

## Pregnancy Policy 4.5

Section: Academic	Title: Pregnancy Policy	Policy #: SHB 4.5
Department: CHI St. Vincent Infirmary – School of Radiologic Technology	Approved by: Academic Committee	Date last reviewed/revised: 6/20

**PURPOSE:** All students will be advised of the potential danger to an unborn fetus resulting from radiation exposure by giving each student the Regulatory Guide 8.13 from the Nuclear Regulatory Committee in accordance with the Standards for an Accredited Educational SOR in Radiological Sciences from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiography.

Because of the potential effects of radiation exposure on the unborn fetus, the School of Radiologic Technology strongly recommends that the pregnant student inform the Program Director of her pregnancy as soon as possible if the dose to the unborn child is to be minimized. ***However, the decision of whether or not to inform the Program Director of pregnancy is voluntarily up to each student.*** Students will sign an acknowledgment statement regarding the Pregnancy Policy, which will be placed in their file.

If the student voluntarily chooses to inform the Program Director of her pregnancy, it must be in writing on the Declaration of Pregnancy form. At this point, the student will be scheduled to meet with the radiation safety officer as soon as possible so she can make an informed decision as to how she wishes to proceed. The student is invited to bring the father or other individuals to the meeting with the radiation safety officer. The radiation safety officer will inform the student of the effects of radiation on the fetus, as well as acceptable radiation practices. The radiation safety officer will endeavor to answer any questions the student may have.

After meeting with the radiation safety officer, the student will determine which of the following options they wish to exercise and so declare on the Declaration of Pregnancy form.

**Option 1.** The student may withdraw from the School of Radiologic Technology. A student who withdraws in good standing may reapply to the program when applications are considered. This student will be evaluated on an equal basis with all other applicants.

**Option 2.** The student may withdraw from the School of Radiologic Technology and be guaranteed reinstatement the following year at the point the student withdrew. This guarantee is only for the year following the student's withdrawal.

**Option 3.** The student may withdraw from the clinical phase of the School of Radiologic Technology while continuing to take the didactic classes. All missed clinical time, including the post-partum period, must be made up before the student can graduate.

**Option 4.1 without modification.** The student may choose to continue as a full-time student in both the clinical and didactic portion of the program with or without modifications as described below. The pregnant student that chooses to continue as a full-time student shall bear the complete risk of injury to her fetus. In addition, the following measures are required:

- The pregnant student will be issued an additional radiation monitor to be worn at the abdominal level to monitor fetal exposure. The student must continue to wear her radiation monitor at the collar to monitor her occupational exposure.
- During the entire pregnancy, the Dose Equivalent limit to the fetus cannot exceed 5 mSv. If it does, the student must withdraw from the clinic portion of the School of Radiologic Technology and make up all missed clinical time prior to graduation.
- The student must present a written unrestricted release from her physician allowing her to take classes and continue her clinical education.
- The student will not assist in holding patients or remain in the radiographic room while an exposure is being made, otherwise they will continue all other phases of training as expected of any other student, including clinical rotations in surgery, mobile or fluoroscopy.
- In accordance with federal law, the student can “undeclared” their pregnancy at any time by submitting a written request to do so to the Program Director and proceed in all aspects of the program as if they were not pregnant.

**Option 4.2 with modification.**

At the student’s request, she may elect not to be assigned to surgery, mobile, or fluoroscopy during her pregnancy. These rotations must be made up prior to graduation.

If a student chooses not to inform the Program Director of her pregnancy in writing, that student will not be considered pregnant and must continue in all phases of the School of Radiologic Technology, maintain all academic and clinical performance standards and abide by all School of Radiologic Technology policies and procedures as is expected of all students. Furthermore, that student shall be deemed to have assumed all risks of any possible danger of radiation exposure to the unborn fetus.

Formed

Reviewed:

Revised: 02/2025