

Fall 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 20, 2026, AT 5 PM

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Admission Requirements and Program Information



**Health and Life Sciences Division
Keats Science Building
434.961.5445**

Date Published: August 1, 2025

Accredited by:

**Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
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www.pvcc.edu/dms

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Introduction

The PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is a 21-month (five semesters) course of study leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The two-year program is designed to provide a quality entry-level education through a competency-based clinical and didactic instructional curriculum in diagnostic sonography.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a multi-specialty profession comprised of abdominal extended sonography, obstetrics/gynecology sonography, breast sonography, cardiac sonography, musculoskeletal sonography, vascular sonography, and other emerging clinical areas. These diverse areas all use ultrasound as a primary technology in their daily work.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is an individual who provides patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. Sonographers must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Demonstration and maintenance of competency through certification by a nationally recognized sonography credentialing organization is the standard of practice in sonography, and maintenance of certification in all areas of practice is endorsed.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers use independent, professional, and ethical judgment—as well as critical thinking—to safely perform diagnostic sonographic

procedures. As integral members of the healthcare team, they assist radiologists by gathering diagnostic data for interpretation.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Piedmont Virginia Community College is an equal opportunity institution providing educational and employment opportunities, programs, services, and activities. PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family medical history or genetic information, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation or any other non-merit base factor. The college permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans. The college also prohibits sexual harassment including sexual violence or misconduct.

Students, prospective students, or others who believe they have witnessed or experienced discriminatory conditions or discriminatory acts inclusive of sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment or inaccessible conditions, should present their concerns to the following:

- Title IX Coordinator, Kim Van Savage, Associate Vice President of Human Resources. 501 College Drive, Main Building, Room M132, Charlottesville, VA 22902, humanresources@pvcc.edu; 434.961.6567

Students, prospective students, or others who believe they have witnessed or experienced discriminatory conditions or discriminatory acts related to inaccessible conditions or disability, should present their concerns to the following:

- ADA Coordinator (staff and other non-students), Kim Van Savage, Associate Vice President of Human Resources. 501 College Drive, Main Building, Room M132, Charlottesville, VA 22902, humanresources@pvcc.edu; 434.961.6567
- ADA/Section 504/Title II Coordinator (students), Kari Hirst, Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodations. 501 College Drive, Bolick Center, Room B221, Charlottesville, VA 22902, khirst@pvcc.edu, 434.961.5281

Piedmont Virginia Community College offers vocational programs in several areas, including in the Divisions of Health and Life Sciences; Business, Math, and Technology; and Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences. Some vocational programs in the Health and Life Sciences Division, including Nursing, Radiography, and Sonography, offer admission based on selective criteria through a separate admissions process that is non-discriminatory. For more information about the application and admissions process, visit: www.pvcc.edu/hls

Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-1100; www.ed.gov.

Content Disclaimer

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) provides its website, catalog, handbooks, printed and digital class schedules as well as any other printed materials or electronic media for your general guidance. PVCC does not guarantee that the information contained within them is up-to-date, complete, or accurate. This includes, but is not limited to, the contents of any page that resides under the Domain Naming System (DNS) registrations of www.pvcc.edu, www.facebook.com/PiedmontVaCC, or www.youtube.com/PVCCVIRGINIA. Individuals assume any risks associated with relying upon other information without consulting this program's Admission Information Book published for the year in which the student is applying for admission. Links to other materials and websites provided in these sources are also for information purposes only and do not constitute PVCC's endorsement of products or services referenced in such materials.

PVCC reserves the right to make changes to any provision or requirement within these sources, as well as changes to any curriculum or program, whether during a student's enrollment or otherwise.

College Mission and Goals

Mission

We strengthen our community by empowering students to realize their full potential and achieve economic and social mobility through the transformative power of education.

Vision

We will transform the lives of students and the communities we serve through accessible, equitable and innovative education, training and cultural enrichment.

