**The Problem/Situation**

Upon completion of our Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, our students will graduate with an Associate Degree of Applied Science and will be eligible to take the general sonography national tests through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The students are eligible to take three national tests, the registry for Sonography Principles & Instrumentation Examination (physics), Abdomen, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. To prepare our senior students for the national registries, they are required to take a Senior Capstone Review Course in their spring semester before graduation. This review course is separated into a several unit and covers the content of each test. This particular unit covers abdominal sonography. Successful test scores are vital to the future of the student and the patients under their care.

**Needs of the Learner**

According to our Diagnostic Medical Sonography program accreditors, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Standards & Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography states that the program must have the following goals defining the minimum expectations, “To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains” (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, 2011). The sonography students are high achieving and focused learners. They have studied and prepared in all three learning domains for two years. The final preparation for our students to exhibit the expected competency, prior to their national registry and graduation, is their Capstone Review course. It is our last opportunity to assess each student’s ability to practice their higher cognitive skills to successfully pass the abdominal national registry.

**Need of the Society**

There is a great societal need for competent entry-level general sonographers. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook, “Employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is projected to grow 46 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations” (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014). We are currently in the third year of the ten year stretch projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are realizing the truth of their projections. Our most recent graduating class had a 100 percent job placement rate as of August 2014. It is imperative for our students to exhibit competent entry-level sonographer traits upon the conclusion of the sonography program. Employers will be seeking competent, registered, entry-level sonographers to care for their patients.

**Value of the Subject Matter**

Sonography is a rapidly growing diagnostic imaging tool which requires expert and highly trained professionals to operate. In order for a sonography student to be deemed a registered general sonographer, they must successfully graduate from an accredited sonography program and pass The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography in Physics, Abdomen or Obstetrics and Gynecology. On successful completion of this review unit, the student will be properly prepared for the rigors of the abdominal sonography national registry.

**The Educational Goal**

This review unit serves as the final checks and balances prior to the completion of the program, national registry and graduation. Students are expected to come to class prepared with the basic knowledge of abdominal sonography. Students will utilize their learned knowledge to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the curriculum content in order to justify their sonographic findings. This course unit requires an advance level of critical thinking and decision making which are characteristics and traits of an entry-level sonographer. This course unit is designed to review the curriculum content and to assess the students according to the abdomen content outline suggested by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Abdomen Content Outline, 2015).

# Bibliography

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