

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Admission Requirements

Updated 07/10/2017

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:

To be considered for admission to the sonography program, applicants must meet admission requirements for the College based on the admission or readmission status the applicant is seeking and meet **one** of the following qualifications:

1. Successful completion of a regionally accredited AMA recognized two-year program that is patient-care related (i.e., Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology, Nursing, Occupational/Physical Therapist Assistant, Ophthalmic Medical Technician, Sleep Diagnostics Technology) inclusive of the following prerequisites: Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Medical Terminology, General Physics and College Algebra

OR

Successful completion of any bachelor degree program with the following prerequisites: Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Medical Terminology, General Physics and College Algebra.

OR

Successful completion of 3+1 pre-Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree from Middle Tennessee State University inclusive of the following prerequisites: Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Medical Terminology, General Physics and College Algebra.

STANDARDS FOR EACH DEGREE

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 before an applicant can be accepted into the program.

VSCC COURSE NUMBER	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	at least 4 credit hours
MATH 1130	College Algebra or a higher math	

OR

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 before an applicant can be accepted into the program.

VSCC COURSE NUMBER	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	at least 4 credit hours
MATH 1130	College Algebra or a higher math	

OR

3 +1 pre-DMS Degree from MTSU

Successful completion of the 3+1 pre-Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree from Middle Tennessee State University inclusive of the following prerequisites: Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Medical Terminology, General Physics and College Algebra.

VSCC COURSE NUMBER	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	at least 4 credit hours
MATH 1130	College Algebra or a higher math	

2. Submit an Allied Health/Pre-Allied Health Interest Form (<http://www.volstate.edu/dms/Forms.php>). Applications are accepted Jan 1 – May 7th for classes beginning during the Fall term.
3. 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.

Provide in your application packet documented evidence of a minimum of 16 hours of observation in a general Ultrasound Department with a Registered Sonographer using a VSCC DMS observation hours form (<http://www.volstate.edu/dms/Forms.php>).

These observation hours **MUST** be performed in the year the candidate is applying to the ultrasound program. (January - May).

*Dedicated Echo and Vascular departments are not acceptable.

4. Submit two letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes using a VSCC DMS reference letter form (<http://www.volstate.edu/dms/Forms.php>).
5. Submit a resume or curriculum vitae.

Send ALL required application materials listed above in ONE ENVELOPE between January 1st and May 7th to:

**Volunteer State Community College
ATTN: Edward Carlton, Program Director - DMS
1480 Nashville Pike
Wallace Building South S-231
Gallatin, TN 37066**

*Typically, a minimum of a 3.0 GPA is needed to be considered a competitive candidate.

Selection and Notification Process

1. The DMS Program admits a class annually with courses beginning during the Fall term. The deadline for submission is May 7th of any year. The applicant pool is variable from year-to-year; however, we typically receive 50-70 applicants.
2. Up to 16 students are accepted for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program each year chosen based on a competitive selection process with preference granted to Tennessee residents.
3. A selection committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations on selections. These selections are based on scores calculated from overall GPA, GPA in pre-requisites, an interview, and a writing sample.
4. Screening interviews are typically held during May or June.
5. Following acceptance into the Program, students must respond, in writing, confirming their intent to enroll. Accepted applicants who fail to respond will forfeit their place in the class.
6. 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 their respective program. Either the failure to provide the required results by the due date or the receipt of anything other than a passing score will deem 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 has been granted.

Technical & Physical 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.

Frequently Asked Questions?

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

Yes, reference the Admission Requirements section.

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

This is answered on a case-by-case basis. Please call the Vol State admissions office at 230-3688 for more information.

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 you choose. It is your responsible for setting these appointments. Call and speak with the lead sonographer, they should be able to assist you. Once you have completed your observation, documentation from the Registered Sonographer you observed is required. A downloadable form is available on the DMS website (<http://www.volstate.edu/dms/Forms.php>). Take this form with you when you're doing your observation for the registered sonographer to fill out and sign.

When does the program start?

The program follows the college calendar beginning during the Fall term.

Is it feasible to work while in the program?

This program is an intense 16-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 in excess of a 80 mile radius of Volunteer State's main campus.

Can you tell me more about Clinical training?

Clinical sites are assigned by the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator. The learning opportunities of each clinical site are of primary importance and closeness to home is only given partial consideration. Students do not choose

their site and are discouraged from actively canvassing new sites. Students may suggest a site to the clinical coordinator who will investigate the possibility.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

Previous employers, co-workers, instructors, and/or friends can be excellent references. (Not Mom & Dad, we know they like you!).

What financial aid is available?

Financial aid is a very complex subject that is best answered by the Financial Aid office, 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 equate to 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 this entire packet and if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Edward Carlton, BS, RDMS, RVT
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Volunteer State Community College
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