Values

We are committed to a welcoming, inclusive and student-centered learning environment where we prioritize student success, lifelong learning and community engagement.

Access: We believe that a high-quality, affordable education should be accessible to everyone, providing students with the preparation for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs and/or to enter or advance in high-demand occupations aligned with the needs of our regional economy.

Community: We take pride in developing innovative programs that meet the needs of our students and the community while contributing to the economic, civic and cultural well-being of our region and beyond.

Compassion: We approach education with a culture of care, recognizing the individual needs and potential of everyone in the college community.

Equity: We embrace impartial and fair policies and practices that ensure the success of all students, faculty and staff.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all aspects of education, including teaching, support services and facilities.

Learning: We encourage intellectual curiosity, creative problem-solving, lifelong learning and the exchange of ideas among our students, staff and faculty.

Program Goals Statement

The purpose of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at PVCC is to prepare competent, entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains using effective imaging techniques, critical thinking and communication skills, and professionalism for the following concentrations, it offers Abdominal Sonography - Extended, Obstetrics and Gynecology Sonography.

Licensure/Certification

Graduates of the program will be eligible for professional certification by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) in Abdominal-Extended and Obstetrics and Gynecology (RDMS).

Essential Functions and Standards of Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, qualified applicants are expected to meet all admission criteria, as well as these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, and to maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards for progression through the program.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health-care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing and Comprehension:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, understand, and respond appropriately to verbal directions, and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as medication records or scales, chart data, and provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data.

4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat, or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead. Lift 50 pounds independently and 125 pounds with assistance.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment.
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and manipulation of equipment.
7. **Mentation:** Ability to remain focused on multiple details and tasks for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions, and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions, and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.
11. **Stamina:** Ability to stand, sit, and scan in one position for long periods of time.

Program Behavior Expectations

The PVCC Health and Life Sciences Division reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is in the best interest of the program. The program will not accept any student who has been dismissed from another college or program due to misconduct or threatening behavior or who has been determined to be a potential threat. Students may be denied admission to the program if there is sufficient reason to believe that they present a danger to themselves, other members of the college community or clients in the clinical setting.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will communicate effectively.
2. Students will apply effective imaging techniques.
3. Students will apply critical thinking skills.
4. Students will demonstrate professionalism.

Application Dates

The application for this program and all other non-nursing PVCC Health and Life Sciences Programs can be found on the HLS Admissions Portal 2026 (<https://learn.vccs.edu/enroll/67GAB4>).

All applicants must create an account in the portal before beginning an application. Applications which are incomplete or missing requested materials by the application due date will not be considered. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email and through the application portal within seven (7) business days of the decision date.

Application Open Date

The application portal for this cohort will open on **February 2, 2026, at 9:00 AM.**

Application Due Date

All applications for this cohort must be completed by **May 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM.**

Decision Date

Admissions decisions for all applicants will be made by **June 19, 2026, at 5:00 PM.**

Curriculum

Successful completion of the program is dependent on satisfactory performance in all courses indicated in the table below. Students are required to complete certain pre-requisite courses prior to admission.

A minimum final grade of "C" is required in all listed courses unless otherwise indicated. A general education GPA of 2.75 or higher and a science GPA of 2.5 or higher is required. All sonography program courses must be completed with a minimum final grade of 75%.

