

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Admission Requirements

Dear Prospective Sonography Student:

Thank you for your interest in our Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.
In order to apply to this program, you must meet the following criteria:

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of Volunteer State Community College.
2. To be considered for admission to the sonography program, **a candidate must already have a degree; either an Associate of Applied Science degree or a Bachelors degree.** Below are the standards for each degree.

A. Associate of Applied Science Degree

Successful completion of a nationally recognized regionally accredited two year Associates of Applied Science Degree in an Allied Health area that is patient-care related with clinical rotations. The following courses, if not included in this degree, must be taken as well before application can be made to the program:

COURSE #'s (at VSCC)	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CREDIT HOURS
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	at least 4 credit hours w/lab
BIOL 2020	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	at least 4 credit hours w/lab
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	at least 3 credit hours
PHYS 1030	Introductory Physics	4 credit hours w/lab
MATH 1130	College Algebra or a higher math	

Preferred area of study is Radiologic Technology, however other examples of professionals who are eligible include:

- Nuclear Medicine
- Respiratory Therapist
- Occupational/Physical Therapist Assistant
- Registered Nurse
- Ophthalmic Technician
- Sleep Diagnostics Technician

OR

B. Bachelors Degree

Successful completion of a bachelor degree program from a regionally accredited college or university:

The following courses, if not included in this degree, must be taken as well before application can be made to the program:

COURSE #'s (at VSCC)	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CREDIT HOURS
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	at least 4 credit hours w/lab
BIOL 2020	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	at least 4 credit hours w/lab
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	at least 3 credit hours
PHYS 1030	Introductory Physics	4.0 credit hours w/lab
MATH 1130	College Algebra or a higher math	

3. Submit an Allied Health Department application. Applications are only accepted Jan 1 – May 7th for the initial class that begins during that summer with preference given to in-state students.
4. Submit a **copy** or official copy of all transcripts in your application packet **AND** an **official copy** of all transcripts to the Office of Admissions.
5. Provide in your application packet documented evidence of a minimum of 16 hours of observation in a general Ultrasound Department with a Registered Sonographer. Dedicated Echo and Vascular departments are not acceptable. These observation hours **MUST** be performed in the year the candidate is applying to the ultrasound program. (Between January and May of that same year) A form for this is provided on the DMS website under “forms”.
6. Submit two letters of recommendation in your application packet in sealed envelopes. A form for this is provided on the DMS website under “forms”.
7. Submit a resume in the application packet.

Please send ALL required application materials listed above in ONE ENVELOPE between January and May 7th to:

Volunteer State Community College
ATTN: Jennifer Carroll, Program Director - DMS
1480 Nashville Pike
Annex 400 Room 104B
Gallatin, TN 37066

*Typically a minimum of a 3.0 GPA is mandatory to be considered as a potential candidate

Technical Standards

In order to perform the duties of a diagnostic medical sonographer an individual must:

1. Push and pull wheelchair with patient seated in wheelchair.
2. Lean over to lock wheelchair and lift footrests.
3. Push and pull stretcher with patient resting on stretcher, lock and unlock stretcher for patient transfer.
4. Push mobile equipment, and maneuver around patient bed and through hallways in surgical suites.
5. Verbally instruct patient in a clear, concise, easily understandable manner.
6. Visually assess patient's condition.
7. Visually assess the sonographic image.
8. Interact appropriately with patients, co-workers, visitors, and hospital staff.
9. Read and comprehend written communications (i.e. Charts, exam requisitions). Provide written communication to medical and technical staff.
10. Demonstrate manual dexterity in handling of items such as cassettes, syringes and needles, sterile items and transducers.
11. Ability to ascend and descend stairway in case of fire or absence of elevator.
12. Descend to the floor, resting on knees for performing chest compressions.
13. Use extended arms and force of shoulders and upper back to compress chest 2 inches.
14. Respond appropriately to sounds, i.e. patient voice and movements, at a normal conversational volume.
15. Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and light.
16. Manipulate mechanical and patient care equipment simultaneously, i.e. dials, switches, push buttons, keyboards, transducer, and blood pressure equipment.
17. Perform for a prolonged period without breaks, e.g., typical shift of eight hours.
18. Demonstrate adequate visual acuity to differentiate among subtle shades of grey/color used in diagnostic sonography image formation.

Selection and Notification:

1. Up to 12 students are accepted for the Sonography Program each year with preference granted to "in-state" students. The DMS Program admits a beginning class annually during the Summer Semester. The deadline for submission is May 7th of any year. The applicant pool is variable from year to year, however, we typically entertain between 50-70 applicants most years.
2. Screening interviews will be held within May or June.
3. A selection committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations on selection. Selection scores include Overall GPA, GPA in pre-requisites, and interview score.
4. Following acceptance into the Program, students must respond, in writing, confirming their intent to enroll, usually within 10 days after the postmarked date of their acceptance letters. A student who fails to respond will forfeit his/her place in the class.
5. Upon acceptance into the program students must submit documentation of an acceptably scored required Background Check. Selected students are not determined to have a secured seat in the DMS program until the background check is cleared and accepted by the Program Director.

In an effort to comply with the recommendations of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the majority of the major healthcare facilities and agencies utilized by the College for clinical training require that each student undergo a background check and a urine drug screening. Students seeking enrollment in this program **must** provide evidence of a passing score on a background check and a urine drug screen prior to official acceptance/enrollment into the respective program. Either the failure to provide the required results by the due date established or the receipt of anything other than a passing score will make a student ineligible for enrollment in this program. The background checks and urine drug screens are performed at the student's expense. Specific details regarding the background check and urine drug screen are given to students after conditional acceptance into the program is granted.

Frequently Asked Questions?

Do I need a degree in order to apply to this program?

Yes, see the Admission Requirements section.

Will Vol. State accept my Bachelors Degree and/or transfer credits?

Please Call Vol State Admissions office at 230-3688.

How do I know if my patient care allied health degree is an accepted program?

Call Vol. State Admissions office at 230-3688 to see if Vol. State accepts credits from your school or program.

Where can I do my observation hours?

You may do observation hours at any hospital or medical center in your area. You are responsible for setting these hours up at facility of choice. Call and speak with the lead sonographer. Once you complete your observation, documentation from the Registered Sonographer you observed is required. A downloadable form is available on the DMS website. Take this form with you when you're doing your observation for the registered sonographer to sign.

When does the program start?

The program begins the first week of July each year. Due to the nature of the program, classes frequently do not follow the regular College calendar.

Is it possible to take this program online or in the evening?

There is currently no plan to offer this program in the evening or online at this time. Clinical experience is an extremely important component of the program. Our clinical affiliates are fully staffed during normal business hours which usually are between the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Your typical schedule will be Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. while in the program with the exception of the ultrasound physics courses which are held in the late afternoon one day per week. All classes are held on the Vol. State campus in Gallatin.

Is it feasible to work while in the program?

This program is an intense 13 month program. Students are in class and clinical 5 days per week with a combined maximum total of 40 hours per week.

Where are the clinical affiliates located?

The program uses hospitals and medical groups in and surrounding the Nashville area. Travel may be required up to an 80 mile radius of Vol. State. Clinical sites are assigned in 2 month rotations. Each student will rotate through approximately 5 or 6 different sites during the program.

Can you tell me more about Clinical training?

Clinical sites are assigned by the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator. The learning opportunities of each clinical site are of primary importance and closeness to home is given partial consideration. Students do not choose their site nor are they encouraged to actively canvass new sites. The requirements for adding a clinical site are quite specific. Students may suggest a site to the clinical coordinator who will investigate the possibility.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

Previous employers are a great resource. Some people choose to ask instructors or friends from their church. (Not Mom & Dad, we know they like you!) It really doesn't matter but we are looking for information that tells us that you are dependable, show up on time and that this is really what you want.

What financial aid is available?

Financial aid is a very complex subject that is best answered by the Financial Aid staff. Please call 615-230-3456.

Does working in the health care environment count towards the pre-requisites?

No, Even though work experience is invaluable, it does not substitute for pre-requisite requirements. For example: Working as an LPN for ten years does not count as graduating from a programmatically accredited program.

Can you send me more information?

All of the information we might send is on the web site. Please visit www.volstate.edu/dms

What about background checks and drug screens?

Students seeking enrollment in this program **must** provide evidence of a passing score on a background check and a urine drug screen prior to official acceptance/enrollment into the program. Either the failure to provide the required results by the due date or the receipt of anything other than a passing score will make a student ineligible for enrollment in this program. The background check and urine drug screens are performed at the student's expense. *Specific details regarding the background check and urine drug screen are given to students after conditional acceptance into the program is granted.*

Please read the entire packet and if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jennifer Carroll, Program Director
615-230-3339