



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Information

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). The DMS program offers the OB/GYN and Abdomen-Extended concentrations and has been accredited by CAAHEP since 3/15/2013. A 10-year continuance of accreditation was awarded to the program on 9/19/2022. To maintain accreditation status, reports are submitted annually to the JRC-DMS to monitor program compliance and to track student outcomes. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program and site review is scheduled to occur no later than 2032.

DMS PROGRAM 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) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards. In a didactic and clinical setting, a curriculum is provided that will allow students to obtain cognitive knowledge, psychomotor skills, and appropriate affective behaviors to become successful and competent employees in the field of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Students will gain a working knowledge of sonographic physics and instrumentation and will learn normal and abnormal sonographic appearances for pelvic, first, second, and third trimester obstetrical exams, abdominal ultrasound studies, as well as other focused exams such as ultrasound guided biopsies and other specialized procedures. Through extensive class, lab, and clinical practicum hours, students will develop skills to complete exam protocols and obtain diagnostic-quality images and will learn to recognize and image key pathologies across the spectrum of the OB/GYN and abdominal/abdominal extended sonograms.

DMS PROGRAM GOALS:

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

Cognitive:

- Assist each student to reach their potential within the program by providing organized instruction using many resources such as course textbooks, library collections, video presentations, anatomical models, case studies, and professional journal article reviews.
- Develop critical thinking skills of students for preparation of working in challenging healthcare environments, including the review of relevant patient clinical history and data to aid in obtaining optimized imaging to support the Radiologist with making an accurate diagnosis.
- Prepare students to excel on national credentialing examinations to support post-graduate employment success.

Psychomotor:

- Provide adequate laboratory time for hands-on experience with ultrasound imaging systems, various transducers, and imaging phantoms to accompany the didactic education segment.
- Coordinate student clinical education to complement each area of didactic instruction while maintaining required hours of clinical experience and competency completions in a variety of healthcare settings.
- Ensure students adhere to safety standards, ALARA principles, infection control procedures, and patient-centered care to prioritize patient comfort and safety, as well and their own well-being.

Affective:

- Foster professionalism, ethical behavior, effective communication skills, and respect for diverse patient populations and healthcare team members while following the Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, and Clinical Standards of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

- Develop effective verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills necessary for patient-centered care and professional collaboration with healthcare professionals.
- Encourage students to have a strong sense of loyalty and dedication to the profession by promoting continuing medical education and professional development for lifelong learning and professional growth in the field of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

GOAL 2: 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.

- Maintain positive connections with program clinical affiliates to monitor the education level and skills of the students and to foster employer participation and confidence in the DMS program graduates.
- Hire experienced registered instructors and require the staff to continue professional development in both the field of education and the field of sonography through professional development courses and national sonography and/or imaging organization meetings to stay current in the evolving field of diagnostic imaging.

GOAL 3: Maintain program accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS).

- At least 80% of students will successfully complete the DMS program each year.
- At least 80% of graduates will pass a national credentialing examination for both OB/GYN and the Abdominal-Extended concentrations within one year of graduation.
- At least 80% of graduates will obtain employment in the sonography profession within six months of graduation.
- At least 60% of the JRC-DMS evaluations/surveys for students, graduates, employers, and members of the DMS Advisory Committee will be completed each year.
- The DMS Program Director will complete the JRC-DMS annual report and will prepare and submit a timely self-study to prepare for the next site visit for program accreditation continuance.

DMS PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon graduation from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Columbus Technical College, students will:

- Prepare to sit for national registry exams with the ARDMS or ARRT 60 days prior to graduation and graduate from the program as Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.
- Perform gynecological, obstetrical, abdominal, and abdominal-extended sonograms following established protocols and will demonstrate entry-level proficiency in sonographic scanning techniques to obtain high-quality diagnostic images.
- Distinguish normal and pathologic findings and will document the findings appropriately according to facility and professional standards.
- Employ critical-thinking skills to modify exams based on patient clinical history and sonographic findings.
- Recognize the importance of continuing education and professional development to remain competent in the evolving field of diagnostic medical sonography.
- Use safety practices, infection control methods, and ergonomic techniques, to protect patients, themselves, and other healthcare personnel.
- Show empathy, compassion, and provide patient-centered care regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status and abide by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Code of Ethics.