

## DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Once all general required courses are taken, what is the length of the DMS program?**

A. Each year we admit a new class in August and they will graduate the following year in December. The DMS program is 17 months long.

**Q. How much does the entire program cost?**

A. The cost varies based on the cost of tuition. As of fall 2020, the approximate cost of the program is \$11,400. This is an estimated cost of tuition, fees, books, uniforms, and a few other miscellaneous costs.

**Q. When can I apply?**

A. We accept applications each year beginning March 1. The deadline each year is June 1.

**Q. Can I take some of the DMS classes online?**

A. On campus class attendance is a necessity in this program. There are some hybrid courses that allow for some online coursework. However, there are is no online option only.

**Q. How many students are admitted into the program each year?**

A. There are approximately 75 – 100 applicants each year, and we award admittance to the top 50 once GPA and ACT is calculated for each applicant. There are 30 spots in the Abdomen/OB pathway and 20 in the Cardiovascular pathway.

**Q. How do I increase my chances of getting into the program?**

A. GPA (from pre-sonography courses) and ACT score are critical in determining admittance into the DMS program. The GPA (from pre-sonography courses) is multiplied by 9.0 to determine a weighted GPA. That number is then added to the Composite ACT score. The total number places each student into a ranking system with other applicants. The higher the GPA and ACT score, the greater the probability that a student may be accepted into the program.

**Q. If I already have a degree, do I still need to take the ACT?**

A. Yes. The ACT score is a criteria utilized in determining admittance into the program. All applicants must provide documentation of an ACT score. We can use SAT scores as well and convert them to an ACT equivalent score for ranking.

**Q. Can the general required courses be taken at any other college?**

A. Yes. Wallace State Community College in Hanceville has linkage programs with many other colleges in the state. This linkage relationship guarantees the transfer of certain specified courses. Even if your college is not part of our linkage program or may be out of state, courses are still transferable as long as they are equivalent to our courses. Information on course equivalency and transfer may be obtained by contacting the Admissions office at 256.352.8000. You will be required to submit an official transcript and course descriptions (from your institution's college catalog).

**Q. I have taken several of the general required courses but that was many years ago. Will these courses still be accepted?**

A. Three general required courses (MTH 100, BIO 201, and physics) must have been taken within 7 years of admittance into the program. If it has been longer than 7 years, those courses must be retaken.

**Q. Will taking the general required courses at WSCC increase chances of being accepted into the DMS program?**

A. No. Whether a student takes the prerequisite courses at WSCC or not will not increase the chance of being accepted into the DMS program.

**Q. If I don't have all the general required courses completed, can I still apply for the program?**

A. Yes. All prerequisite courses (besides the physics) must be completed and a final grade must be on your application when submitted. This is used to rank you among the other applicants to determine placement into the program. The physics course can be completed in the summer prior to admission into the program. However, applicants that have the physics completed by the June 1 deadline will receive an additional 0.5 points on their final ranking score.

**Q. Are applicants required to complete observation hours? If so, who schedules those hours?**

A. Yes. All applicants are required to submit at least 4 observation hours (see Observation Form on website). It is the applicant's responsibility to schedule those hours with a sonography department. DMS program personnel recommend observation in a hospital setting because this often gives

applicants a chance to see a wide variety of sonography procedures. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and less availability of clinical observation sites, there is a clinical observation assignment that can be completed to substitute for the required hours. That assignment can be found on our program's website.

**Q. Will obtaining more observation hours increase the chance of being accepted into the DMS program?**

A. No. These hours are required so applicants have a chance to observe sonography procedures and many of the duties required of a sonographer.

**Q. I noticed that proof of a current CPR certification is required. Will any CPR card be accepted?**

A. No. Proof of active/current AHA approved CPR (Healthcare Provider) certification is required. The CPR card must have "Healthcare Provider" or BLS printed on the card. It must be cognitive and hands-on (online CPR certification will NOT be accepted). DMS program personnel recommends EMS 100 to fulfill this requirement.

**Q. How often do the DMS classes meet?**

A. It varies semester to semester. In the beginning you will be on campus approximately three days out of the week and the other two days of the week you will be in clinicals. Towards the end of the program you will be in class approximately one day a week and in clinicals the other four. You should prepare to devote Monday – Friday 8 hour days to the program. This does not include study time at home.

**Q. Can I still have a job while in the program?**

A. It is not recommended to have full-time employment while in the program. It is impossible to have a full-time weekday job because that is when you will have class and clinical. This is rigorous coursework and many students find it beneficial to use evenings and weekends to study the content presented in class to maintain the required 75 average to stay in the program. However, employment is NOT prohibited.

**Q. Where are DMS clinical sites located and how is clinical site placement determined?**

A. Clinical sites are located throughout North Alabama and lower Tennessee. Whenever possible, clinical rotations may be scheduled close to home, however, sites near the student's home may not provide the necessary variety of exams for graduation. In those instances, a student will be required to travel in order to meet all requirements.