SEMESTER	COURSE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	NOTES
PRE-REQUISITE COURSES	SDV 100	College Success Skills	1.0	Required Prior to Admission
	ENG 111	College Composition I	3.0	
	ENG 112	College Composition II	3.0	
	BIO 141	Anatomy and Physiology I	4.0	
	BIO 142	Anatomy and Physiology II	4.0	
	MTH 131	Technical Mathematics	3.0	
	PHY 100	Elements of Physics	4.0	
SEMESTER 1 (FALL)	DMS 206	Introduction to Sonography	2.0	Must complete during 1 st semester
	DMS 207	Sectional Anatomy	2.0	
	DMS 208	Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation I	2.0	
	PHI 220	Ethics	3.0	
	PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3.0	

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)	DMS 209	Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation II	2.0	
	DMS 211	Abdominal Sonography	4.0	
	DMS 212	Obstetrical & Gynecological Sonography	3.0	
	DMS 219	Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation Lab	1.0	
	DMS 231	Clinical Education I	3.0	
SEMESTER 3 (SUMMER)	DMS 232	Clinical Education II	4.0	
	DMS 242	Advanced Obstetrical and Gynecological Sonography	3.0	
SEMESTER 4 (FALL)	DMS 241	Advanced Abdominal Sonography	3.0	Writing Intensive, Civic Engagement
	DMS 223	Intro to Vascular Ultrasound	2.0	
	DMS 233	Clinical Education III	5.0	
SEMESTER 5 (SPRING)	DMS 222	Sonography Registry Review	2.0	
	DMS 234	Clinical Education IV	6.0	

*BIO 141 has a prerequisite course that must be taken before you can enroll. See course catalog for more information.

Students who have not completed all general education (non-DMS program) courses at the time of admission will be required to complete certain courses during specific semesters.

Course Substitutions

Certain required courses can be substituted as follows. If a course is not listed below, substitutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis only. After a student is admitted, they must request a course substitution from the program director.

- SDV 100 can be satisfied with SDV 101 or SDV 108
- PSY 230 can be satisfied with PSY 200
- PHI 220 can be satisfied with PHI 225 or PHI 227
- MTH 131 can be satisfied with MTH 111, MTH 115, MTH 161, MTH 161 with MDE 61, MTH 162, MTH 167, or MTH 263
- PHY 100 can be satisfied with PHY 101, PHY 201, PHY 202, PHY 241, or PHY 242

Minimum Program Eligibility Requirements

Only applicants who have completed the requirements listed below will be considered for admission. Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants who do not meet all the minimum program eligibility requirements will not be admitted (see [Application Dates](#)).

In-Progress Coursework

Coursework that is still in progress or has not resulted in an eligible final grade cannot be used to meet the minimum program eligibility requirements.

List of Requirements

By the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)), all applicants must have completed all of the following requirements.

- 1. Earned a “C” or better in SDV 100 or equivalent**
- 2. Earned a “C” or better in ENG 111 College Composition I or equivalent**
- 3. Earned a “C” or better in ENG 112 College Composition II or equivalent**
- 4. Earned a “C” or better in BIO 141 Human Anatomy & Physiology I**
This course must have been completed no earlier than five (5) years prior to the application due date.
- 5. Earned a “C” or better in BIO 142 Human Anatomy & Physiology II**
This course must have been completed no earlier than five (5) years prior to the application due date.
Since the required minimum Science GPA is 2.5, an applicant cannot earn a “C” in both BIO 141 and BIO 142 to meet this requirement.
- 6. Earned a “C” or better in MTH 131 Technical Math or equivalent**
- 7. Earned a “C” or better in PHY 100 Elements of Physics or equivalent**
This course must have been completed no earlier than five (5) years prior to the application due date.
- 8. Earned a 50.0% or better on the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) total score and all subcategory scores.**
TEAS scores must have been achieved no earlier than two (2) years prior to the application due date. Subscores from multiple different attempts may not be applied to meet requirements; all eligible scores must be achieved in the same attempt. No other examination is accepted for this requirement (e.g., Kaplan tests, ECPI, and HESI tests are not accepted).
- 9. Earned a General Education GPA of 2.75 or higher.**
This is the weighted average GPA of all general education (non-DMS) courses listed in the A.A.S. Diagnostic Medical Sonography curriculum sheet that the student has completed by the application deadline.
This includes SDV 100 or SDV 101 or SDV 108, ENG 111, ENG 112, BIO 141, BIO 142, MTH 131, and PHY 100.
- 10. Earned a Science GPA of 2.5 or higher.**
This is the weighted average GPA of BIO 141 and 142.
Since the required minimum Science GPA is 2.5, an applicant cannot earn a “C” in both BIO 141 and BIO 142 to meet this requirement.
- 11. Earned a standard score of 84 or higher and a speaking score of 26 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) if the applicant is not a native English speaker.**
The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is designed to assess the academic English proficiency of individuals whose first language is not English. It is a

