**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program**

**Program Accreditation**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Columbus Technical 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 (JRC-DMS).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

25400 U.S. Highway 19 Suite 158

Clearwater, Florida 33763

727-210-2350

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org/)

**Program Description**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) associate degree program is designed to prepare qualified entry-level sonographers who are highly skilled, technically competent, ethical, professional, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of patients and of employing organizations. The profession requires critical thinking skills and judgment and the ability to provide appropriate healthcare services. Sonographers use technologically advanced equipment that utilizes high-frequency sound waves to produce dynamic visual pictures of internal body structures. Physicians evaluate the images to make a medical diagnosis.

Course work includes sonographic physics, sonographic appearance of normal and abnormal anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pathophysiology of the abdomen, pelvis, and small parts of the adult, pediatric, and fetal patient, as well as clinical application courses, interventional sonography, journal and case study review, and comprehensive registry reviews. The DMS program combines formal education and extensive clinical training to prepare you to function as a sonographer.

As a graduate of this DMS accredited program, the student is eligible to sit for the national certification examination in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) in the SPI Physics exam upon completing the program physics class and in the Abdomen and the Obstetrics/Gynecology specialties prior to program completion. The student may also elect to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) exam for Sonography, a combined exam of Physics, Abdomen, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. The partnership that CTC has with area healthcare facilities will provide the student the benefit of on the job training in a clinical setting. CTC does not guarantee job placement; however, we often assist graduates with employment opportunities as healthcare facilities seek our graduates for job opportunities. Hospital imaging departments, clinics, physician’s offices, and diagnostic centers seek registered graduates.

**Program Admission Requirements** (The DMS Program is a Competitive Admissions Program)

* Applicants must present documentation of a high school diploma or official GED scores for admission.
* Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
* No provisional and/or special admission students are considered for the program.
* Must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 at the end of Fall semester of the year making application.
* Must complete all prerequisite courses by the end of Fall semester. All grades, including grades being transferred in from another college, must be received in the Admissions Office on an official transcript by December 3rd.
* Competitive ranking will be based on:

1. **Standardized admission test scores (50% of ranking)** - The ACCUPLACER Next Generation Test (Reading and Writing portions) must be taken by all students desiring acceptance into a competitively-admitted Health Science program regardless of whether they have taken a college-level English course or have taken a similar exam such as the SAT or ACT. These Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills scores are used as a part of the competitive ranking process for all Health Science competitive-admission programs.
2. Must have minimum Reading/ANGR (236) and minimum Writing/ANGW (249) of the ACCUPLACER Next Generation scores. (Total possible score for each section is 300.) Math exams are not required for the DMS program due to the prerequisite of a grade of C or better in the College Algebra course.
3. Must have minimum Reading Comprehension (64) and Sentence Skills (70) ACCUPLACER scores. (Total possible score for each section is 120.)
4. Or, the student may still use COMPASS Test scores for program admission. Must have minimum Reading (79) and Writing Skills (62) scores. (Total possible score for each section is 100.) The COMPASS Test is in the process of being phased out and the college no longer offers this exam.

(Students will be allowed only one retest (ACCUPLACER/Next Generation only) in the Reading and Writing sections after the required score is attained. The highest score will be used in the ranking process. The policy of Columbus Technical College is to allow one re-testing opportunity per test section of ACCUPLACER per semester. There is a minimum waiting period of seven days between an initial test and a retest. The retest fee is $15 per test section. For more information, call Admissions at 706.649.1847 or see: <https://www.columbustech.edu/students/accuplacer-placement-test.cms>

1. **Grades from designated Prerequisite Courses (50% of ranking)** - Designated prerequisite courses used for ranking are indicated by an \* on program sequence sheets and the CTC web page. (See list of required prerequisite courses on the next page.)
2. Students will be given one opportunity to improve on a passing grade. For example, if a student makes a ‘C’ on his/her first attempt, one re-take is permissible and the higher grade is used for ranking. Please note that Financial Aid may not pay for a class again once a student has passed with a “C” or better.
3. Students with a grade of D, F, W, WP, or WF on the first time a course was taken will be allowed one (1) re-take opportunity to make a passing grade. The student will then be given one (1) opportunity to improve on a passing grade as stated above. The higher grade will be used for ranking.
4. Transfer credits in prerequisite courses in Science courses (BIOL 2113 & 2113L, 2114 & 2114L, and PHYS 1110 & 1110L) cannot be more than seven (7) years old or the course must be retaken.

