



PREGNANCY POLICY

Declaration of pregnancy is voluntary and at the discretion of the student. A student who becomes pregnant has the following options:

A. Voluntarily give written notice of declaration of pregnancy – A student who voluntarily makes a written declaration of pregnancy may take advantage of lower exposure limits (0.5 rem), and additional dose monitoring provisions. The student must declare her pregnancy in writing to the Director of Radiology Education. The student will be referred to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for additional counseling in protective measures and will be assigned a prenatal radiation badge.

B. Choose not to declare pregnancy - If the student elects not to declare pregnancy and to continue in the program, normal occupational exposure limits will continue to apply. The student must meet the academic requirements and clinical objectives with no accommodations made.

C. Continue in the program with modification – The student would continue on a full-time or part-time status with the reassignment of rotations** (as requested by the student) coordinated with the Clinical Coordinator. The student will be referred to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for additional counseling in protective measures and will be assigned a prenatal radiation badge. Any didactic or clinical requirements not completed as a result of pregnancy must be made up before graduation and before being permitted to take the registry.

D. Continue in the program without modification – The student would continue to attend both clinical and didactic classes as scheduled with no accommodations made. The student must be able to meet the academic requirements and clinical objectives to continue in the program.

E. Withdraw declaration of pregnancy – If at any time the student decides to revoke her declaration of pregnancy, she may do so. This action requires written notification to the Radiation Safety Officer and the Director of Radiology Education.

F. Request a leave of absence – Refer to “Leave of Absence Policy”

G. Withdraw from the program and apply for re-entry at a later time - Refer to the program Withdrawal and Re-Entry policy

For the occupational dose limit for the whole body of 5 rem (50 mSv) per year, which applies to occupationally exposed individuals, the risk is believed to be very low. Radiology students over the age of 18 are considered occupationally exposed individuals for the purposes of radiation protection. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed the relevant scientific literature and has concluded that exposure of 0.5 rem (5 mSv) provides an adequate margin of protection for the embryo/fetus. Through proper instruction, strict adherence to safety precautions, and through personnel monitoring, it is possible to limit occupational exposure to under 0.5 rem during the period of gestation.