



HEALTH
SCIENCES

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Degree Information Session

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Triton College



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Degree Information Session

What is ultrasound?

- Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses high-frequency sound waves to create real-time images of the inside of the body.
- It is a non-invasive, safe, and painless procedure commonly used to evaluate organs, tissues, and blood flow.
- Ultrasound plays a critical role in various fields of medicine, including obstetrics, cardiology, and musculoskeletal imaging.
- It helps healthcare professionals assess and diagnose medical conditions, guide procedures, and monitor treatments.





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What types of exams do we do?

- ❑ Abdominal
- ❑ OB
- ❑ Female Reproductive
- ❑ Male Reproductive
- ❑ Vascular
- ❑ Thyroid
- ❑ Lumps and Bumps
- ❑ Biopsies
- ❑ US Guided Procedures





Technical Standards

To meet the physical, cognitive, and interpersonal demands of the diagnostic medical sonography profession, sonographers must adhere to the following technical standards:

1. Visual and Auditory Skills

❑ Visual Acuity:

- Distinguish multiple shades of gray and color for optimal image quality.
- Identify anatomical structures, pathology, and monitor indicators on the ultrasound system.

❑ Auditory Acuity:

- Distinguish audible sounds such as blood flow patterns and Doppler shifts.





Technical Standards

2. Motor Skills and Physical Endurance

❑ Fine and Gross Motor Skills:

- Use both hands, wrists, and shoulders to perform fine and gross activities, including handling objects and operating ultrasound equipment.
- Manipulate transducers effectively to obtain high-quality images.

❑ Physical Strength and Endurance:

- Routinely push/pull using good body mechanics:
 - 20 lbs. constantly (67-100% of the time)
 - Over 50 lbs. frequently (34-66%)
 - Over 100 lbs. occasionally (0-33%)
- Routinely lift, carry, and/or move objects:
 - 10 lbs. constantly (67-100%)
 - 25 lbs. frequently (34-66%)
 - 50 lbs. occasionally (0-33%)
- Assist patients on and off exam tables while maintaining proper body mechanics.





What is the ultrasound field like?

- Very close contact with patient in a short period of time.
- Deal with sick patients (not all OBs).
- Invasive procedures becoming the norm.
- Contrast agents may eventually lead to sonographers doing injections.
- Portable exams require movement of the unit.
- Rooms are dark and looking at a computer screen.
- Dynamically changing and advancing in procedures.





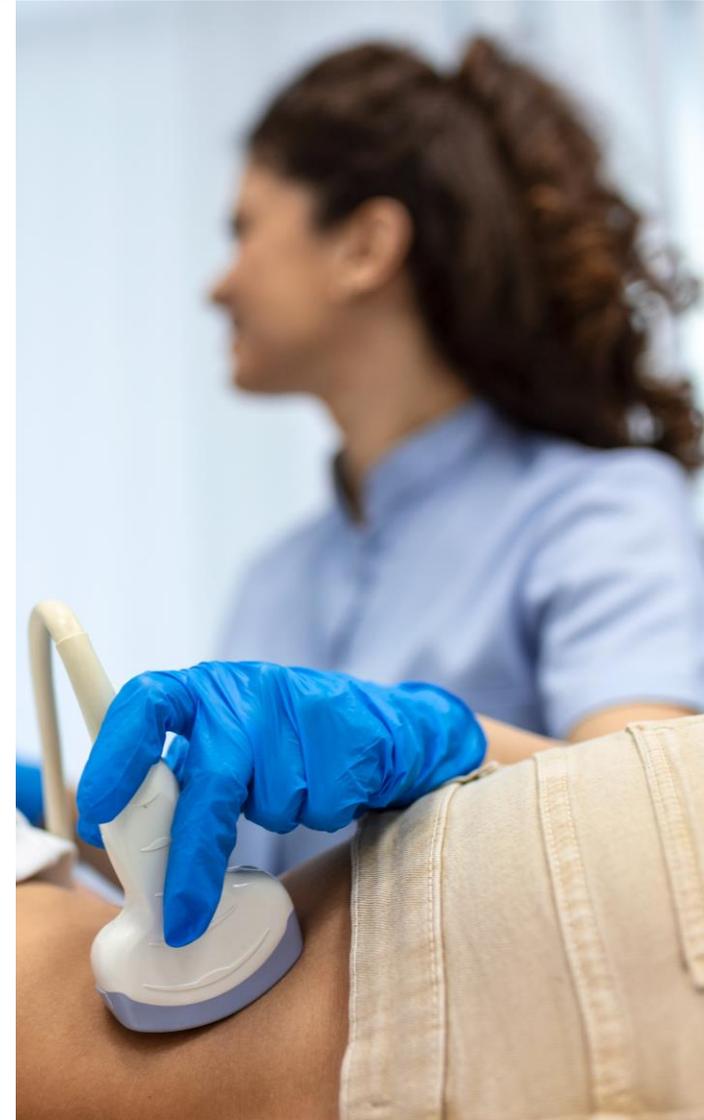
Technical Standards

3. Communication Skills

- ❑ Communicate clearly, promptly, and effectively with patients, healthcare professionals, and other team members.
- ❑ Provide clear instructions to patients regarding procedures.
- ❑ Document findings and relay information accurately.

4. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

- ❑ Evaluate images for diagnostic quality and modify techniques as needed.
- ❑ Adapt to varying patient conditions and procedural requirements.
- ❑ Analyze and interpret data to assist in patient diagnosis.





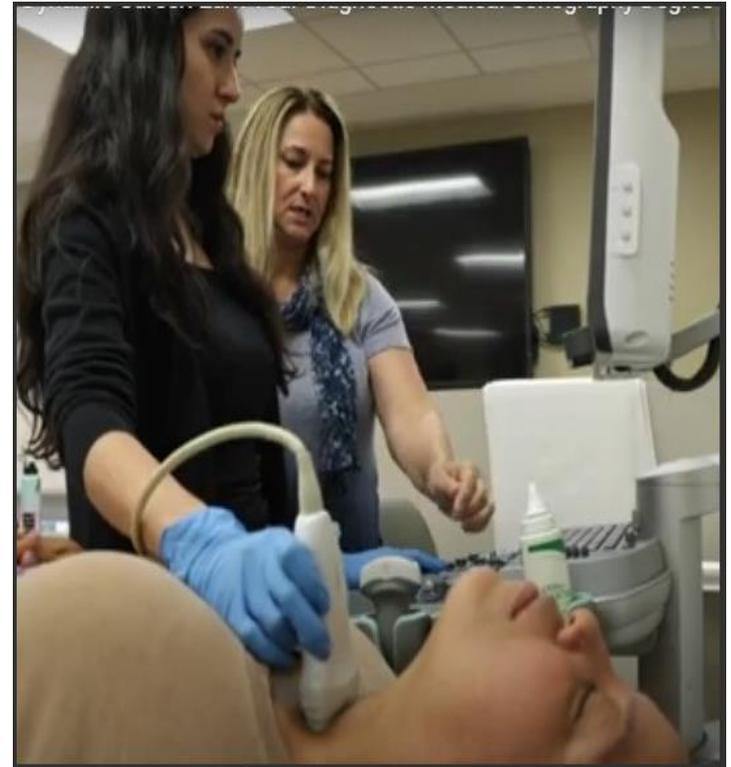
Technical Standards

5. Professional and Interpersonal Skills

- ❑ Exhibit empathy and professionalism when interacting with patients.
- ❑ Collaborate effectively within a healthcare team.
- ❑ Maintain confidentiality and adhere to ethical standards.

6. Technological Proficiency

- ❑ Operate and troubleshoot ultrasound systems and related equipment.
- ❑ Stay current with advancements in ultrasound technology and protocols.





Diagnostic Medical Sonography

DMS Application Process

Steps to Take Before the DMS Application:

1. Complete Triton College Application: triton.edu/application
2. Send all high school and College transcripts to Triton College





DMS Application Process



3. Take the Placement Exams

- The placement test is **mandatory** for all new students enrolling in credit courses.
- You can review sample questions and test-taking tips at: triton.edu/placementtesting.
- Please note:** you may waive the placement exams if you earned a proficient score in the English, Reading, and Math portion of the ACT or SAT.
- Please visit the testing website above for more information. If you have taken college courses, you must provide documentation of a grade of “C” or higher in college level English and math courses.