* Student must provide current medical/physical exam results on a DMS provided Medical Form, complete the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technical Standards form, and provide their immunization records and current CPR card (BLS for Healthcare Providers) afterprogram acceptance. More details about these requirements will follow after acceptance into the program.

<https://www.columbustech.edu/academics/forms.cms>

* Entrance into the DMS program is contingent upon completion of a background check through www.clinicalbackgrounds.com which must be completed ***after*** being conditionally accepted into the program.

For more information, see: <https://www.columbustech.edu/academics/background-check.cms>

The following courses will be used in the ranking process for competitive admission:

[ENGL 1101](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/ENGL-English/1000/ENGL-1101), [MATH 1111](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/MATH-Mathematics/1000/MATH-1111), [BIOL 2113](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/BIOL-Biology/2000/BIOL-2113), BIOL 2113L, [MATH 1127](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/MATH-Mathematics/1000/MATH-1127), [PHYS 1110](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/PHYS-Physics/1000/PHYS-1110), PHYS 1110L,

[BIOL 2114](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/BIOL-Biology/2000/BIOL-2114), and BIOL 2114L

*(SEMN 1000,*[*PSYC 1101*](https://columbustech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/2016-2017-Catalog-and-Student-Handbook/Courses/PSYC-Psychology/1000/PSYC-1101)*, and HUMN XXXX are not used in the ranking process, but must these courses must also be completed prior to program admission with the exception of SEMN 1000 which may be taken during the program.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Diagnostic Medical Sonography - Prerequisite Courses** | **CREDIT HOURS** |
| SEMN 1000 First Semester Seminar | 0 |
| \*ENGL 1101 Composition and Rhetoric | 3 |
| \*MATH 1111 College Algebra | 3 |
| PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| \*BIOL 2113 Anatomy and Physiology I | 3 |
| \*BIOL 2113 L Anatomy and Physiology I Lab | 1 |
| HUMN XXXX Humanities/Fine Arts Elective | 3 |
| \*MATH 1127 Introduction to Statistics | 3 |
| \*PHYS 1110 Conceptual Physics | 3 |
| \*PHYS 1110 L Conceptual Physics Lab | 1 |
| \*BIOL 2114 Anatomy and Physiology II | 3 |
| \*BIOL 2114 L Anatomy and Physiology II Lab | 1 |

**Application Deadline**

Packets must be completed and submitted to the Administrative Desk located on the 3rd floor in the Wright Health Sciences building by **October 1st** for Spring semester admission, and no sooner than two weeks prior to due date. All packets must be complete upon submission.

**Forms Required for Application Process**

* + Letter of Intent Form

*This form can be found and downloaded from:* <https://www.columbustech.edu/academics/forms.cms>

**Program Considerations**

* DMS courses are generally offered from 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday, on any given semester (times/days can change for the needs of the program)
* During the first semester (January – May) there will be one class taught at night from 5:30pm – 9:00pm.
* Attending the program is equivalent to working a full-time job.
* Travel is required for clinical rotations (currently, as far as ~75 miles each way) for up to four (4) days per week depending on the semester. Reliable transportation is a must.
* ARDMS Registry exam fees (totaling $725.00, must be paid in increments throughout the program) See [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org) for more info.
* We often assist graduates with employment opportunities as they come available in the area; however, we do not guarantee job placement (Approximately 86-91% of past graduating classes are gainfully employed either full-time, part-time, or PRN within the first six (6) months post-graduation.)

**Program Completion Rates**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Graduation**  **Year** | **Students Accepted** | **Academic Attrition** | **Non-Academic Attrition (Voluntary Withdrawal)** | **Graduates** | **Retention Rate** |
| 2019 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 92% |
| 2018 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 90% |
| 2017 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 90% |
| 2016 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 70% |
| 2015 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 92% |

**Job Placement Rates**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Graduation**  **Year** | **# of Graduates** | **Pursuing further degree** | **Not pursuing career in sonography** | **Total # Positive Placement** | **Positive Job Placement Rate**  (within 12 months of graduation) |
| 2019 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 91% |
| 2018 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 89% |
| 2017 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 89% |
| 2016 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 86% |
| 2015 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 91% |