critical requirement for non-native English speakers who plan to study or work in healthcare professions in English-speaking countries.

The TOEFL is generally not required for students from countries where English is the primary language. However, clear and effective communication is essential in healthcare settings. A student must be able to interact competently with patients, physicians, and other team members to ensure the delivery of appropriate care. The TOEFL evaluates four key language skills: **reading, listening, speaking, and writing**, as defined by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Important Points:

- Required TOEFL scores are based on recommendations from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, which outline the proficiency needed to practice entry-level Sonography safely and effectively. These standards are widely adopted by Health Science programs.
- Completion of ENG 111 or ENG 112 does not fulfill the TOEFL requirement.
- TOEFL scores must be no more than two (2) years old as of the application deadline.
- If a student narrowly misses the required TOEFL scores but believes they can communicate effectively, they may request a meeting with the program director and faculty for an informal speaking assessment. If the director determines the student meets the language requirements, the TOEFL requirement may be waived.
 - In such cases, the student must sign a statement acknowledging that if they are admitted but later found unable to meet the required English proficiency, they will be dismissed from the program.
- Students who do not demonstrate the necessary English language skills will be dismissed from the program.

PVCC Testing Centers (TEAS and Exam Scheduling)

PVCC students are eligible to take the TEAS exam with our Testing Center (<https://www.pvcc.edu/testing-centers>) once per year. To find out test dates and registration steps, please email testing@pvcc.edu. For study material, you can connect with our library and these online resources (https://libguides.pvcc.edu/nursing_program/teas)

Any required exams can be scheduled through any authorized testing center; applicants are not restricted to the PVCC Testing Centers for meeting admission requirements.

GPA Calculation

During eligibility screening and ranking, GPA is calculated by converting final grades for relevant coursework to numerical format and averaging based on the number of credits completed for each course. Standard grades convert to the following GPA.

LETTER GRADE	EQUIVALENT GPA
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

Nonstandard Grades

A final grade of “P+” will be treated as a final grade of “C+” with a corresponding GPA of 2.5 for the purposes of GPA calculation.

All other final grades which are outside of the standard A-F grading scale will be evaluated and assigned value at the discretion of the head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) or designee.

All final letter grades which are modified by a + or – (e.g. B+ or C-) will be treated as the unmodified version of that letter grade for the purposes of any GPA calculation, with the exception of “P+” final grades.

For example, a B+ and a B- would both be treated as a B (3.0).

Transfer Credit

Only the PVCC Registrar's Office is authorized to accept transfer credits and apply such credits toward progress in the program of study. Students should consult the “Credit For Prior Learning” webpage (<https://www.pvcc.edu/credit-prior-learning>) for instructions on how and when a transfer credit evaluation can be completed.

Credits which are accepted to meet admission requirements **are not** automatically eligible for transfer credit and must still be evaluated by the Registrar's Office after admission.

Note: Any student wishing to use AP courses to meet eligibility requirements and for general education course ranking criteria must upload the following to the application portal:

- Copy of official AP score (must earn a 3 or higher)
- Copy of high school transcript documenting the grade earned in the AP course.