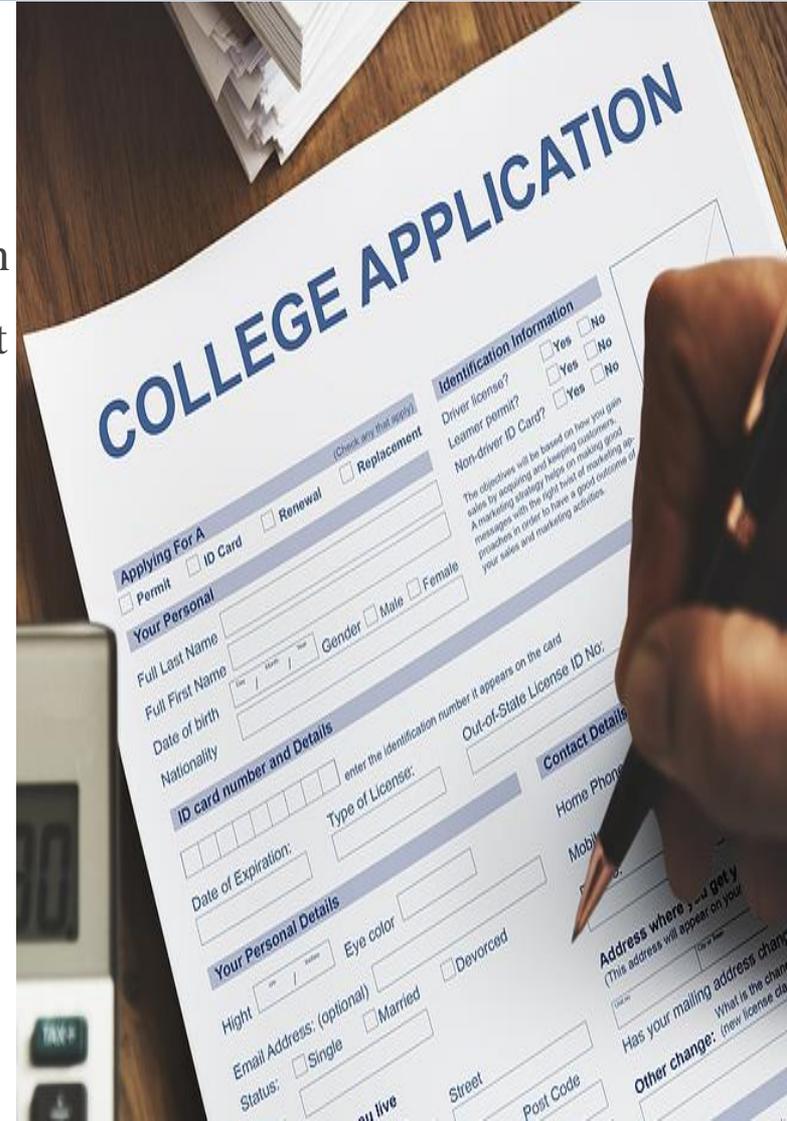


Steps to Take Before the DMS Application:

4. Attend a mandatory DMS Degree information session
5. Make an appointment with an academic advisor to set up an academic plan
 - ❑ After you have completed all the Triton general application and testing steps
 - ❑ The role of the academic advisor is to review your courses and evaluate your eligibility to apply to the program

Academic Advising:

<https://www.triton.edu/admissions-aid/advising/>





Steps to Take Before the DMS Application:

6. Take Prerequisite Courses

- ❑ Once you have set up your academic plan with an advisor, complete ALL prerequisites to the program. They are as follows:
 - RHT 101 or course equivalency
 - MAT110 (College Algebra) or MAT111(Pre-Calculus) or MAT124 (Finite Math) or MAT131(Calculus)
 - BIS 240 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
 - DMS 100 Introduction To Imaging Physics (DMS 100 only 1 credit hour if taken at Triton College) or PHY 100 General Physics
 - AHL 120 Comp. Med. Terminology

**Five year limit with a “C” or above from the year you are applying. Test scores must be within the last two years.*



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

DMS Application Process

- ❑ Once you have completed the previous steps, **you are ready to apply to the DMS program.**
 - ❑ Complete the online Health Careers application for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree
 - <https://www.triton.edu/pages/health-careers/health-careers-application/>
 - The Health Careers application must be completed new each application year!
- ❑ **What to do after you apply:**
 - ❑ Confirm with the Information Specialist that all documentation has been received.
 - Health Careers Information Specialist: Christoph Cox (christophacox@triton.edu)
 - The information specialist is the only one who can evaluate student points during the application process.



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

DMS Application Process

Application Deadlines:

March 15th





Acceptance Process:

- ❑ Files will be reviewed according to the given Allied Health admissions procedure.
- ❑ Student will receive either an acceptance, denial, or pending letter regarding their status at the end of each cycle.
- ❑ It is encouraged that student contact the Health Careers Information Specialist prior to the deadline to check their file and make sure it is complete.