**Credentialing Examination Pass Rates**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grad. Year** | **ARDMS**  **SPI Exam**  **Pass Rate** | |  | **ARDMS**  **Abdomen Exam**  **Pass Rate** | |  | **ARDMS**  **OB/GYN**  **Pass Rate** | |
|  | CTC  Rate | National Average |  | CTC  Rate | National Average |  | CTC  Rate | National Average |
| 2019 | 91% | n/a |  | 100% | n/a |  | 100% | n/a |
| 2018 | 90% | 73% |  | 89% | 83% |  | 89% | 79% |
| 2017 | 100% | 75% |  | 100% | 84% |  | 100% | 79% |
| 2016 | 86% | 78% |  | 71% | 81% |  | 100% | 79% |
| 2015 | 100% | 83% |  | 67% | 77% |  | 90% | 79% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Graduation**  **Year** | **# of Graduates** | **Percentage of graduates ARDMS registered in one or more specialties (ABD and/or OBGYN) within 12 months of graduation** |
| 2019 | 11 | 100% |
| 2018 | 9 | 89% |
| 2017 | 9 | 100% |
| 2016 | 7 | 86% |
| 2015 | 11 | 91% |

**Estimated Student Expenses**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| ***Diagnostic Medical Sonography*** | | ***Expenses*** |
|  | Background Check | $60.00 |
|  | Medical Physical | $100.00 |
|  | Immunizations | $130.00 |
|  | Flu Shot (x2) | $40.00($20 each) |
|  | CPR (BLS for Healthcare Providers) | $65.00 |
|  | Uniforms and Accessories | $175.00 |
|  | Graduation Fee | $40.00  **ARDMS Exams must be taken and paid for *DURING* the DMS program** |
|  | ARDMS SPI Exam | $225.00 |
|  | ARDMS Specialty Exams ($250 x 2) | $500.00 |
|  | Required Textbooks  ACEMAPP Clinical Fees (x2) | $1220.00  $100.00 (Total) |
|  | DMSO Course Lab Fees (8 courses) | $275.00(Total) |
|  | Student Liability Insurance (x2) | $35.00(Total) |
|  | **DMS Program**  **Tuition/Fees per Semester**  **(In-State)** |  |
|  | Spring Semester (I) | $1621.00 |
|  | Summer Semester | $1521.00 |
|  | Fall Semester | $1721.00 |
|  | Spring Semester (II) | $1521.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: | $9349.00 |
|  |  |  |

***\*Estimated expenses are subject to change without notice***

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| --- | --- |
| First Semester Pre-Occupational Classes | CREDIT HOURS |
| SEMN 1000 First Semester Seminar | 0 |
| ENGL 1101 Composition and Rhetoric | 3 |
| MATH 1111 College Algebra | 3 |
| PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| BIOL 2113 Anatomy and Physiology I | 3 |
| BIOL 2113 L Anatomy and Physiology I Lab | 1 |
| Second Semester Pre -Occupational Classes | Credit Hours |
| HUMN XXXX Humanities/ Fine Arts Elective | 3 |
| MATH 1127 Introduction to Statistics | 3 |
| PHYS 1110 Conceptual Physics | 3 |
| PHYS 1110 L Conceptual Physics Lab | 1 |
| BIOL 2114 Anatomy and Physiology II | 3 |
| BIOL 2114 L Anatomy and Physiology II Lab | 1 |
| Total Credit Hours Pre – Occupational Classes | 27 |
| Third Semester OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES (Competitive Admission) | Credit Hours |
| DMSO 1010 Foundations of Sonography | 3 |
| DMSO 1020 Sectional Anatomy and Normal Sonographic Appearance | 3 |
| DMSO1040 Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation | 3 |
| DMSO 1060 Clinical Sonography I | 4 |
| Fourth Semester OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES | Credit Hours |
| DMSO 1050 Abdominal Sonography I | 3 |
| DMSO 1070 Pelvic Sonography and First Trimester Obstetrics | 2 |
| DMSO 1080 Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation Registry Review | 1 |
| DMSO1100 Clinical Sonography II | 6 |
| Fifth Semester OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES | Credit Hours |
| DMSO 1090 Introduction to Vascular Sonography | 1 |
| DMSO 2010 OB Second and Third Trimesters | 3 |
| DMSO 2020 Specialized Sonographic Procedures | 2 |
| DMSO 2030 Clinical Sonography III | 8 |
| Sixth Semester OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES | Credit Hours |
| DMSO 2040 Comprehensive Abdomen and OB-GYN Registry Review | 2 |
| DMSO 2050 Clinical Sonography IV | 10 |
| Total Credit Hours for Occupational Classes | 51 |
| Total Program Hours | 78 |