

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 transcripts from all previously attended colleges and post-secondary training** 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 located on your My Tri-C Space.

TIP: Check online at <https://dwapp.tri-c.edu/TransferEquivalency/#/> to see if a course taken transfers 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 start 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 only offered Spring semester.
- Biology and Math requirements should be scheduled early in your course plan; delaying them delays your taking the other admission courses required for a completed application.
- *You may decide to take Math 1240 due to personal preferences or financial and time considerations. Please note that Math 1240 is a pre-req course for MATH-1410 Elementary Probability and Statistics I only. You may have to contact the program for assistance for registering for DMS 1071 if taking Math 1240.*
- 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 Diagnostic Medical Sonography admission courses (listed in the table above) 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 them your Tri-C student ID # and the course section number (CRN).
- Schedule an 8-16 hour “shadowing” experience with a hospital. Information is in the DMS Program packet. **Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are not requiring “shadowing” from Fall 2021 applicants.**

Effective August 1, 2020 the DMS Program will utilize an online application. **Please apply once you have successfully completed both Bio 2331 & DMS 1320. The new process will send you an email indicating your progress, missing requirements, and an acceptance letter as you continue to progress through the coursework. Click [here](#) to access the new online application. Make sure to check the program status page for updates to admission timelines.**

When are the admission courses offered?

Most admission courses are offered every semester at Tri-C; many have daytime and evening offerings with a several offering online 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.

2. 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](#) or 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.

3. 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.

4. 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)

5. 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.

6. 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 \$28.00 to 30.00 per hour. Sonographers often take call and work overtime hours; annual earnings reflect this as an increase to their income.

7. 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 32-48 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.

8. 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 email letter is sent out in approximately 2 weeks after the final course grades are entered. The email will contain information regarding further actions and any necessary Program correspondence.

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

First, check with financial aid to make sure that courses you take now do not interfere with your financial aid eligibility now or while in the Program. Often, it is best to complete all of the non-DMS coursework required in the curriculum sequence (such as ENG, HTEC, MA, PSY). 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 [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.

10. 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.

11. How much does the Program cost?

The table below provides the estimated total expenses you should budget for to attain the 2-year associate degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The College requires payment arrangements at the time of course registration. Every student's situation is different and costs can vary depending on the following:

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

Estimate of Program Expenses (assumes all courses taken at Tri-C on or after August 27, 2019)

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

12. 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).

13. 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. Students will need to follow the prescribed course offering schedule.

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 traditionally 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.

Please review the College's course schedule for exact days & times, changes may have occurred due to the pandemic.

Proposed Diagnostic Medical Sonography Course Offering Schedule

First Semester		Fall I	Time/Day	Credit
DMS 1311	Initial Sonographic Scanning		MW: 9:00 pm-12:00 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 - Blended	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-5:00 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/w k		T/W/R: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	1

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

Fourth Semester		Fall II	Time/Day	Credit
DMS 2350	Sonographic Instruments/Physics (first 12 w ks)		M: 6:00 pm-7:45 pm, Blended course	2
DMS 2940	Field Experience III (36 hr/w k)		M-F: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	3
DMS 2985	Physics Review (last 4 w ks)		On-line web class	1
DMS 2991	Sonography Capstone (10 w ks)		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/w k) 1 st 8 w ks		TWR: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	1
DMS 2981	Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 w ks)		On-line web classes	1

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	W: 5:00 pm-9:30 pm	Spring
DMS 2760	Transcranial Doppler Sonography	R: 6:30pm - 8:15 pm	Spring
DMS 2960	Supplemental Field Experience (2 nd 8 w ks)	Hospital - TBA	Spring
DMS 2983	Supplemental Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 w ks)	On-line web classes	Spring

The Program traditionally uses the following recommended course sequence for the cardiac or vascular sonography students. 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. Changes can be made to this schedule to meet the Program needs. **Please review the College's course schedule for exact days & times, changes may have occurred due to the pandemic.**

- The Cardiac option requires all of the following courses except those noted with (a) designation.
- The Vascular option requires all of the following courses except those noted with (b) 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	3
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 2350	Sonographic Instruments/Physics (first 12 w ks)	M: 6:00 pm-7:45 pm, Blended course	2
DMS 2985	Physics Review (last 4 w ks)	On-line web class	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/w k	T/W/R: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	1

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

Fourth Semester Fall II		Time/Day	Credit
DMS 2650	Pediatric Cardiac Sonography (a)	R: 6:00 pm-8:40 pm	3
DMS 2940	Field Experience III (36 hr/w k)	M-F: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	3
DMS 2991	Sonography Capstone (10 w ks)	On-line web class	1

Fifth Semester Spring II		Time/Day	Credit
DMS XXXX	Diagnostic Medical Sonography Elective	Varies by course-see below	1-3
DMS 2760	Transcranial Doppler Sonography (b)	R: 6:30pm - 8:15 pm	1
DMS 2950	Field Experience IV (24 hr/w k) 1 st 8 w ks	TWR: 8:00 am-5:00 pm	1
DMS 2981	Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 w ks)	On-line web classes	1

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	W: 5:00 pm-9:30 pm	Spring
DMS 2960	Supplemental Field Experience (2 nd 8 w ks)	Hospital - TBA	Spring
DMS 2983	Supplemental Specialty Registry Review (1 st 8 w ks)	On-line web classes	Spring