Fall 2015

Application Deadline is May 15, 2015

Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Associate of Applied Science Degree

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Accredited by:
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097
404.679.4500
Disclaimer

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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.

Hard copies of the Admission Requirements and Program Information booklets may be obtained in the Admissions and Advising Center and in the lower-level of the Kluge Moses Building.

Nondiscrimination 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 also prohibits sexual harassment including sexual violence or misconduct. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding any of these policies: Human Resources Manager, 501 College Dr., Main Building, Room M810, Charlottesville, VA 22902; 434.961.6567.
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Introduction

The PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is a two-year (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.

The profession of diagnostic medical sonography includes general sonography (defined as abdomen, obstetric, gynecologic, superficial parts and other appropriate areas), cardiac sonography, vascular technology and various other subspecialties. Hospitals remain the primary employer of sonographers, but there are increasing numbers of jobs available in physician offices, outpatient surgery centers and free-standing diagnostic imaging centers. Entry-level sonographers usually work in general and obstetric/gynecologic sonography. With further experience and training, they can move into the other specialties.

Employment as a sonographer offers a promising future. Wages are competitive with other health-care providers with similar educational backgrounds, and there are jobs available throughout Virginia.
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Objectives

The goal of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at PVCC is to prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

Graduates of this program are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Sonography Certification Exam. Graduates with a bachelor’s degree in another field or an associate degree in another health field are eligible to take certain entry-level American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography exams.

Program Cognitive Objective

At the completion of the PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, graduates will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply and evaluate didactic knowledge and clinical information relative to their role as entry-level general sonographers.

Program Psychomotor Objective

At the completion of the program, the graduate of the PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will demonstrate technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of entry-level general sonographer.

Program Affective Objective

At the completion of the program, the graduate of the PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer standards and expectations for an entry-level general sonographer.

The following are the program-specific student learning outcomes for the PVCC sonography degree:

1. Graduates will be able to obtain, review and integrate pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results.

2. Graduates will be able to perform ultrasounds and record anatomic, pathologic and/or physiologic data for interpretation by a physician.

3. Graduates will record, analyze and process diagnostic data and other pertinent observations made during the ultrasound examination for presentation to the interpreting physician.

4. Graduates will demonstrate appropriate communication skills with patients, staff sonographers and physicians.

5. Graduates will demonstrate professional and ethical behavior.

6. Graduates will provide patient education related to medical ultrasound and/or other diagnostic vascular techniques and promote principles of good health.
Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a registered diagnostic medical sonographer. Students unable to meet these standards are not eligible for admission to 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 a medical record, provide for the safety of clients’ condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data and evaluate sonographic quality.

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.
**Health Status**

All individuals admitted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will be required to submit documentation of a complete health assessment by his/her health-care provider. This will include documentation that specific immunizations and tests have been completed. A list of these immunizations may be obtained from the Health and Life Sciences Division Office in the Kluge-Moses Science Building, Room K224A.

**Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening**

All PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography students must complete the Authorization Form for Background Check and Drug Screening. No other processes may be substituted for this requirement. Forms and information will be mailed to students upon acceptance into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor. The testing will compare findings against the following criteria:

- Adult or child sexual offenses
- Adult, child or elder abuse or neglect
- Assault or battery
- Fraud
- Narcotics or other drugs, including prescription drugs
- Felonies of any type

The vendor will report only whether a student clears or does not clear the criteria listed above. All reports will be returned to the Dean of Health and Life Sciences. In the event that a student is not cleared, the student must make any clarifications directly with the vendor. The student may elect to involve the Dean in any clarification procedures. If no suitable arrangement can be made, the student shall be administratively withdrawn from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Some of the clinical facilities utilized by the Sonography program require students to have a drug screen within 30 days of the beginning of their clinical experience. This may require students to do an additional drug screen during the course of the program, with an additional cost of $38.
Program Behavior Expectations

The PVCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is considered to be 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.
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
Prerequisites

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to May 15, 2015 will be eligible for admission. *Staff will not be available to assist with submission of application materials after 5 pm on May 15. We strongly recommend you complete the process before May 15.*

The following items must be satisfactorily completed in order to be considered for admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. This is a competitive admissions process with limited enrollment and not all applicants will be granted admission. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum does not guarantee admission.

