

Amarillo College Radiography Program

Radiography Pregnancy Policy:

The National Council on Radiation Detection and Measurements (NCRP) recommendations & the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements are adopted as policy by the Amarillo College Radiological Science Programs. This policy is **STRICTLY** enforced to provide protection for the radiation sensitive embryo/fetus and to establish radiation protection procedures to ensure safety from any potentially significant exposure.

It is realized that the Radiological Science student who is pregnant may choose to maintain her pregnancy status as confidential. Any such student may still obtain fetal dose and related radiation safety information, at any time, from the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) without officially declaring her pregnancy status. However, a student who is pregnant is encouraged to consider the RSO's responsibility for her safety, as well as the safety of her embryo/fetus, and voluntarily provide the RSO with an official written declaration of pregnancy.

Amarillo College assumes no responsibility for providing fetal radiation dose monitoring and precautions until the pregnant student voluntarily declares her pregnancy status, in writing, to the RSO. Amarillo College's responsibility to protect the embryo/fetus under the 500 mREM (5 mSV) dose guideline begins only when the student officially declares her pregnancy to the Radiation Safety Officer.

Procedures:

Once a written declaration of pregnancy has been received by the RSO, the RSO will schedule a counseling session with the student as soon as possible, no longer than one week after declaration. Major items to be discussed during this session will include:

1. Fetal dose safety and precautions.
2. A copy of the NRC Regulatory Guide 8.13 "Instructions Concerning Prenatal Radiation Exposure."
3. Fetal radiation monitoring program, guidelines, regulations and a separate monthly fetal dosimetry badge.
4. Safety aspects of the student, the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) radiation protection philosophy.
5. The student who is pregnant will have several options to consider regarding the duration of her educational program at Amarillo College:
 - A. She may remain in all program courses through program completion without any modification or interruption because of her pregnancy.
 - B. She may remain in all program courses and request special modifications related to the higher dose potential duties (e.g. portable imaging, surgery, fluoroscopy, etc.). The RSO will make the determinations for specific work area assignments during the pregnancy period and each case will be handled on an individual basis.

C. She may remain in didactic courses only, and take a temporary leave from those courses where she would be directly involved with the use of ionizing radiation equipment with the duration of leave not to exceed a period of time that will prevent program completion within the 36-month requirement as stated in the college General Catalog.

D. She may take a leave from all program coursework with the duration of leave not to exceed a period of time that will prevent program completion within the 36-month requirement as stated in the college General Catalog.

E. She may at any time voluntarily withdraw her declaration of pregnancy. Withdrawal of declaration or pregnancy MUST be in writing. by submitting a hand-written or typed note, signed by the student, declaring that they are withdrawing their declaration of pregnancy. It is the responsibility of the student to deliver the note to the RSO. Any declaration not in writing cannot be recognized.

After the counseling session, the student and RSO will be asked to sign a statement confirming that:

- 1) The student received NRC Regulatory Guide 8.13;
- 2) Personnel monitoring has been established;
- 3) Options have been discussed; and,
- 4) The student had an opportunity for questions during the counseling session.

Rev. 11/2020-mgh