**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

**Program Description**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) 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.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) examinations in Abdomen and Obstetrics and Gynecology specialties immediately upon program completion. They 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.

**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**

**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.

**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. Must have minimum Reading and Writing COMPASS scores and these scores cannot be more than five (5) years old in the semester you compete.
4. Complete prerequisite courses for your intended program as listed on web site by the end of Fall semester.
5. Must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 at the end of Fall semester
6. Submit packet containing the following:
	* Letter of Intent Form
	* Personal Data Sheet
	* Technical Standards for DMS Form

The forms can be found at: <http://www.columbustech.edu/academics/school-of-health-sciences/forms/>

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 Compass scores (Reading and Writing only) 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**

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| ***Diagnostic Medical Sonography*** | ***Expenses*** |
|   | Background Check | $100.00 |
|   | Medical Physical | $100.00 |
|   | Immunizations | $130.00 |
|   | Flu Shot (x2) | $40.00($20 each) |
|   | CPR | $65.00 |
|   | Uniforms and Accessories | $175.00 |
|   | Graduation Pins | $12.00**ARDMS Exams must be paid for *DURING* the DMS program** |
|   | ARDMS SPI Exam | $200.00 |
|   | ARDMS Specialty Exams (x 2) | $500.00 |
|   | TOTAL | $1,322.00 |
|   |   |   |
|   | **Required Program Fees/Text** |   |
|   | Required Textbooks | $900.00 |
|   | DMSO Course Lab Fees (8 courses) | $275.00(Total) |
|   | Student Liability Insurance (x2) | $35.00(Total) |
|   | TOTAL | $1,210.00 |
|   |   |   |
|   | **Tuition/Fees per Semester** **(In-State)** |   |
|   | Spring Semester  | $1,436.00 |
|   | Summer Semester  | $1347.00 |
|   | Fall Semester  | $1,525.00 |
|   | Spring Semester  | $1,347.00 |
|   |  |  |
|   | TOTAL | $5,655.00 |
|   |   |   |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | $8187.00 |

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