

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

### **“DECLARED” Pregnancy defined**

A declared pregnant radiography student is covered under the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC’s) regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations in 10CFR Part 19. “Notices, Instructions and Reports to Workers: Inspections and Investigations in Section 19.12, Instructions to Workers.” requires instruction to those associated with exposure to radiation.

The NCR’s regulations on radiation protection are specified in 10 CFR Part 20, “Standards for Protection against Radiation;” and Section 20.1208, Doses to an Embryo/Fetus, requires licensees to “ensure that the dose to an embryo/fetus during the entire pregnancy, due to occupational exposure of a declared pregnant woman, does not exceed 0.5 rem (5mSv).”

A declared pregnant woman is defined in 10 CFR 20.1003 as a woman who has voluntarily informed her employer, in writing, of her pregnancy and the estimated date of conception.

In the event that a female radiography student becomes pregnant, the student may choose the following options:

1. Written notice of voluntary declaration
2. Option for continuance in the program without declaration
3. Option for written withdrawal of declaration

### **Option 1:**

A student may choose to voluntarily declare her pregnancy. The following applies:

1. The declaration of pregnancy must be in writing and dated.
2. The estimated date of conception (only month and year be given).
3. The student will be counseled by the Radiation Safety Officer. Though no modification of responsibilities may be necessary, a second radiation monitoring device will be issued for fetal monitoring.

### **Option 2:**

If she chooses not to disclose her pregnancy, additional counseling and monitoring cannot be implemented. The student and her embryo/fetus will continue to be subject to the same radiation dose limits that apply to other students. There will be no modification in her duties or responsibilities.

### **Option 3:**

The student can submit a written withdrawal of her declaration of pregnancy at any time. She would then be subject to Option 2.

### **Options for a “Declared” Pregnant Student:**

The pregnant female student may:

1. Continue participating in clinical assignments without modification of responsibilities. If a clinical facility should refuse a pregnant student from continuing her clinical assignment, every effort will be made to place that student in another facility where participation is allowed.

**OR**

2. Take a leave of absence not to exceed one year and return to complete the program. This changes the graduation date if a leave of absence is granted. She will not be given credit for incomplete course work and may re-enter the program the next time those courses are offered in accordance with the “withdrawal” section of Policy 30.

**Protective Measures for the Pregnant Student Radiographer:**

1. NRC regulations state that the dose limit for the embryo/fetus is 0.5 rem (5 mSv) for the period of the Pregnancy.
2. NCRP recommends that fetal exposure should be restricted to an equivalent dose limit of 0.05 rem (0.5mSv) per month.
3. Two personnel radiation monitoring devices are issued: one to be worn at the collar above the lead apron, and the second one should be worn at waist level (under a lead apron) to monitor fetal exposure. A wraparound apron is preferred during pregnancy.
4. The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) will review acceptable practices of radiation protection with the student.
5. Be sure to bring your radiation monitoring devices on time to the office of the RSO.
6. The RSO will review your monthly readings with the student.