1. Completion of ENG 111 with a grade of "C" or better OR equivalent course accepted in transfer by the College Registrar

2. Completion of MTH 115 with a grade of "C" or better OR equivalent course accepted in transfer by the College Registrar (within last 8 years)

3. Completion of PHY 100 with a grade of "C" or better OR equivalent course accepted in transfer by the College Registrar

4. Completion of BIO 141 and BIO 142 with a grade of "C" or better OR equivalent courses accepted in transfer by the College Registrar (within last 8 years)

5. Demonstrated computer competency
   a. Completion of ITE 119 with a grade of “C” or better or equivalent course accepted in transfer by the College Registrar **OR**
   b. Completion of ITE 119 challenge exam with a 75% or better

6. Demonstrated medical terminology competency
   a. Completion of any college medical terminology course (credit or noncredit) with a grade of “C” /"P" or better. (*Completion of this course must be verified by an official transcript/certificate.*)

7. Curricular GPA of 2.5 or above

The curricular GPA is the grade point average of all the general education courses (non-DMS courses) listed on the AAS of Diagnostic Medical Sonography curriculum sheet that the student has completed by the application deadline. This would include ENG 111/112, BIO 141/142, PHY 100, MTH 115, SDV 100/101/108, social science elective and humanities elective.
8. Science GPA of 2.0 or above

The science GPA is the grade point average in the following courses: BIO 141, BIO 142, and PHY 100.

9. Sonography Interest Essay

a. Written essay of 300 words to evaluate written communication skills.

b. Must be completed in PVCC’s Testing Center. Call 434.961.5320 to schedule an appointment.

c. Can only be done once and cannot be prepared ahead of the appointment.

10. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)

a. Completion of the TOEFL iBT with a standard score of 84 or above and a minimum speaking score of 26 is required for ALL nonnative English speakers. Completion of ENG 111 does not satisfy the requirement.

b. Any nonnative English speakers who do not take the TOEFL iBT and are determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency may be dismissed from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

c. TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.

11. You must attend an Information Session and sign a verification form of attendance.

12. Prior to admittance, if you are on the list of potential admits (you have met prerequisites), you will be contacted by Sonography Personnel to arrange a shadowing experience. After the experience, you will be asked to come in to discuss your experiences.

13. **ALL** prerequisites, except the shadowing experience, must be completed and documentation received as described below no later than the application deadline of 5 pm, May 15, 2015. Late documentation will not be considered.

a. **Submitted to the PVCC Admissions and Advising Office:**

   Official non-VCCS transcripts.
   You must also submit a Transcript Evaluation Form (http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf) for any course for which you want credit as part of the Sonography curriculum that was taken at a college other than PVCC (including other VCCS colleges).
b. **Submitted to the Health and Life Sciences Division Office:**

Official or unofficial non-VCCS transcripts, TOEFL iBT scores (if required), along with completed checklist from last page of Admissions Requirements and Program Information booklet.

Students **should not** request copies of transcripts from the Registrar’s Office.
Curriculum for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
<td>College Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SAT or placement score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 112</td>
<td>College Composition II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENG 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 141</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>College level BIO or CHM w/grade of C or better or pass NAS 2 within last 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 142</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology II&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIO 141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDV 100/101/108</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 115</td>
<td>Technical Math&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MTE 1-6, equivalent placement score, SAT, or ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 100</td>
<td>Elements of Physics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>MTH 115, MTE 1-9, equivalent placement score, SAT, or ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Elective&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Elective&lt;sup&gt;3,4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>3</td>
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**Sonography Courses**

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester (Fall)**
- DMS 206 Introduction to Sonography 2 Admission to sonography program
- DMS 207 Sectional Anatomy 2 Admission to sonography program and BIO 141, 142, MTH 115, PHY 100

*Complete all general education classes.*

**2nd Semester (Spring)**
- DMS 208 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation I 2 Successful completion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester DMS courses and all general education classes
- DMS 211 Abdominal Sonography 4 Successful completion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester DMS courses and BIO 142
- DMS 231 Clinical Education I 3 Successful completion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester DMS courses