Pre-Admission Transcript Evaluation

If you have taken any of the following courses at a college or university **outside of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS)** and are unsure if they will transfer to PVCC to satisfy a prerequisite or general education for Diagnostic Medical Sonography, you can request a pre-admission transcript evaluation:

SDV 100 or SDV 101 or SDV 108, ENG 111, ENG 112, BIO 141, BIO 142, MTH 131, PHY 100, PHI 220 or PHI 225 or PHI 227, and PSY 200 or PSY 230

This review does not guarantee the transfer of courses from an outside college or university to PVCC. This process is for application use only.

Omitted information in your email request will delay your evaluation return time.

To submit your request, you will need to do the following (follow all steps to avoid delay in your request):

1. Apply to PVCC through our online portal
2. Email Advising (advising@pvcc.edu) including the following information:
 - a. Full name and PVCC ID number
 - b. Program(s) you are applying to and desired application cycle (ex. Spring 2026)
 - c. Attach all unofficial transcripts you wish to be evaluated
 - i. Please make sure all grades and courses are legible.
 - ii. Highlight **OR** list the courses up for evaluation.
 - iii. Your name and graduation dates should be visible.
 - d. Full name and city/state of the colleges up for review
3. Once this request is sent, you will receive a confirmation email that has been submitted. **From the point of confirmation, you will be emailed your evaluation results within 7 business days.** Consider this timeline in comparison to your application deadline.

Please note: Once admitted, if it is determined that a course taken at another college or university does not meet PVCC transfer requirements, you will need to repeat the course to fulfill degree requirements.

Required Documentation

Applicants must upload documentation to demonstrate that each requirement has been met as part of their application.

Documentation which does not include the applicant's full name will not be reviewed.

Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for documenting that specific coursework requirements have been met, including those from PVCC. However, applicants must submit transcripts for any college coursework completed outside the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), **even if the credits have already been transferred into the student's PVCC record.** This includes non-credit courses, if applicable.

In addition to the applicant's full name, valid transcripts must show **all** the following information in order to be reviewed:

- Name of the school, college, or university as applicable
- Course subject and number (e.g., "BIO 141")
- Full name of course (e.g., "Human Anatomy & Physiology I")
- Semester and year of course completion (e.g., "Fall 2025")

- Number of credits awarded for course completion
- Final grade

To satisfy the documentation requirement for the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), the TEAS Individual Performance Profile showing Reading, Math, Science, and English & Language Usage scores is required to be uploaded to the application. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://help.atitesting.com/what-is-an-individual-performance-profile-for-teas>

Applicants must additionally upload their pre-admission evaluation, if applicable.

Do NOT send official transcripts to PVCC for this application.

Official transcripts or test scores sent separately to PVCC will not be reviewed with your application. All transcripts and test scores must be uploaded in the application portal.

Ranking Criteria

If more applicants meet the minimum program eligibility requirements than there are available seats in this year's cohort, all eligible applicants will be ranked according to the following criteria in priority order.

- General education course grades and numbers of attempts (see Curriculum)
 - 1st attempt:** A = 7, B = 5, C = 3
 - 2nd attempt:** A = 5, B = 3, C = 1
 - 3rd attempt:** A = 3, B = 1, C = 0

*Students must submit transcripts for **all attempts** to complete courses relevant to program eligibility or ranking criteria. Failure to disclose any attempt may be considered an academic integrity violation. If such an omission is discovered after admission, the student may be subject to dismissal from the program. Each general education (non-DMS Program) course attempt, even if the course number is different (i.e., PSY 200 or PSY 230), is counted as an attempt.*
- **Previous degree completion**
 - Associate = 1, Bachelor's = 2, Master's or higher = 3
 - Only points for the highest degree will be awarded. An additional point is granted if any earned degree is related to healthcare.
- **Previous experience with direct patient care**
 - A maximum of 2 points will be awarded for submitting official verification of employment, on healthcare facility letterhead, confirming at least one year of direct, hands-on patient care experience. Eligible roles may include EMTs, CNAs, PCTs, patient transporters, CMAs, PTAs, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and similar positions.
- **Attendance at a fall 2025 or spring 2026 pre-admission information session**
 - A maximum of 1 point is awarded for attending a live pre-admission information session, either in-person or on Zoom. Attendance will be verified by the

applicant's signature on the sign-in sheet at the in-person session or by the Zoom attendance log as appropriate. This must be done within the application cycle you are applying to count (ex. May 2026 applicant must attend between May 21, 2025, and May 19, 2026).

