

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY FAST FACTS (FAQs)

1. What do I need to do to be accepted into the Program?

- Complete a General Admission application to the College** if you are not a current Cuyahoga Community College student. This is online or at any campus Enrollment Center. This is the first of two applications that you will need to complete. The 2nd application will be for this selective admission program.
- Submit High School transcript or GED scores, and transcripts from all previously attended colleges** to the Enrollment Processing Center, PO Box 5966, Cleveland, OH 44101. It takes a few weeks for transcript evaluation. To view the accepted transferred classes, run a Degree Works report from the app located on your My Tri-C Space site.
 - o The Program Director and counselors cannot officially evaluate transcripts from other schools.
 - o Check on-line at www.transferology.com to see if a course taken transfers equally for the one you intend it to replace.
- Take the required specific English, Biology & Math Placement tests** if you do not have college-level English, Chemistry or Math courses **or** the acceptable ACT or SAT score in Math or English.
- Make an appointment to meet with a counselor**. Arrive on time so that they can go over the program planner and help you decide what courses to register for in the upcoming semester. Get information about financial assistance; there will be very little time for you to be employed while in the Program.
- Review the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program packet**.
- Complete the required admission courses and ‘shadowing’ requirements.** The following courses must be completed before being accepted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| ENG-1010 College Composition I | 3 credits |
| MATH-1410 Elementary Probability and Statistics I (or Math 1530, College Algebra or higher) | 3 credits |
| BIO-2331 & Bio-2341 Anatomy and Physiology I & II | 8 credits |
| DMS-1071 Concepts of Physics in Diagnostic Sonography | 2 credits |
| DMS-1303 Introduction to Sonography | 2 credits |
| DMS-1320 Introduction to Sonographic Scanning | 1 credit |
| DMS-1351 Patient Care Skills | 1 credit |

When scheduling or while in the admission courses, keep the following in mind:

- Plan when you will take your admission courses taking into consideration that some of the courses have prerequisite or co-requisite requirements. DMS 1320 is offered only Spring semester.
- Biology and Math requirements should be scheduled early in your course plan; delaying them delays your application from being complete.
- Health Career programs do not accept Pass/No Pass grades for admission courses taken at Tri-C.
- A letter grade of "C" or better must be achieved.
- Only two of the admission courses may be repeated once to improve from a previous attempt. A "W" is counted as an attempt.
- **Minimum 3.0 GPA for DMS 1303, DMS 1320 and DMS 1071 (total 5 credits).**
- **Minimum 3.0 GPA for BIO 2331 and BIO 2341 (total 8 credits).**
- Admission GPAs calculated using only the Tri-C specific admission course credit hours listed.
- There are no time limits for required courses; due to their importance, the course content is built upon (not reviewed) in the remaining Program courses.
- Minimum Tri-C cumulative GPA of 2.4 must be maintained during the entire length of the Program.

- If you transferred in English, Math, Physics, or Anatomy & Physiology course credit, you need an override to register for the some of the admission courses. Contact a counselor or program director to request the override and provide your Tri-C student ID number and the course section number (CRN).
 - Only the credit hours attached to the required Tri-C equivalents are used to calculate the admission GPAs regardless of the number of credits the accepted for the transfer course.
- Schedule an 8-16 hour “shadowing” experience with a hospital. Information is in the DMS Program packet. If you want to “shadow” at a Cleveland Clinic Health System hospital, contact Amy Graska at amgras@ccf.org or 440 695-4297 who will assist you in making arrangements.
- Students required to take the TOEFL should consider taking the following coursework to assist them in attaining the minimal scores: ESL Speaking English III and Special Topics in ESL: TOEFL Preparation.

Complete and submit the [Health Career Application](#) with the completed Shadowing Experience form in the middle of the term of your last required admission coursework. Do not submit any transcripts with this application; other health career programs may require them but not DMS. Indicate on the application the one specialty that you are interested in learning. The DMS Program is accredited to offer the specialty options listed in the degrees.

