **MUST** be properly shielded. Every effort must be made to remove any unnecessary people from the exposure area.

4. **COPYING IMAGES TO PACS**

The student cannot use an exam as a practice competency, competency, or continued proficiency if an image is copied and pasted from another exam to the folder in which the student is attempting to receive a practice competency, competency, or continued proficiency.

For example: If the student performs a tib/fib and an ankle and on the tib/fib the lateral malleolus is clipped, but it is shown on the ankle projections. The student cannot use the tib/fib for a practice comp, comp, or continued if the tech creates a copy of the ankle to go into the tib/fib folder in PACS.

5. **FILLING OUT PRACTICE COMP/COMP/CONTINUED FORMS IN TRAJESYS**

- A. The practice comp/comp/continued form **MUST** be filled out by a Registered Technologist that has been working in the field for a minimum of 6 months.
- B. The student is responsible for ensuring the technologist has the patient information needed and the correct exam type to be entered (practice comp, comp, cont'd).
- C. Should an exam be entered under the incorrect exam type, the exam will have to be deleted by an administrator (school faculty) and re-entered under the correct exam type.

6. **STUDENT MARKERS**

The students' marker **must be identifiable on all the radiographs and placed on the correct anatomical side** in order to receive the practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency.

7. **TECHNOLOGISTS ASSISTANCE**

If it is observed by the Clinical Preceptor and/or Program faculty that a student is receiving assistance during a competency (other than lifting assistance/moving help), the competency will not be counted. This assistance also includes help on how to move or manipulate any equipment (table, control panel, tube, fluoro monitors, PACS system, etc.)

8. **REPEATS**

The student **IS NOT ALLOWED** to repeat a radiograph because his/her marker is not visualized for the simple purpose of obtaining a practice comp or comp. If the tech can determine the letters on the marker by the naked eye or by window/leveling, the practice comp or comp can be accepted. Should a student repeat an image during a comp, he/she can still obtain the comp if no assistance is needed to correct the mistake prior to re-exposing the patient. If another repeat is necessary, the technologist must take over the exam and the competency will be deemed unsuccessful.

9. **SHIELDING**

In order to receive credit for practice comps, comps, and continued proficiencies, the student is required to shield the patient and anyone else that is in the x-ray room during exposures (Ex. Prison guards, parents, nurses, radiologists, etc.). **This includes the shielding of the patient.** The student does not have to shield the patient while the Radiologist is performing the fluoro portion of the procedure.

10. **COMPLETION OF ENTIRE EXAM/PROCEDURE**

Students cannot go into the exam room, do part of the exam for a practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency and then leave. The student must complete the entire exam to receive a practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency on all or part of the exams performed.

11. **OBTAINING MULTIPLE PRACTICE COMPS AND/OR COMPS**

The student may perform multiple practice competencies and/or competencies on a patient. For example: If the patient has an elbow, knee, and ankle ordered, the student may perform a practice comp and/or comp on all three studies. However, exams must all be a practice comp or all of them a comp. Multiples of the same type (comp or practice comp) can be obtained. Students cannot practice comp one exam and comp the other on the same patient due to the requirement of obtaining patient identification for both the practice comp and comp exam types.

If the student performs an exam such as a Metastatic Survey and they wish to use specific exams from the survey for credit (PC, Comp, or CP), the student is allowed to do so granted their marker was present on the exams they wish to use.

Students are able to mix competency exams with continued proficiencies. For example, if a patient comes in for an elbow, wrist, and hand, the student can comp the elbow and use the wrist and hand for a continued proficiency on the same patient.

ABDOMEN

1. A 2 view abdomen on a pediatric (>6yo) patient can be used as any of the following 2 studies:
 - a. Peds Abdomen
 - b. KUB
 - c. Erect Abdomen
 - d. Decub Abdomen (if ordered with KUB)
 - e. If comp has already achieved on KUB and Erect Abdomen, a 2 view abdomen can count as 2 continued proficiencies (KUB and Erect Abd).
2. 3 Way Abdomen (adult pt) can be used for:
 - a. 3 way abdomen
 - b. KUB
 - c. Erect Abdomen

- d. If comp on both KUB and Erect Abdomen has already achieved, the 3 way abdomen can be used for 2 continued proficiencies. (KUB and Erect Abdomen).

EXTREMITIES

Knee

If a knee exam is ordered that includes AP, Oblique, Lateral, Intercondyloid Fossa, and/or patella, the student can use the exam for a practice comp, comp, or continued (if applicable) on any of the following:

- a. Knee
- b. Intercondyloid Fossa
- c. Patella (must have at min 2v of patella. Ex. lateral and sunrise)

*Note: If the student is attempting all of the above and his/her marker does not show up on the Fossa view, the student can still use the knee and patella for a practice comp, comp, or continued (if applicable) as long as his/her marker is visible on those images.

Peds and Geriatric Upper Extremity

Peds upper extremity can be any upper extremity other than the shoulder girdle.

Peds and Geriatric Lower Extremity

Peds lower extremity can be any lower extremity other than the Pelvic girdle (this includes hip).

Trauma Upper

Trauma upper extremity can be any upper extremity other than shoulder girdle. Trauma is considered a serious injury or shock to the body and requires modifications in positioning and monitoring of the patient's condition. In order to obtain a practice competency or competency on a trauma exam, the student is required to modify positioning of the tube and/or patient for a minimum of one projection while continually monitoring the patient's condition throughout the entire exam.