- **Performance on the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)**

5% of the composite percentile score will be included in the ranking criteria.

Ties are first broken in favor of applicants who are residents of the PVCC service region. This is defined as the Virginia localities of Albemarle, Buckingham, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

Ties that remain during ranking are broken by the date/time of submission of the application.

Application Process

1. Apply for admission to PVCC. Only current PVCC students may apply to a health sciences program. Visit the PVCC website (pvcc.edu) to apply.
Important Note: Admission to PVCC does not equate to admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Students must apply separately through the HLS Admissions Portal 2026 for Diagnostic Medical Sonography.
2. Enroll in the HLS Admissions Portal 2026 in Canvas by navigating to this URL: <https://learn.vccs.edu/enroll/67GAB4>
3. Read the Application Instructions in the "START HERE" module.
4. Once the application open date (see [Application Dates](#)) has passed, start an application for the program.
5. Complete all questions in the application questionnaire and upload all relevant documents by the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)).
 - a. **Your application will not be reviewed unless you have submitted the Apply to Diagnostic Medical Sonography Google form and uploaded all relevant documents.**
6. Once the application due date has passed, your application will be screened for eligibility according to the minimum program eligibility requirements and, if necessary, ranked according to the ranking criteria.
7. Within seven (7) business days of the decision date (see [Application Dates](#)) you will be contacted with the outcome of your application. Your application will be placed in one of the following statuses:
 - a. **Admitted.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements and was ranked highly enough for a seat in this year's cohort. You'll receive instructions for accepting your admission. Your offer of admission may be conditional; additional steps may be required of you in order to retain your seat in the cohort. If your offer of admission is conditional, this will be communicated to you along with the specific conditions.

- b. **Waitlisted.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements but was not ranked highly enough for a seat in this year's cohort at this time. If a seat becomes available, the highest ranked applicant on the waitlist will be moved to "admitted" status and contacted accordingly.
- c. **Denied.** Your application did not meet minimum eligibility requirements. You are not eligible to join the program for this cohort year. You will be provided with information regarding inquiries and formal appeals.

Applications do not carry over into future application cycles. If you are not admitted in this application cycle, you will need to submit a new application during the next cycle to be considered. Applications are not saved.

Competitive Admission Appeals

Students who are denied admission to competitive admission programs have the right to appeal. The deadline to begin an appeal will be communicated to the student with the notification of denial.

The policy on student appeals can be found in the College Catalog:

<https://catalog.pvcc.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=886#student-appeals>

Readmission

Students seeking readmission into the program will be considered on a space-available basis. Details on program readmission are included in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program Student Handbook.

Selection for readmission will be based on the following:

- a. Overall GPA (2.75 or greater) in the general education courses taken on the Diagnostic Medical Sonography curriculum sheet.
- b. 75% or better on all past DMS courses.
- c. Letter to Program Director (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) should state why they believe that they will be successful upon readmission and describe any actions they have taken to remedy weaknesses.

Applicants for readmission must have submitted a letter requesting readmission by October 15 for spring readmission, February 15 for summer readmission, and May 15 for fall readmission.

Any student who has two failures in core Diagnostic Medical Sonography classes at PVCC is not eligible for readmission.

Clinical Compliance Requirements

All students who have been admitted to the program are required to provide documentation that they have met the program's clinical compliance requirements by the given deadline(s). These requirements may include – but are not limited to – a complete health assessment by a licensed healthcare provider, specific immunizations, and completed tests. Please note that becoming clinically compliant is time-consuming so incoming students should plan accordingly. Students who do not meet deadlines for providing documentation of clinical compliance may be barred from attending clinical sites and may be dismissed from the program. This includes any failure to follow instructions for properly submitting documentation.