- If you have an approved course substitution or course waiver, submit a note with your application indicating the course substitution/waiver is on file.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all international students or if English is spoken as a second language. A minimal iBT score of 24 is required in the speaking skill component and a minimal iBT score of 22 is required in the listening skill component. Go to www.ets.org for more information about these tests. The student is responsible for arrangements and costs incurred for the TOEFL. This test must be taken even if you are an American citizen or have taken ENG 1010. Students should consider taking the following coursework to assist them in attaining the minimal scores: ESL Speaking English III and Special Topics in ESL: TOEFL Preparation.

2. **When are the admission courses offered?**

Most admission courses are offered every semester at Tri-C; many have daytime and evening offerings with a few offering Web classes. DMS-specific admission courses are only offered at the Western Campus. DMS 1320 is offered only in the Spring due to limited lab availability.

3. **Can I take the admission courses closer to my home/work?**

Many of the admission courses can be taken at other campuses. If the location is not a Tri-C campus, check [on-line](#) at www.transferology.com to see if the course may transfer equally for the one you intend it to replace. Due to the limited number of accredited Sonography programs, very few colleges offer courses that are equivalent to the DMS-specific admission classes.

4. **Where is the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program located?**

The DMS Program is offered at the Western Campus in Parma. Due to scanning lab equipment expense and space requirements, all of the DMS courses are only offered at this campus.

5. **What areas of ultrasound does the Program offer?**

There are several areas of specialization in the field of sonography; individuals interested must choose an area to specialize in when applying to the program. Tri-C is CAAHEP-accredited for the following specialty options offered:

- General sonography
 - Abdominal: sonographic evaluation of the organs of the abdominal cavity (i.e. liver, spleen, kidney, pancreas, and aorta), blood vessels, and superficial structures
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology: sonographic evaluation of the female reproductive system and pelvic cavity (i.e. uterus, ovaries, and pregnancy)
- Adult Cardiac sonography: sonographic evaluation of the adult anatomy and blood flow of the heart, its valves, and related blood vessels
- Vascular Technology: sonographic evaluation of the blood flow of peripheral, cerebral, and abdominal blood vessels (i.e. carotid arteries, deep leg veins, and renal arteries)

6. Which specialty should I choose?

This is really a matter of personal choice and interest. Some students pursue a specialty because of their interest in that organ/body system; while others select a field because a friend or family member has health issues with that body system. Applicants unsure of what specialty option to pursue are encouraged to contact the ultrasound lab, the echo lab, and the vascular lab at a hospital and arrange to 'shadow' a sonographer in each specialty to gain insight as to how each differ. Remember to bring your 'shadowing' form with you. Directions, tips and the form for 'shadowing' are in the [DMS Program packet](#).

Applicants should research employment opportunities and trends. The [U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) is an excellent resource as are the human resource departments at area hospitals.

7. What is the typical salary for a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

Typical starting salary for a new graduate in Sonography in the Greater Akron/Cleveland area ranges from \$25.00 to \$27.00 per hour. Sonographers often take call and work overtime hours; annual earnings reflect this as an increase to their income.

8. How soon can I begin the Program or get on the wait list?

The DMS program starts once a year each Fall semester. The number of students accepted for each class year is determined by the number of students each of the program's hospital/clinical affiliates take for a clinical experience. Usually, each clinical site takes only one student per semester. Annual class size (all three specialties combined) varies from 32-40 students.

This limited enrollment capacity of the DMS program means that not all who apply can be accepted to start the upcoming offering of the Program. Qualified candidates not immediately accommodated will be placed on a delayed entry list (commonly referred to as the 'wait' list) for the next program offering. This list is dynamic; candidates are notified and moved up as vacancies occur. Only applicants that completed all of the admission requirements and meeting the admission GPAs are on the wait list.

A [criminal background check](#) with finger printing is required prior to final acceptance into the program. The Program Director informs the students as to when to get this completed. Only background check reports performed during the specific time frame and from the College selected vendor are accepted. Students can also expect a clinical site to request drug testing or an additional background check.

