**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program**

**Program Accreditation**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program 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 the 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 the Abdomen and 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.

**Estimated Salary**

Starting salary varies depending on locale, background and employment status (PRN, Full-time etc.); starting at approximately $20-24 per hour, in the Columbus, Ga area. For information on career opportunities for the sonographer visit: [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography](http://www.sdms.org/career/career.asp)

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Columbus Technical College Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program to provide high quality education consistent with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) standards. In a didactic and clinical setting, a curriculum is provided that will give the students the knowledge, skills and ethics to graduate and become successful and competent employees in the field of Sonography.

**Program Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

**Goal 1:** Prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains under the guidance of the Technical College System of Georgia and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards.

**Goal 2:** Provide qualified instructors in both the didactic and clinical settings.

**Goal 3:** Assist the profession and community by providing qualified diagnostic medical sonographers to meet the needs of hospitals, physician’s offices, clinics and imaging centers in the region.

**Goal 4:** Accreditation of the DMS program through CAAHEP/JRC-DMS.

**Goal 5**: Students/graduates will exhibit effective oral communication skills.

* Students will practice written communication skills.
* Students will practice oral communication skills in the clinical area.
* Students will practice oral communication skills in a group/class setting.

**Goal 6**: Students/graduates will be clinically competent for entry-level performance.

* Students will utilize skills in equipment manipulation and patient positioning.
* Students will select proper technical factors.
* Students will practice radiation protection skills.

**Goal 7**: Students/graduates will exhibit effective communication skills, critical thinking, and

problem-solving.

* Students will complete case studies in critical thinking and problem-solving.
* Students will perform critical thinking and problem-solving skills in clinical assignments.

**Goal 8:** Students/graduates will exhibit development of professional growth in attitudes, behavior, and ethics.

* Students will exhibit a professional attitude in clinical assignments.
* Students will demonstrate the value of professional growth and development.
* Students will demonstrate the importance of work ethics.

**Program Admission Requirements**

**(Competitive Admission)**

Applicants must present official documentation of an earned high school diploma or official GED scores to the Admissions Office.

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. No provisional and/or special admission students considered for the program.
3. a. Must have minimum Reading (64) and Sentence Skills (70) Accuplacer scores. The scores must be within five (5) years of the semester the student is applying for admission to the program.
4. Or may still use Compass Scores if taken within the last 5 years of the semester the student is applying for admission to the program with a minimum Reading (79) and writing (62) score. The Compass Exam is in the process of being phased out.
5. Complete prerequisite courses by the end of Fall semester (see DMS program curriculum for required prerequisite courses).
6. Must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 at the end of Fall semester of the year making application.
7. Transfer credits in prerequisite courses in Science cannot be more than seven (7) years old
8. Submit packet containing the following:
   * Letter of Intent Form
   * Personal Data Sheet
   * Technical Standards for DMS Form

The forms can be found at: <https://www.columbustech.edu/academics/forms.cms>

Packets must be completed and submitted to the Administrative Desk 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. (Revised on 4/2015)

1. Provide current physical exam (medical form)/immunization record and current CPR card after program acceptance.

**Competitive Admit Information**

* Approximately 40-50 students apply each year
* The program accepts 10 – 12 students per class, per year (depending on availability of clinical sites)
* Currently, the school considers the applicant’s GPA for completed prerequisite courses and Accuplacer scores for competitive admission.
* Entrance is contingent on completion of a background check through www.clinicalbackgrounds.com which must be completed after being conditionally accepted into the program.

**Program Considerations**

* DMS courses are generally offered from 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday on any given semester (however the times/days can change for the needs of the program)
* 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 5 days per week depending on the semester. Reliable transportation is a must.
* ARDMS Registry exam fees (totaling $700.00, must be paid in increments throughout the program)
* We often assist graduates with employment opportunities as they come available in the area, however, we do not guarantee job placement (Approximately 77-100% of past graduating classes are gainfully employed within the first 6 months post-graduation.)

**Estimated Student Expenses**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| ***Diagnostic Medical Sonography*** | | ***Expenses*** |
|  | Background Check | $100.00 |
|  | Medical Physical | $100.00 |
|  | Immunizations | $130.00 |
|  | Flu Shot (x2) | $40.00($20 each) |
|  | CPR (Basic Life) | $65.00 |
|  | Uniforms and Accessories | $175.00 |
|  | Graduation Pins | $15.00  **ARDMS Exams must be paid for *DURING* the DMS program** |
|  | ARDMS SPI Exam | $200.00 |
|  | ARDMS Specialty Exams (x 2) | $500.00 |
|  | TOTAL | $1,325.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Required Program Fees/Text** |  |
|  | Required Textbooks | $1,221.00 |
|  | DMSO Course Lab Fees (8 courses) | $275.00(Total) |
|  | Student Liability Insurance (x2) | $35.00(Total) |
|  | TOTAL | $1,531.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Tuition/Fees per Semester**  **(In-State)** |  |
|  | Spring Semester | $1,436.00 |
|  | Summer Semester | $1,447.00 |
|  | Fall Semester | $1,525.00 |
|  | Spring Semester | $1,347.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | $5,755.00 |
|  |  |  |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | | $8,611.00 |

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

**DMS Accuplacer Score Requirements Compass Score Requirements**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACCUPLACER TEST SCORES | |
| **Reading Comp** | 64 |
| **Sentence Skills** | 70 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| COMPASS TEST SCORES | |
| **Reading Comp** | 79 |
| **English** | 62 |

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Outcomes**

**Program Effectiveness Data**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Starting Students** | **Number of Graduates** | **Program *Completion Rate***  **Benchmark**  **>80%** | **Program *Attrition* Rate** | **ARDMS Registered upon Graduation Rate**  **Benchmark**  **> 75%** | **Employment Rate of Graduates Actively Seeking/**  **Gaining Employment within 12 months of Graduation** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2017** | **10** | **9** | **90%** | **10%** | **100%** |  |
| **2016** | **10** | **7** | **70 %** | **30%** | **71%** | **86%** |
| **2015** | **11** | **11** | **100 %** | **0%** | **91%** | **91%** |
| **2014** | **10** | **9** | **90%** | **10%** | **89%** | **100%** |
| **2013** | **12** | **12** | **100%** | **0%** | **58%** | **92%** |
| **2011** | **9** | **9** | **100%** | **0%** | **78%** | **89%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5 yr total** | **52** | **48** | **92%** | **8%** | **77%** | **92%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |