Diagnostic Medical Sonography

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Associate in Applied Science Degree (6 semesters)

At a Glance
Sonography (ultrasound) is a dynamic profession that has grown significantly over the past several years. Sonography is a diagnostic medical procedure that uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to produce images of organs, tissues, or blood flow inside the body. This type of procedure is often referred to as a sonogram or ultrasound scan.

Sonography can be used to examine many parts of the body, such as the abdomen, breasts, female reproductive system, prostate, heart, and blood vessels. It is also used to guide fine needle tissue biopsy to assist in taking a sample of cells from an organ for lab testing (for example, a test for breast cancer). Unlike x-ray, there is no ionizing radiation used to perform a sonogram.

With rapidly developing technologies and increased use of diagnostic sonographic procedures, growth in this profession is projected to continue in the future with employment opportunities for qualified sonographers in a variety of settings nationwide. Sonographers can choose to work in clinics, hospitals, private practice physician offices, public health facilities, laboratories, and other medical settings performing examinations in their areas of specialization.

Program Description
Purpose and Goal: To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

The Associate in Applied Science degree awarded at program completion is a six-semester, competency-based curriculum that includes practical experience in regional health institutions. The sonography program at Wallace State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. By attending a program accredited by CAAHEP, you will be able to apply to take the national certification examinations offered by the ARDMS/ARRT upon graduation from the program. By successfully completing the certification exams, you will be awarded the credential RDMS.

Admission Requirements
1. Unconditional admission to the college – College application must be submitted by the program application deadline of June 1.
2. Student must be in good standing with the college.
3. Receipt of complete program applications accepted between March 1 and June 1 for Fall entry. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.
4. The DMS program online application is located on program’s webpage at www.wallacestate.edu. Online application instructions are under the Application to Program tab. All applicants are required to upload all necessary documentation for consideration.
5. Official transcripts from each college attended must be provided to the Admissions Office and all unofficial transcripts must be uploaded.
6. Student must meet the essential functions and technical standards required for the program as documented on the required WSCC physical form at www.wallacestate.edu-see Physical Form Essential Functions.
7. A minimum of 20 ACT composite score (National or Residual) is required for admission consideration. Proof of score must uploaded.
8. Documented evidence of a minimum of four (4) hours of observation in an ultrasound department with a registered sonographer and proof of active/current AHA Approved CPR certification for Healthcare Providers (or BLS) must also be uploaded (cognitive hands-on – Online CPR courses not accepted).
9. Attain a minimum GPA of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale with a grade of “C” or better on all general required presonography courses. GPA calculated for program selection will be on the general required presonography courses only. Math/Sciences courses (MTH 100, BIO 201, PHY 115) must have been completed within seven years of the date of expected entry into the DMS program.
10. Candidates must be able to meet all Technical Standards required of the program. Those Standards are as follows:
   a. Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
   b. Push and pull routinely
   c. Bend and stoop routinely
   d. Have full use of both hands, wrists, and shoulders
   e. Distinguish audible sounds
   f. Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
g. Work standing on their feet 80% of the time
h. Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured
i. Assist patients on and off examining tables
j. Communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals
k. Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a task in the proper sequence

Selection and Notification
1. The DMS Program admits a beginning class annually fall semester.
2. ALL courses must be complete prior to application deadline of June 1. The only exception is the physics course. It can be completed in the summer prior to admission to the program. Those that have it completed by the application deadline will receive 0.5 points added to their ranking score.
3. Candidates are ranked for admission on the basis of ACT scores, weighted GPA of pre-sonography courses (GPA x 9) and completion of admission requirements. In the case of a tie of ranking score, in order to fill our 25 slots, the following tie breaker will be used in this order to determine acceptance into the program: Completion of classes, GPA, ACT Composite, ACT Math, ACT Science Reasoning.
4. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of program acceptance status will be mailed to each applicant at the address given on the application.
5. Following acceptance into the program, students must respond confirming their intent to enroll by using the internet link or QR code provided on their letter, by the deadline indicated on the letter. A student who fails to respond will forfeit his/her place in the class

Program Expectations
Students admitted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Required Competencies
Clinical competencies (patient care and interaction, performance of abdominal, superficial structures, obstetrical and gynecologic sonograms).