After acceptance into the Program and before clinical assignment in the second semester, applicants must submit evidence of good health by fulfilling health requirements of the DMS Program and verification of current CPR certification for Health Care Providers. Students will be dropped from the program if significant limiting health conditions are present which prevent the student from performing the normal functions of a sonographer and/or constitute a hazard to the health or safety of patients.

9. When do I find out that I am accepted?

Only applicants with complete application files (proof of all graded coursework, shadowing form and required GPAs) will receive a letter of tentative acceptance. This letter is sent out in January, June and September (approximately 4-6 weeks after the final grades are entered). The letter contains information regarding further Program correspondence.

Applicants are asked to not contact the Health Career Enrollment Center or Program Director about their acceptance status until after these timeframes. The Program's Home and Status web pages indicate when letters have been sent and the next program offering availability.

10. What other courses should I take while waiting for my Fall program start date?

It is best to complete all of the non-DMS coursework required in the curriculum sequence. Once those are completed, the following courses may be taken, be sure to check if it is required for your specialty or counts as the required DMS elective course:

DMS 1381 and DMS 2330

In addition, consider continuing your studies in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Tri-C has several degree [transfer options](#) for Health Career students. Some of these involve considerable cost savings by taking courses at Tri-C that are accepted by the 4-year institution towards meeting your degree. Contact your counselor who can provide you information as to available institutions and their contact information.

11. What clinical sites are available?

The DMS Program has [affiliation agreements](#) with nearly every hospital in Cuyahoga and the surrounding nine counties. The Program extends as far east as Lake Health and south to Canton’s Mercy and Aultman Hospitals. Throughout the Program, you will most likely have three different clinical site rotations. Your site is selected for you based on educational needs and accreditation-required experiences.

12. How much does the Program cost?

The table below provides estimated expenses. The Campus Security and Maintenance Fee is based on the number of credit hours registered for that semester. Payment arrangements are due each semester at the time of course registration or purchase (as in texts). Every student’s situation is different and costs can vary depending on the following:

- ▶ Number of pertinent transferred courses
- ▶ Number of credit hours that semester
- ▶ County of residence
- ▶ Placement test scores
- ▶ New, used or rented texts
- ▶ Electronic texts

Estimate of Program Expenses (assumes all courses taken at Tri-C on or after August 27, 2018)

| Associate Degree Estimated Expenses | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | In-County | Out-of-County | Out-of State |
| Tuition | \$7,186-8282 | \$8,902-10,270 | \$16,282-18,822 |
| Institutional Fees | \$300 | \$300 | \$300 |
| Lab Fees | \$1,025 | \$1,025 | \$1,025 |
| Texts & Supplies | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| Uniforms | \$150 | \$150 | \$150 |
| Background Check | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Liability Insurance | \$13 | \$13 | \$13 |
| Clinical Reporting System | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| SPI Registry Fee | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 |
| Total Estimate | \$10,574 - \$11,670 | \$12,290 - \$13,658 | \$19,670 - \$22,210 |

| Additional costs include but are not limited to the following: | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Drug Testing | Health Insurance | Immunizations | Professional Society Dues |
| Physical Examination | Transportation | CPR Certification | Conference fees |

13. Is financial aid/assistance available?

Students often qualify for federal or state programs and some Health Career grants or scholarships once you are accepted to the program. Contact the [Financial Assistance Department](#) at (216) 987-5100.

Additional sources are available from the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (www.sdms.org), the American Society of Echocardiography (www.ASEcho.org), and the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (www.svunet.org).

14. What kind of course schedule can I expect and prepare for?

The DMS associate degree programs are cohort-style and start only in the Fall semester. Courses are offered mostly during the daytime, taken in a specific order and completed in five consecutive semesters. There is no opportunity to accelerate through the curriculum in less than five semesters even with previous coursework and experience; nor can a student register for courses to fit their personal schedule as they would for other college degrees. The Program cannot be completed on a part-time basis.

Due to the level of difficulty, intensity, and the required amount of studies, the Program requires a full-time commitment. Clinical and on-campus class hours consist of 36-40 hours per week. Clinical hours (Field Experience courses) are during the day at the hospitals. On-campus lectures are usually daytime; however, some are only in the evening. Students usually have weekends free for study or practice. Students may choose to work on a part-time basis; however, work hours are not to interfere with course hours. Nearly all students find that concurrent employment involves the ultimate sacrifice of their personal time.