**3rd Semester (Summer)**
- DMS 209 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation II 2 Successful completion of 2nd semester DMS courses
- DMS 219 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation II Lab 1 Successful completion of 2nd semester DMS courses
- DMS 221 Ultrasound Seminar I 3 Successful completion of 2nd semester DMS courses
- DMS 232 Clinical Education II 4 Successful completion of 2nd semester DMS courses

**4th Semester (Fall)**
- DMS 212 Obstetrical & Gynecological Sonography 4 Successful completion of 3rd semester DMS courses
- DMS 223 Intro to Vascular Ultrasound 3 Successful completion of 3rd semester DMS courses
- DMS 233 Clinical Education III 5 Successful completion of 3rd semester DMS courses

**5<sup>th</sup>Semester (Spring)**
- DMS 222 Sonography Registry Review<sup>5</sup> (fulfills the WIC requirement) 3 Successful completion of 4th semester DMS courses
- DMS 234 Clinical Education IV 6 Successful completion of 4th semester DMS courses

**Total Credits** 72

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<sup>1</sup>BIO 141 and BIO 142 - A grade of "C" or higher is required. These courses must be repeated if they were taken more than eight years prior to application for admission to program.

<sup>2</sup>Students may substitute MTH 163 AND MATH 164. These courses must be repeated if they were taken more than eight years prior to application for admission to program.

<sup>3</sup>Lists of courses that fulfill the requirement for Social Science Elective and Humanities Elective can be found on the second page of the curriculum sheet.

<sup>4</sup>Introductory (101 or 102 level) foreign language courses will not meet the Humanities Elective requirement for this program.

<sup>5</sup>DMS 222 has a prerequisite of ENG 112. The course (DMS 222) fulfills the Writing Intensive Course (WIC) requirement for this degree program. Students who are awarded transfer academic credit for this course at another institution may fulfill the Writing Intensive Course (WIC) requirement for this degree program by completing another Writing Intensive Course (WIC).
Factors Considered for Admission Decisions

Admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is competitive and will be based on a ranking system that includes student performance on all of the sonography program prerequisites. Each student's past and potential educational achievement is measured against all other students applying. Applicants must submit all official documentation and demonstrate minimum requirements for consideration by the posted deadline to be considered for acceptance. Coursework in progress at time of deadline will not be considered during the application process. Students meeting all of the minimum requirements for admission are not guaranteed acceptance.

Due to the large number of applicants, Sonography Program personnel are not able to schedule individual appointments to review application documents. In an effort to provide students with the most current and comprehensive data, information sessions are held throughout the fall and early spring semesters. During these sessions, the Program Director will review the application process, prerequisites and the competitive ranking criteria. All applicants are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. This information will also be available as an online presentation. In addition, there are advisors available daily in PVCC’s Admissions and Advising Center.
Evaluation Process

1. Sonography Program applicants complete online Sonography Program application and all required prerequisites prior to May 15 deadline. Applications or documentation received after the deadline will not be considered. THIS PROGRAM APPLICATION IS IN ADDITION TO THE PVCC COLLEGE APPLICATION.

2. The Program Director conducts a preliminary screening of all applications to determine those who have met the minimum prerequisites and thus are eligible for admission.

3. Applicants are ranked according to the following criteria in order of importance:
   a. The number of general education courses completed by the application deadline
   b. The GPA earned in those completed courses
   c. The GPA earned in those completed science courses
   d. The quality of the essay -- The one-page admission essay is intended to evaluate each applicant’s written communication skills. The essay is completed in word processing format in PVCC’s Testing Center by appointment. It is not a test of knowledge and cannot be prepared ahead of the scheduled appointment.

4. Applicants will be accepted, placed on the waiting list, or not accepted. Notification of status will be emailed to students’ VCCS email address on June 22, 2015. Letters to all applicants will be mailed the week of June 22, 2015.
   a. A waiting list of qualified applicants will be maintained in the event that selected students are not able to accept their place in the program. The waiting list is not continued from year to year. Any student not admitted for their desired year will have to reapply for admission in subsequent years.
   b. Students seeking readmission into the program or advanced placement transfers will be considered on a space-available basis. Applicants for readmission must have submitted a letter requesting readmission by November 15 for spring readmission and June 1 for fall readmission. Students desiring readmission into DMS 231 must apply as new applicants.