Upon Admission
1. Sonography students are required to submit a completed program physical examination form, including proof of having completed 2 of 3 Hepatitis B vaccinations and proof of immunization or vaccinations for the diseases listed on the form by the deadline noted on their program acceptance letter.
2. Sonography students must maintain current CPR certification. The appropriate certification is for “Healthcare Providers” (or BLS).
3. Accident and liability insurance, available through the College, is required. This will be covered through your fees.
4. Sonography students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing according to WSCC Health Science Division policy.
5. Medical insurance is required of all students in the program in order to attend clinicals. This is NOT provided through the school.

Progression
Students selected for admission into the program must maintain a grade of 75% or higher on major required courses. Failure to do so will result in program dismissal.

Readmission
Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the program must apply for re-admission. No preferential consideration is given to prior students for re-admission. Students will be readmitted ONE time only.

Career Path
Upon completion of the program, sonography students should take registries and become Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Many General (OB/GYN, Abdomen) sonographers opt to advance their career horizons by seeking expertise in Vascular Technology, Echocardiography, and other sonographic specialties. There are several areas of specialization in the field of sonography. For additional information concerning a career in sonography go to www.sdms.org.

Additional career advancement opportunities exist in education, administration, research, and in commercial companies as education/application specialists, sales representatives, technical advisors, etc. Median annual earnings of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers were $75,712 according to the SDMS Sonographer Salary & Benefits Survey (2013). Program courses have been accepted for transfer to Athens State and the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the Bachelor Degree in Health Science. Please consult STARS transfer guide for the latest information.

NOTE: The Guided Pathways Curricular Maps below contain all the elements required for degree/certificate completion. However, courses may be offered or taken in other semesters so long as prerequisites are met and courses are available. Additional option available. Please see Degreeworks for allowable substitutions. Courses may be available days, nights, hybrid, and online. Sample maps for part-time attendance may also be available. Please see an advisor.
ASSOCIATE DEGREE:

AAS DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY – Guided Pathway/Map

General Required Courses
ORI 110 Freshman Seminar 1
ENG 101 English Composition I 3
ART 100 Art Appreciation 3
MTH 100 Intermediate College Algebra 3
BIO 201* Anatomy and Physiology I 4
PHY 115** Technical Physics 4
PSY 200 General Psychology 3
Total General Required Courses 21

1st Semester
DMS 216 Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation I 3
DMS 229 Sonography Preceptorship I 2
DMS 202 Foundations of Sonography 3
DMS 204 Sectional Anatomy 2
DMS 205 Abdominal Sonography 4
Total Semester Credit Hours 14

2nd Semester
DMS 207 Abdominal Pathology 3
DMS 217 Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation II 2
DMS 220 Obstetrical Sonography I 3
DMS 206 Gynecologic Sonography 4
DMS 230 Sonography Preceptorship II 3
Total Semester Credit Hours 15

3rd Semester
DMS 240 Sonography Seminar I 2
DMS 231 Sonography Preceptorship III 4
DMS 225 Superficial Parts 1
DMS 221 Obstetrical Sonography II 3
Total Semester Credit Hours 10

4th Semester
DMS 245 Sonography Case Presentation 1
DMS 241 Sonography Seminar II 3
DMS 232 Sonography Preceptorship IV 5
DMS 250 Introduction to Advanced Sonography 3
Total Semester Credit Hours 12

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 72

* Biology 103 is a prerequisite to this course. This is a college requirement not a program requirement.

** If the student has a Radiographic Physics (3 or 4 credit) that has been taken, this may possibly substitute for PHY 115 with staff approval as long as it was taken within 7 years of admittance into the program.

VASCULAR SONOGRAPHY OPTION
The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program also offers Vascular Sonography option for students that are currently enrolled in their 3rd semester of the General Sonography program and meet the GPA and SPI registry-eligible requirements set forth by the sonography program director. These courses coupled with their RDMS, will allow the student to sit for their vascular registry upon graduation.

Admission Requirements
1. Meet all general requirements of WSCC.
2. Be a currently enrolled student in the WSCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.
3. Submit an application for the Vascular Sonography Certificate program to program director by April 30.

VASCULAR SONOGRAPHY – Guided Pathway/Map

Required Courses
DMS 261 Vascular Sonography Techniques 3
DMS 263 Pathology of Vascular Systems 3
DMS 264 Vascular Sonographic Clinical 5