

Student Pregnancy Policy

The Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiologic Sciences requires a program publish and make known to accept and enrolled female students Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations regarding the declared pregnant student (declared pregnant worker).

A program's pregnancy policy must allow a female student the option of whether or not to inform program officials of her pregnancy. If the woman chooses to voluntarily inform officials of her pregnancy, it must be in writing and indicate the expected date of confinement (delivery). *In the absence of this voluntary, written disclosure, a student cannot be considered pregnant.*

If the student chooses to disclose her pregnancy, she must have the option of continuing the educational program without modification or interruption. Other options can include modification in clinical assignments, leave of absence from clinical assignments, and/or leave of absence from the program. The pregnant student will be allowed to make an informed decision based on her individual needs and preferences.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) recommends that the Dose Equivalent Limits (DEL) equivalent to the embryo/fetus from occupational exposure to the expectant mother should be limited to 5 mSv (0.5 rem) for the entire gestation period. It is recommended by the NCRP that persons involved in the occupation should notify the supervisor immediately if pregnancy is suspected.

Through proper instruction of all safety precautions and personnel monitoring and strict adherence to these precautions, it can be possible to limit all occupational exposure to less than 5 mSv (0.5 rem) per year and prevent fetal DEL levels from being surpassed. NCRP recommends DEL limits be set at mSv (0.2 rem) per year.

It is in keeping with the Federal recommendations the following steps should be taken if a student suspects pregnancy.

1. Declare pregnancy immediately to the Program Director who will review this policy with you.
2. Sign the Declaration of Pregnancy Form.
3. Submit a statement from your physician (optional). The statement must include the physician's recommendation as to which of the following options is advisable:
 - a. immediate withdrawal from the program
 - b. continued full time status with limited rotation in fluoroscopy and portables/operating room procedures, including appropriate Radiation Safety Precautions.
4. Student may withdraw Declaration of Pregnancy at any time.

Under the regulations, the dose received by the embryo/fetus due to occupational exposure is limited to 5 mSv (0.5 rem) for the entire pregnancy. Also, monthly exposure to the embryo/fetus cannot exceed 0.5 mSv (0.05 rem). The Medical Imaging Sciences program will provide an additional monitoring device to monitor the fetal radiation dose.

If continuing in full-time status, you must abide by the following:

1. Strict adherence to **ALL** safety precautions for protection purposes.
2. Submit statements from your physician as to any changes or problems in your pregnancy and advisability of continuation full time.
3. Wear two (2) personnel monitoring devices; one on collar and one on abdomen for fetal monitoring. The radiation safety officer and the student will monitor readings closely and will be subject to immediate leave of absence from the clinical environment if at any point the radiation safety officer deems it necessary.
4. At any time you feel you are working in an unsafe area or under conditions you feel detrimental to yourself or fetus, stop immediately and report to the clinical educator or clinical adjunct faculty.
5. At no time and for no reason will the pregnant student place herself in the primary beam of radiation.
6. During the clinical experience, the student must adhere to the pregnancy policy at the clinical affiliate.

Voluntary withdrawal from the program:

1. The student will be required, upon return, to complete all clinical competencies, rotations and didactic (classroom) work missed or not completed prior to and during her maternity leave.
2. The student must complete, upon return, **ALL** requirements for graduation, including length of time in the program, required courses and clinical competencies and rotations. No degree will be issued until all requirements have been successfully met.
3. Each withdrawal and return to the program will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Declaration of Pregnancy

I, _____, do hereby make this voluntary declaration of pregnancy. My estimated delivery date is _____.

Printed Name

Month/Day/Year

It has been explained to me that this declaration is voluntary. By declaring my pregnancy I understand that the University of Alaska Anchorage, Radiologic Technology Program must take precautions to ensure that the total dose to the fetus/embryo during gestation does not exceed 0.5 rem. This requires a separate film badge be worn to monitor the fetus/embryo. A reassignment of rotations may be necessary to aide in lower overall occupational exposure.

Student Signature

Date

Program Director

Date

Clinical Coordinator

Date

Student Film Badge Number

Fetal Film Badge Number