Clinical compliance requirements are set by the clinical sites. PVCC does not have the authority to waive, exempt, or alter these requirements.

The following is a list of clinical compliance requirements for the program as of the date of publication. **These are not requirements for admission.**

- Immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Immunity to Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Immunity to Hepatitis B or Declination Form
- Immunity to Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (TDaP)
- Tuberculosis (TB) test, which determines exposure or active infection
- Vaccinated against Influenza
- An annual Virginia Risk Assessment Form
- Completed Physical Exam and Essential Functions Form
- Background Check
- Drug Screening
- CPR certification by American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Health Providers or American Red Cross Basic Life Support
- Computer Based Learning (CBL) or Computer Based Training (CBT)
- ACEMAPP compliance if required.

The program's clinical compliance requirements are subject to change at any time. Changes to clinical compliance requirements which were made after the date of publication are not reflected in this document.

A current list of clinical compliance requirements can be obtained by contacting the Clinical Compliance Coordinator ([see Personnel and Contacts](#)).

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All students admitted to the program must complete a background check and drug screening through the service and vendor designated by the Clinical Compliance Coordinator (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)). No other processes may be substituted for this requirement and no other service or vendor may be used. Forms and information will be made available to students after acceptance into the program. This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees must be paid directly to this vendor.

Students are responsible for payment of this service and must complete the background check and drug screening by the deadline provided after admission. Students who have not completed the background check and drug screen within the required timeframe will be dismissed from the program.

Students may be required to complete background checks or drug screenings through multiple vendors and services as required by our clinical partners. These additional requirements, if any, will be communicated to admitted students.

No PVCC employee is authorized to predetermine the outcome of a background check or drug screening. Any information provided by a PVCC employee regarding a specific background check or drug screening should be considered advisory only.

Background Check

The background check will search for misdemeanor and felony convictions of any type. However, only “barrier” crimes will result in failure of the background check. “Barrier” crimes are those crimes which would bar a student from attending one or more of PVCC’s clinical sites for this program or which would prevent the student from obtaining a relevant certification or licensure.

Students who are found, at any time after admission, to be convicted of a “barrier” crime may be dismissed from the program.

Convictions of Barrier Crimes

The following is a list of barrier crimes for the program as of the date of publication. Students convicted of any of these crimes are not eligible for admission at this time.

Generally, criminal convictions for offenses involving abuse or neglect disqualify an applicant from employment. A more complete list of barrier crimes can be found on the Virginia Department of Health website:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/96/2016/07/Barrier-Crimes.pdf>

Charges/Convictions of Clinically Disqualifying Crimes

A crime is clinically disqualifying if a clinical site will not allow a student to attend a clinical rotation due to a charge or conviction of that crime. Most clinical sites consider charges/convictions on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure of whether your

criminal record is disqualifying, please reach out to the head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)).

PVCC cannot guarantee placement at any specific clinical site. Each clinical site has the right to change their policies and procedures regarding disqualifying crimes which may impact a student's clinical placement after admission. The program will make every effort to provide advance notice to students of changes that may affect them.

Drug Screening

The drug screen tests for amphetamine (methamphetamine), barbiturates, benzodiazepine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (codeine, morphine), phencyclidine and propoxyphene.

Any of these drugs found in the student's drug screen will result in the student failing the drug screen. In cases of failure, the student will be contacted for further evaluation. Students may be granted an exception for a valid prescription. Students who fail the drug screen and do not receive an exception will be dismissed from the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will it take to complete the program?