The Program uses the following recommended course sequence for the general sonography students (abdominal and OB/Gyn). The following page has the schedule for students in the Cardiac or Vascular specialties. Changes can be made to this schedule to meet the Program needs. The following schedule does not account for the general education course requirements; students will need to complete all of the course and Program requirements in order to graduate.

Proposed Diagnostic Medical Sonography Course Offering Schedule

| First Semester | | Fall I | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| DMS 1311 | Initial Sonographic Scanning | | MW 1:00 pm-4:00 pm OR TR – 9:00 am-12:00 pm | 2 |
| DMS 1401 | Abdominal Sonography I | | T/R - 3:00 pm-5:00 pm | 4 |
| DMS 1500 | Gynecologic & Obstetrical Sonography | | M - 6:00 pm-9:30 pm | 4 |

| Second Semester | | Spring I | Time/Day | Credit |
|-----------------|---|----------|--|--------|
| DMS 2301 | Intermediate Sonographic Scanning | | M: 9:00 am – 11:40 am AND F: 12:00 pm – 2:40 pm OR F: 9:00 am – 11:40 am AND M: 12:00 pm – 2:40 pm | 2 |
| DMS 2401 | Abdominal Sonography II | | M/F - 3:00 pm-4:55 pm | 4 |
| DMS 2500 | Obstetrical Sonography | | M - 5:30 pm-9:10 pm | 4 |
| DMS 1940 | Field Experience I (2 nd 8 weeks) 24 hr/wk | | T/W/R – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 1 |

| Third Semester | | Summer | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| DMS 1950 | Field Experience II (36 hr/wk) | | M thru F - 8:00 am- 5:00 pm | 2 |

| Fourth Semester | | Fall II | Time/Day | Credit |
|-----------------|--|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| *DMS 235A | Sono Principals/Perform/Safety (middle 8 wks) | | M/W - 6:00 pm-7:45 pm | 2 |
| *DMS 235B | Doppler Principles & Instrumentation (1 st 4 wks) | | M/W - 6:00 pm-7:45 pm | 1 |
| DMS 2940 | Field Experience III (36 hr/wk) | | M-F – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 3 |
| DMS 2985 | Physics Review (last 4 wks) | | On-line web class | 1 |
| DMS 2991 | Sonography Capstone (10 wks) | | On-line web class | 1 |

| Fifth Semester | | Spring II | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| DMS XXXX | Diagnostic Medical Sonography Elective | | Varies by course | 1-3 |
| DMS 2950 | Field Experience IV (24 hr/wk) 1 st 8 wks | | TWR – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 1 |
| DMS 2981 | Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 wks) | | On-line web classes | 1 |

*DMS 235A + 235B are equivalent to DMS 2350

| Diagnostic Medical Sonography Electives | | Time/Day | Semester |
|---|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| DMS 1381 | Cardiac Diagnostic Procedures | W – 5:30 pm-9:30 pm | Fall & Spring |
| DMS 2330 | Sonographic Pathology | On-line web class | Fall |
| DMS 2450 | Breast Sonography | On-line Web course | Spring |
| DMS 2650 | Pediatric Cardiac Sonography | R – 6:00 pm-8:40 pm | Fall |
| DMS 2750 | Principles of Vascular Imaging for Abdomen & Cardiac Sonographers | R - 5:00 pm-9:15 pm | Spring |
| DMS 2760 | Transcranial Doppler Sonography | S - 9 - 5 pm (tentative) | Spring |
| DMS 2960 | Supplemental Field Experience (2 nd 8 wks) | Hospital - TBA | Spring |
| DMS 2983 | Supplemental Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 wks) | On-line web classes | Spring |

The Program uses the following recommended course sequence for the cardiac or vascular sonography students. (The previous page has the schedule for students in General sonography [abdominal and OB/Gyn]). Changes can be made to this schedule to meet the Program needs. The following schedule does not account for the general education course requirements; students will need to complete all of the course and Program requirements to graduate.