ANY STUDENT WHO HAS TWO FAILURES IN CORE DMS CLASSES AT PVCC IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR READMISSION. Details on program readmission are included in the program student handbook.
1. WHAT COURSES AT PVCC SHOULD I TAKE IF I AM PREPARING FOR ADMISSION INTO THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM?

Any developmental courses that are recommended as a result of assessment testing should be taken immediately. Developmental English (writing and/or reading) probably should be the first developmental courses to be taken, if necessary. Developmental math courses should then be taken, followed by NAS 2, Foundations of Life Science, if necessary.

The number of general education courses completed and the grades in those courses are a critical determinant in admissions decisions. In addition, ALL general education (non DMS) courses in the curriculum MUST be successfully completed prior to beginning DMS didactic and clinical courses in the spring semester. Therefore, students must plan their academic schedules to be able to complete any outstanding general education courses in the summer and fall immediately following the application deadline.

2. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography curriculum is designed to be completed in five consecutive semesters.

3. WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED IN THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM?

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

Books: $2284
Supplies: $100
Health Screening: $100-$500 (depending on health care provider and immunizations required)
Background Check/Drug Screen: $112
Additional drug screening may be required $38
Certification exam: $500
4. WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SITES FOR THE PROGRAM?

Many hospital clinicals are completed at the University of Virginia Medical Center and Martha Jefferson Hospital. Others may be done at facilities in Harrisonburg, Culpeper, Richmond, Roanoke, Lynchburg, physician offices and outpatient imaging centers. Other facilities and agencies may be added at student or agency request. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLINICAL SITES WITH COMMUTES UP TO 2.5 HOURS EACH WAY.

5. WHAT IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in PVCC’s Office of Admissions and Records, you may request that the Registrar complete a transcript evaluation and send you written confirmation of courses accepted for transfer to PVCC. The Transcript Evaluation Request form can be found online at http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf.

6. IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY COURSES?

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Advising, make an appointment with the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Director. The Program Director and Division Dean will evaluate Diagnostic Medical Sonography coursework taken elsewhere. You may be asked to provide faculty with course outlines or syllabi in order to determine what work may transfer. You will also need to provide documentation of any clinical hours, skills and competencies completed.

7. IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY STUDENTS?

Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. Some of these require enrollment in 12 semester hours each term. This should be considered as you plan your schedule. For further information, please contact the Financial Aid Office (434.961.6545) at your earliest convenience. It is best to complete your financial aid application by March 31 for the following fall semester.
## Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Admission Checklist

Attach this checklist to any supporting documents and deliver to Health and Life Sciences Division Office by 5 p.m., May 15, 2015.

### Applicant Name: _______________________________ ID# ______________________

#### Prerequisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
<th>Can Be Met</th>
<th>How Did You Meet Prerequisite?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete English prerequisite requirement.</td>
<td>College transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete math prerequisite requirement.</td>
<td>College transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete science prerequisite requirement.</td>
<td>College transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Anatomy and Physiology requirement.</td>
<td>College transcript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete computer competency requirement.</td>
<td>(1) College transcript, (2) test-out of ITE 119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete medical terminology competency requirement.</td>
<td>(1) College transcript, (2) certificate of completion, (3) test-out of HLT 141</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Application Requirement

- Complete PVCC Application [http://www.pvcc.edu/admissions/apply-now](http://www.pvcc.edu/admissions/apply-now)
- Complete Sonography Program Application [www.pvcc.edu/hlsapplication](http://www.pvcc.edu/hlsapplication)
- Submit official transcript(s) for non-VCCS colleges to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising. Request transcript evaluation for transfer credit (for any college other than PVCC).
- Include official or unofficial transcript(s) for non-VCCS colleges in packet for Health and Life Sciences Division Office.
- Complete Sonography Admission Essay.
- If non-native English speaker, include copy of results of TOEFL iBT in packet for Health and Life Sciences Division Office. (TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.)

#### Submit complete packet of supporting documents along with this completed checklist:

- ALL
  - non-VCCS college transcripts (official or unofficial)
  - TOEFL iBT scores (if required)

Please list documents you are providing:

Submit complete packet of supporting documents along with this completed checklist: ALL

Deliver complete packet to Health and Life Sciences Division Office by 5 pm on application deadline.