

National Education Curriculum for Sonography

Introductory Statement

The National Education Curriculum for Sonography (NEC) is the work product of a national consensus conference involving 18 sonography-related professional organizations. These organizations (see the following list), working collaboratively and representing the sonographic professional community, produced a national sonographic educational curriculum guide for use by developing and existing sonographic educational programs. The objective of this project was to produce a curriculum outline that, when implemented, may assist in the achievement of educational objectives to produce an entry-level sonographer.

The outlines within the curriculum may be used collectively or independently. Curriculum outlines have been developed for the following:

Common Curriculum

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Pathophysiology
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Communications
- Psychology and Human Behavior
- Statistics
- Information Technology
- Medical Ethics & Law
- Patient Care
- Sonographic Physics & Instrumentation
- Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSD)

Specialty Curriculum

- Abdomen and Superficial Structures Including Introductory Pediatric and Musculoskeletal
- Obstetrical and Gynecological Sonography
- Cardiac Sonography
- Vascular Sonography

The NEC was developed to support and expand competencies included in the current sonography Standards and Guidelines, which are developed for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education (CAAHEP) by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology (JRC-CVT). It is important to note that the use of these curriculum outlines by a program seeking accreditation does not guarantee program accreditation. Further, the objectives contained in the NEC curriculum guide are broad-based and general in nature and do not address clinical competency. The NEC is not intended to be prescriptive, and should only be used as the foundation from which a comprehensive sonography education curriculum may be built. Sonography programs may choose to include additional information or objectives not contained in the NEC documents.

The Utilized References contained in each section of the NEC represent the sources that may have been consulted by the authors while preparing the curricula. Only factual information was taken from these sources, unless otherwise noted. Every effort has been taken to appropriately cite all reference materials.

The organizations participating in the NEC project also recognized that for the curriculum guide to be useful in the future it must subject to ongoing community review/revision to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy. Further, the NEC required a repository organization to oversee future revisions and take responsibility for maintaining the document and insuring its accessibility to the professional community and the public it serves. The repository organization for the NEC is JRC-DMS.

The NEC is available at www.jrcdms.org/nec.htm. Questions regarding the NEC should be directed to JRC-DMS at mail@jrcdms.org.