- The Cardiac option requires all of the following courses except those noted with (b) designation.
- The Vascular option requires all of the following courses except those noted with (a) designation.

Proposed Diagnostic Medical Sonography Course Offering Schedule

| First Semester | | Fall I | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| DMS 1311 | Initial Sonographic Scanning (a) | | MW or TR – 9:00 am-12:00 pm | 2 |
| DMS 1311 | Initial Sonographic Scanning (b) | | MW – 9:00 am-12:00 pm | 2 |
| DMS 1381 | Cardiac Diagnostic Procedures (also in Spring) | | R – 5:30 pm-9:30pm | |
| DMS 1602 | Echocardiography I (a) | | M/W - 3:00 pm-5:00 pm | 4 |
| DMS 1701 | Vascular Sonography I (b) | | M/W - 3:00 pm-5:00 pm | 4 |
| DMS 235B | Doppler Principles & Instrumentation (1 st 4 wks) | | M/W - 6:00 pm-7:45 pm | 1 |

| Second Semester | | Spring I | Time/Day | Credit |
|-----------------|--|----------|--|--------|
| DMS 2301 | Intermediate Sonographic Scanning (a) | | M: 9:00 am – 11:40 am AND F: 12:00 pm – 2:40 pm OR F: 9:00 am – 11:40 am AND M: 12:00 pm – 2:40 pm | 2 |
| DMS 2301 | Intermediate Sonographic Scanning (b) | | M/F: 9:00 am – 11:40 am | 2 |
| DMS 2602 | Echocardiography II (a) | | M/F - 3:00 pm-4:55 pm | 4 |
| DMS 2702 | Vascular Sonography II (b) | | M/F - 3:00 pm-4:55 pm | 4 |
| DMS 1940 | Field Experience I (last 8 weeks) 24 hr/wk | | T/W/R – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 1 |

| Third Semester | | Summer | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| DMS 1950 | Field Experience II (36 hr/wk) | | M thru F - 8:00 am- 5:00 pm | 2 |

| Fourth Semester | | Fall II | Time/Day | Credit |
|-----------------|--|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| *DMS 235A | Sono Principals/Perform/Safety (middle 8 wks) | | M/W - 6:00 pm-7:45 pm | 2 |
| *DMS 235B | Doppler Principles & Instrumentation (1 st 4 wks) | | M/W - 6:00 pm-7:45 pm | 1 |
| DMS 2650 | Pediatric Cardiac Sonography (a) | | R – 6:00 pm-8:40 pm | 3 |
| DMS 2940 | Field Experience III (36 hr/wk) | | M-F – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 3 |
| DMS 2985 | Physics Review (last 4 wks) | | On-line web class | 1 |
| DMS 2991 | Sonography Capstone (10 wks) | | On-line web class | 1 |

| Fifth Semester | | Spring II | Time/Day | Credit |
|----------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|--------|
| DMS XXXX | Diagnostic Medical Sonography Elective | | Varies by course | 1-3 |
| DMS 2760 | Transcranial Doppler Sonography (b) | | S - 9 - 5 pm (tentative) | 1 |
| DMS 2950 | Field Experience IV (24 hr/wk) 1 st 8 wks | | TWR – 8:00 am-5:00 pm | 1 |
| DMS 2981 | Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 wks) | | On-line web classes | 1 |

*DMS 235A + 235B are equivalent to DMS 2350

Options: (a) Echocardiography, (b) Vascular

| Diagnostic Medical Sonography Electives (DMS XXXX) | | Time/Day | Semester |
|--|---|---------------------|----------|
| DMS 2330 | Sonographic Pathology | On-line web class | Fall |
| DMS 2450 | Breast Sonography | On-line Web course | Spring |
| DMS 2750 | Principles of Vascular Imaging for Abdomen & Cardiac Sonographers | R - 5:00 pm-9:15 pm | Spring |
| DMS 2960 | Supplemental Field Experience (2 nd 8 wks) | Hospital - TBA | Spring |
| DMS 2983 | Supplemental Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 wks) | On-line web classes | Spring |