

# Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Ms. Janet Money, Program Director  
(256) 352-8318 · [janet.money@wallacestate.edu](mailto:janet.money@wallacestate.edu)

Mrs. Donna B. Attaway, Sonography Clinical Coordinator  
(256) 352-8343 · [donna.attaway@wallacestate.edu](mailto:donna.attaway@wallacestate.edu)

Jennifer Dunkle, Secretary  
(256) 352-8411 · [jennifer.dunkle@wallacestate.edu](mailto:jennifer.dunkle@wallacestate.edu)

**Associate in Applied Science Degree (6 semesters)**  
**Career Cluster:** Health Science

## 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 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

This program of study is designed to provide academic and clinical training in the field of GENERAL (OB/GYN and Abdominal/Superficial Structures) diagnostic sonography.

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 currently accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDMS) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). By attending a program accredited by CAAHEP, you will be able to apply to take the national certification examinations offered by the ARDMS upon graduation from the program. By successfully completing the certification exams, you will be awarded the credential 'registered sonographer'.

## Admission Requirements

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of WSCC.

2. Complete general required courses for Pre-sonography by deadline date of June 1.
3. Submit to the Admissions Office, by the June 1 deadline, a WSCC official college application declaring sonography as your major, plus current official college transcripts demonstrating completion of sonography general required courses, and a copy of official ACT scores (a score of 19 or better is required to qualify for program entry.)
4. Submit to the DMS Program Director, by the June 1 deadline, a DMS Program Application, college transcripts, documented evidence of a minimum of four (4) hours of observation in an ultrasound department and acknowledgement of having reviewed the WSCC drug policy (see policy at WSCC website: [www.wallacestate.edu](http://www.wallacestate.edu)). The program application can also be found on the website. Select Programs then Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Proof of active/current AHA Approved CPR certification for **Healthcare Providers** must also be provided with the application.
5. 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 pre-sonography courses. GPA calculated for program selection will be on the general required pre-sonography courses only. Math/Sciences courses must have been completed within **seven** years of the date of expected entry into the DMS program.

Candidates must be able to meet all Technical Standards required of the program. Those Standards are as follows:

- Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
- Push and pull routinely
- Bend and stoop routinely
- Have full use of both hands, wrists and shoulders
- Distinguish audible sounds
- Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
- Work standing on their feet 80% of the time
- Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured
- Assist patients on and off examining tables
- Communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals
- Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence

## Selection and Notification

1. The DMS Program admits a beginning class annually fall semester.
2. Candidates are ranked for admission on the basis of ACT scores, weighted GPA (GPA x 7.6) and completion of admission requirements. All other factors being equal, the date of application will be the deciding factor for admission.
3. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of the outcome of each application will be mailed to the student at the address provided on the application.

- Following acceptance into the program, students must respond, in writing, confirming their intent to enroll within 10 days after the postmarked date of their acceptance letters. A student who fails to respond will forfeit his/her place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing, and background check must accompany the acceptance confirmation.

### 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 to the Program:

- 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.
- Sonography students must maintain current CPR certification. The appropriate certification is for “**Healthcare Providers**”.
- Accident and liability insurance, available through the College is required.
- Sonography students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing according to WSCC Health Science Division policy.
- Medical insurance is required by some clinical facilities utilized by the program.

### 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](http://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 \$66,768 according to the SDMS Sonographer Salary & Benefits Survey (2008). 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.

### Completion Requirements

#### GENERAL REQUIRED COURSES (PRE-SONOGRAPHY)

ORI 101*	Orientation to College	1
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
SPH 106	Fundamentals of Oral Communications	3
MTH 100	Intermediate College Algebra	3
BIO 201**	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
PHY 115	Technical Physics	4
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
***Humanities/Fine Arts Elective		3
		<u>23-24</u>

\*Orientation to College is a college requirement, not a requirement of the program. You are exempt from orientation if you are a transfer student with a minimum of 12 semester hours of college work or if you were enrolled at Wallace State Community College before Fall 2004. Orientation 103 is required for any student who places in a remedial level course.

\*\*BIO 103 is a prerequisite class to this course.

\*\*\*Only Code A courses should be taken or PHL 210-Ethics and the Health Sciences (see course description in catalog).

#### MAJOR REQUIRED COURSES

DMS 203	Sonographic Terms	2
DMS 204	Sonographic Anatomy	3
DMS 205	Abdominal Sonography with Lab	4
DMS 206	Gynecologic Sonography with Lab	4
DMS 207	Abdominal Pathology	3
DMS 208	Sonography Clinic I	2
DMS 210	Introduction to Sonography Clinic	2
DMS 216	Acoustic Physics & Instrumentation	3
DMS 217	Quality Assurance Lab	1
DMS 220	Obstetrical Sonography I	3
DMS 221	Obstetrical Sonography II	3
DMS 225	Superficial Parts	1
DMS 230	Sonography Preceptorship I	3
DMS 231	Sonography Preceptorship II	4
DMS 232	Sonography Preceptorship III	5
DMS 240	Sonography Seminar I	2
DMS 241	Sonography Seminar II	3
DMS 245	Conference	1
DMS 250	Introduction to Advanced Sonography	3
		<u>52</u>
	TOTAL HOURS	75-76

Short certificate programs are offered which are designed for sonographers who are interested in acquiring specialized skills in Vascular Technology and Echocardiography.