Trauma Lower

Trauma lower extremity can be any lower extremity other than the pelvic girdle (this includes hip). Trauma is considered a serious injury or shock to the body and requires modifications in positioning and monitoring of the patient's condition. In order to obtain a practice competency or competency on a trauma exam, the student is required to modify positioning of the tube and/or patient for a minimum of one projection while continually monitoring the patient's condition throughout the entire exam.

Shoulder

A shoulder exam that includes an AP (internal/external or both), "Y" view, and an axial can be used for the following:

- a. 2 view shoulder
- b. Shoulder with "Y"
- c. Shoulder with Axial
- d. Trauma Shoulder

**Note: The student cannot break up the exam in order to comp a shoulder and practice comp a "Y" or any combination of practice comp, comp, and continued proficiency. Should the student need a comp on a shoulder exam and a "Y". The student will have to perform the entire series of images on two different people in order to comp on a shoulder and a "Y".

**Shoulder exams cannot be used for Scapula exams.

Hip

Exams that will qualify for a hip practice comp, comp, or continued proficiency include the following:

- a. Pelvis and Lateral Hip
- b. AP and Lateral Hip

SPINES

C-spine and L-spine practice comps or comps no longer have to include obliques. The student must follow the site SOP for practice comps, comps, or continued proficiencies.

Sacrum and Coccyx

Sacrum and coccyx will only count as **one** exam, even when done separately.

BILATERAL STUDIES

Bilateral studies **will not** be used to practice comp and comp any exam. For example, if a bilateral hand study was ordered, you cannot use the Right hand for a practice comp and the Left hand for a comp on the same patient.

Bilateral studies **can** be used for a comp and a continued proficiency or two continued proficiencies.

PORTABLES

Abdomen

A portable abdomen exam can be used as a continued for a KUB, if all continueds for the portable abdomen have been achieved.

A portable abdomen on a pediatric patient can be used as any of the following studies:

- a. Portable abdomen
- b. Peds mobile study
- c. Peds Abdomen

Ortho

Knee exams ordered from PACU (Surgical Recovery) can be used for any of the following:

- a. Knee
- b. Trauma Lower (anything other than pelvic girdle and shoulder girdle)
- c. Portable Ortho

*Note: Same rule applies if the exam was any extremity (Ex. Ankle, Forearm, etc). Must be at least 2 views.

FLUORO/OTHER PROCEDURES

UGI & BE

UGI's and BE's can be done single or double contrast. Either type of exam can be used for a comp. Post films are not required. Follow site SOP for completion.

SBFT

Small bowel follow through study can be used for a comp on both of the following:

- a. UGI
- b. SBS

IVP with Tomo

IVP with a tomogram can be used for a comp on both of the following:

- a. IVP
- b. Nephrotomogram
- c. NOTE: as of 2022, the ARRT has removed Tomography from the curriculum.

CONTINUED PROFICIENCIES

1. The student cannot begin to get continued proficiencies until they have a practice comp and comp on the procedure in question.
2. Continued proficiencies on KUB's can be obtained from any of the following exams;
 - a. Small bowel series
 - b. IVP
 - c. Portable abdomen
3. Continued proficiencies must have a minimum of 2 views for bone work
4. Students must complete the entire exam/procedure stated on the request in order to obtain a continued proficiency. The student will not pick two views out of a series in order to get a continued proficiency on them.

OR C-ARM PROCEDURES

In order for a student to obtain a C-Arm Competency, the student **must** have at least a SIM on the part in question. For Example: a student has a SIM on a hip, that student can obtain a C-Arm comp on a Hip ORIF procedure of any type or a hip injection procedure.

PEDIATRIC PROCEDURES

All pediatric exams require the patient to be 6 years old or less.

Peds Chest

Peds chest exams **must** be a minimum of **2 views** for practice comp, comp, and continued proficiencies.

Peds Abdomen

Peds abdomen must be a minimum of 1 view.

GERIATRIC PROCEDURES

All geriatric exams require the patient to be at least 65 years old and physically or cognitively impaired as a result of aging.

COPY OF DIRECT/INDIRECT SUPERVISION & 1:1 RATIO MEMO

MEMO

To: Radiography Program Clinical Affiliates

From: Dr. Angela Thomas, RT(R), CCMA, Interim Program Head for Radiography

Date: Annually each October

Re: Direct and Indirect Supervision of Radiography Students & 1:1 Ratio

Direct and Indirect Supervision of Radiography Students

To comply with the Joint Review Commission of Education in Radiologic Technology, it is important to remember the Standards in respect to the supervision of students. The following is the policy regarding student supervision in the clinical area.

Definition of Direct Supervision: Direct supervision involves the immediate presence of a registered radiologic technologist with the student. The technologist will be present in the exam room to observe the student's participation in the exam. This includes examinations done with portable units and in the surgery suite.

Definition of Indirect Supervision: Indirect supervision requires that the supervising registered radiographic technologist be within the local area of the student. The technologist does not have to remain in the examination room with the student, but is available for assistance, if needed.

Direct Supervision Required for:

1. All students that have not completed the competency for the exam they are performing.
2. All portable examinations.
3. All examinations done within Surgery.
4. All repeat examinations

Indirect Supervision Required for:

1. All examinations in which the student has achieved competency. Students are never to perform any examination without the supervision of a registered radiologic technologist.

1:1 Tech to Student Ratio:

The number of students assigned to the clinical setting must not exceed the number of assigned clinical staff. The student to clinical staff ratio must be 1:1; however, it is acceptable that more than one student may be temporarily assigned to one technologist during infrequently performed procedures.