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program curriculum can be completed in a 21-month time frame. However, this full-time course load is a rigorous and time-consuming one, especially if the student has work or other non-academic obligations. For this reason, many students elect to take all their required non-DMS courses before beginning the sequence of sonography courses. The number of general education courses, particularly in the sciences, which have been successfully completed is one of the factors used to make admission decisions.

Am I a Registered Sonographer after completing an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Sonography program?

No. After earning the Associate degree of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, the graduate is eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) exam. Upon passing the exam, they will be officially recognized as a registered sonographer.

What are the costs involved in the Sonography program?

In addition to tuition and the cost of transportation to clinical sites and parking, students are responsible for the following items (all costs are estimated):

MATERIAL/RESOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
DMS PROGRAM TEXTBOOKS	\$2,000
SUPPLIES	\$100
UNIFORMS	\$300
BACKGROUND CHECK & DRUG SCREEN	\$112
ONLINE CLINICAL TRACKER	\$150
ADDITIONAL DRUG SCREEN	\$38
CLINICAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	variable
PARKING/TRAVEL FOR CLINICAL SITES	variable
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY FEES	\$45/year
BLS CPR CERTIFICATION	\$100
TEAS PRE-ADMISSION (IN PVCC TESTING CENTER)	\$75
SPI CERTIFICATION EXAM (PHYSICS)	\$250
SPECIALTY (RDMS) CERTIFICATION EXAM	\$275
OTHER CLASSROOM EXPENSES	variable

What are the clinical sites for the program?

Students complete their clinical rotations at a variety of sites, including Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, Sentara Martha Jefferson Outpatient Care Center Proffit Road, UVA Medical Center (UVA Health), UVA Imaging, UVA Orthopedic Center, UVA Urology, UVA ERC, UVA Children's Medical Center (Battle Building), Augusta Health facilities, Bedford Memorial Hospital, CMG Women's Center, Culpeper OB, Culpeper Regional Hospital, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Johnson Health Center, Lewis Gale Medical Center, Maternal Specialist, Prince William Medical Center, Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Rockbridge Community Hospital, Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Southside Community Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, UVA Fetal Care Center, UVA Imaging Centers, and Fauquier Health.

- Students are required to attend clinical sites that may be outside of the Charlottesville/Albemarle area.
- Students are required to have reliable transportation to their assigned clinical sites and are responsible for any parking fees.

If I transfer from another college, is it possible for me to get credit for some of those courses?

Yes. Students who are admitted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program can have official transcripts sent to the Registrar's office and then complete a transfer credit evaluation. Students should consult the "Credit for Prior Learning" webpage (<https://www.pvcc.edu/credit-prior-learning>) for instructions. You must provide unofficial copies of your transcripts in your application to the program for them to be considered for meeting eligibility requirements.

If I am transferring from another Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, is it possible for me to get credit for some of the Sonography courses?

Yes. The student should make an appointment with the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Director to review their transcripts and coursework. The Program Director and Division Dean will evaluate Sonography coursework taken elsewhere. The student may be required to provide course outlines, syllabi, and skills checklists in order to determine what coursework may be transferred.

The student will also need to provide documentation of any clinical hours, skills and competencies completed. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Sonography Program Director and provide necessary documentation for course transfer consideration.

Is there financial aid available to Diagnostic Medical Sonography students?

Yes, there are a number of financial aid opportunities available to eligible students that have completed the most current FAFSA application. For further information, please contact the Financial Aid Office (434-961-6545) or visit the following link: <https://www.pvcc.edu/pay-for-pvcc/financial-aid>. We recommend that students complete the FAFSA application when it becomes available each year, typically at the beginning of October for the following academic year.

Can I make an appointment with someone in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program to review my application?

Due to the large number of applicants, Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program faculty are not able to schedule individual appointments to review application documents. To provide students with the most current and comprehensive data, information sessions are held throughout the fall and spring semesters and are recorded and posted on the program's website for students who are unable to attend. During these sessions, the program faculty will review the application process, prerequisites and the competitive ranking criteria. All applicants are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions.