

Professional Demands – BHSc Programs

The Bachelor of Health Science programs educate students to become entry-level healthcare professionals in the following disciplines: Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Radiological Technology, and Respiratory Therapy.

These professions can be intellectually, physically, and emotionally demanding. Students must be informed of the associated professional demands and required skills as they consider entering these programs. Healthcare professionals must meet the standards that are outlined in their respective national competency profiles or frameworks (see below).

Intellectual Skills Needed:

- Problem-solving and critical thinking; attention to detail
- Working collaboratively with patients, families, and other health professionals
- Working independently
- Effective written and verbal communication while working in the clinical practice environment
- Adapting to rapid changes in technological advancements of healthcare equipment
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to manage competing priorities
- Maintaining patient confidentiality
- Ongoing development of one's socio-cultural knowledge and related skills and competencies
- Ongoing critical self-awareness of how one's behavior, communication, decision-making, and expectations of others are significant and often subconsciously determined by one's cultural context

Physical Skills Needed:

- Required to stand and/or sit for prolonged periods
- Strength to lift, move, and position patients of different sizes and mobility (e.g., transferring patients from a wheelchair to an examination table or on/off a stretcher, transporting patients and equipment within the hospital)
- Performing standard first-aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Working in areas with significant background noise and low lighting
- Viewing/assessing medical images for diagnostic quality
- Wearing personal protective equipment, potentially for a long duration of time, due to the potential for exposure to blood and bodily fluids (e.g., medical masks, N-95 masks, face shields, goggles, gowns, gloves, and lead aprons)
- Maneuvering in small spaces
- Sustaining repeated physical movements that could cause repetitive strain injuries

Emotional Skills Needed:

- Navigating diverse cultural, faith-based, and value systems with critical self-awareness when discussing patient treatment decisions (e.g., pregnancy termination, palliative care, withdrawal of life support, and organ donation)
- Causing discomfort or pain as part of the required care or treatment plan (e.g., inserting IVs, drawing blood, and touching areas that hurt)
- Caring for patients who are physically ill while vomiting, bleeding, or incontinent
- Caring for patients experiencing cardiac arrest or trauma
- Caring for patients who are critically ill or dying
- Being present when patients receive sad or upsetting news
- Supporting patients/visitors/staff who are angry, upset, irritable, aggressive, and/or agitated
- Recognizing the warning signs of compassion fatigue or burnout
- Balancing personal well-being with the demands of the workplace

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists

<https://www.camrt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/National-Competency-Profile-2019.pdf>

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists

https://www.csrt.com/wp-content/uploads/EN_Framework_2016_NARTRB_NCF_Part1.pdf

Sonography Canada

https://sonographycanada.ca/app/uploads/2020/05/Sonography-Canada-NCP-6.0-APPROVED-Final_updated-20200508.pdf