

PREGNANCY POLICY

Female students who become pregnant or suspect pregnancy are encouraged by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) to notify the Program Director or Instructor **immediately!** Notification must be made in writing. A student has the right to not declare her pregnancy, in which case, the student will be treated as though she were not pregnant. Once a student has declared her pregnancy, she also has the right to undeclare her pregnancy at any time and would be treated as though she was not pregnant. This is in accordance with Federal and State laws. Confidentiality is assured if necessary.

Students who have declared the pregnancy will receive counseling concerning continuation of studies during pregnancy. Pregnancy is **not** grounds for dismissal, but radiation exposure should be limited during this time for the protection of the fetus. Radiation overdose in the first trimester has been known to cause birth defects and health problems. This is of utmost importance to the health of the unborn child. The radiation dose to the expectant mother (and fetus) must not exceed 0.5 rem during the entire period of gestation.

Below are the recommendations concerning the student's progression in the program:

- Students who become pregnant while in the program will be given the option of withdrawing. She may return at a later date as determined by the student and Program Director. (option 1)
- Pregnant students who chose not to withdraw from the program must acknowledge in writing having received counseling and assume all risk for possible damage to the unborn fetus. The student will be offered a monitoring device to wear at waist level to monitor fetal exposure during gestation. Readings will be monitored closely by the Program's Radiation Safety Officer. The student will continue in the program and have the option of performing all required procedures (option 2) or proceed with limitations in fluoroscopy, portables, surgery, etc. and make up missed rotations after delivery. (option 3)
- Second year students will be given the option of completing the didactic portion of the program and withdrawing from the clinical courses. Clinical will be resumed as soon as feasible after the baby's birth, but the student must make up clinical days missed in excess of clinical absences allowed. First year students do not have this option because the clinical and didactic classes are too close in correlation. (option 4 only for second year students)
- Undeclare Pregnancy (option 5) **must be made in writing**



Pregnancy Declaration

I, undersigned, hereby state my understanding of the possibility of hazards to my unborn child from the exposure to x-rays used in my clinical training. It is my understanding that this is an area where there are no definitive research studies and where much remains unknown. I have read the Pregnancy Policy and understand there are options available to me. I understand and acknowledge that Mississippi Delta Community College has given me the option of dropping out of the program immediately (option 1), continuing in the program without modification (option 2), continuing in the program with modification to protect the fetus (option 3) or second year students may withdraw from clinical and continue in the didactic classes and make up clinical days at a later time (option 4). If the third option is taken, Mississippi Delta Community College will take the recommended precautions for my safety, including my re-assignment to low radiation areas. I agree to accept assignments within these areas for the duration of my pregnancy upon the advice of the radiologist that this is the safest course of action for me and my unborn child. I hereby acknowledge that I have made this decision as a student technologist at Mississippi Delta Community College during my pregnancy as my own individual decision and not due to any pressure applied to me by the college. I may also undeclared my pregnancy at any time (option 5).

_____ I intend to drop out immediately (Option 1)

_____ I intend to continue in the program without modification to protect the fetus (Option 2)

_____ I intend to continue in the program with modification to protect the fetus (Option 3)

_____ I intend to withdraw from the clinical portion of the program and continue in the didactic classes and make-up all clinical days. (Option 4)

_____ I undeclared my pregnancy (option 5) must be make in writing

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Student technologist)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Program Director)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Radiation Safety Officer)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chair of Allied Health Science)