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Degree Information Session

Evaluating Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Applicants:

❑ Program Prerequisites:

- DMS 100 Introduction to Imaging Physics (1 credit) or PHY 100 General Physics (3 credits)
- AHL 120 Medical Terminology (3 credits)
- BIS 240 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 credits)
- MAT110 (College Algebra) or MAT111(Pre-Calculus) or MAT124 (Finite Math) or MAT131(Calculus)
- RHT 101 Freshman Rhetoric & Composition I (3 credits)

❑ Program General Education Requirements:

- RHT 102 Freshman Rhetoric & Composition II (3 credits)
- SPE 101 Principles of Effective Speaking (3 credits)
- BIS 241 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (4 credits)
- HTH 281 First Aid & CPR or Current CPR/First Aid Card
- General Education/Humanities or Fine Arts (3 credits)*
- Social/Behavioral Science (3 credits)*



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Points are awarded for the following courses using the grade scale A=4pts, B=3pts, C=2pts, No points for Ds or In-Progress Courses:

- DMS 100 or PHY 100
- AHL 120
- BIS 240
- MAT110 (College Algebra) or MAT111(Pre-Calculus) or MAT124 (Finite Math) or MAT131(Calculus)
- RHT 101

These courses must be completed prior to applying to the program or your application will be marked ineligible.



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Additional Points are assigned as follows:

- Applicants will receive 1 extra point for an A or B grade in BIS 241
- 0.5 pt will be awarded for HTH 281 OR CPR/First Aid Certification
 - CPR must be American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers
- 0.5 pt will be awarded for having some general education courses completed
- 1.5 pts will be awarded for having ALL general education courses completed

Maximum Points: 23

Completion of prerequisites and application submission does not guarantee admission into the program.



How many students do we accept?

We accept approximately 30 students each year.

❑ Why only 30?

▪ **Availability of Qualified Clinical Sites:**

The number of students admitted is limited by the availability of clinical sites that meet the strict accreditation standards set by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). Ensuring that each student has access to a high-quality clinical site is essential for their education and hands-on training.

▪ **Maintaining a Healthy Job Market:**

We aim to prevent oversaturating the job market with sonographers. Limiting the number of graduates helps maintain a steady demand for sonographers, ensuring that job opportunities remain accessible for new graduates.

▪ **Protecting Competitive Salaries:**

By carefully controlling the number of program graduates, we help maintain competitive salaries in the field. This supports both the long-term career success of our graduates and the overall stability of the profession.





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How do I increase my chances?

- Higher grades....more points in prerequisites.
- No points for courses in progress.
- Complete all general education courses.
- Remember Math, Science and AHL courses must be within the last 5 years of the year you are applying for.





What does the program cost?

- ❑ Tuition per credit hour
- ❑ For example:
 - In-district - $\$265/\text{credit hour} * 60 \text{ hours} = \$15,900$
 - Out-of-district - $\$478/\text{credit hour} * 60 \text{ hours} = \$28,680$
 - Out-of-state - $\$563/\text{credit hour} * 60 \text{ hours} = \$33,780$
- ❑ Review Admissions:
<https://www.triton.edu/admissions-aid/admissions/>
- ❑ Check current rates online
 - Please refer to college catalog schedule for specifics, subject to change.





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In-District Towns:

Bellwood

Berkeley

Broadview

Brookfield*

Elmwood Park

Forest Park

Franklin Park

Harwood Heights*

Hillside

Hines

LaGrange Park*

Maywood

Melrose Park

Norridge*

Northlake

North Riverside

Norwood Park*

Oak Park

River Forest

River Grove

Riverside

Rosemont*

Schiller Park

Stone Park

Westchester

*Only portions of these communities are located in district.

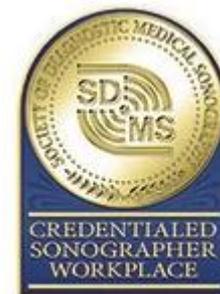


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We are ACCREDITED BY THE JRC-DMS (CAAHEP)

- ❑ We are a fully accredited General Sonography Program.
- ❑ Allows you to sit for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) General and OB/GYN boards.
- ❑ Gives graduates more job opportunities.
- ❑ Follows essentials of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS), protects students, and watches over curriculum to meet needs of the field of sonography.
- ❑ jrcdms.org, caahep.org, ardms.org and sdms.org are great sites for information.





Background Check:

- Background checks are required. No exceptions! The cost is based on current fees, which may be subject to change, and are the student's responsibility (Example \$50).
- No hits on the background check are acceptable.
- ARDMS requirement-disqualifying criminal convictions on Triton website.
- Completed at start of clinical.





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This program requires a large time commitment.

- ❑ It is not possible to work a full-time job and be successful.
- ❑ Classes are 3-4 days a week in semesters 1 and 2.
- ❑ Classes begin as early as 8:30 a.m. and end as late as 8:00 p.m.
- ❑ Classes are 2 days a week and clinicals (8.5 hours a day) are 3 days a week in semesters 3, 4 and 5.





Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Clinical Information

Clinical Rotations:

- ❑ Each student goes to a total of 2-4 sites.
- ❑ Completes approximately 1,000 clinical hours.
- ❑ Do take location into account but chosen by what site has to offer as well as student's learning style.
- ❑ First rotation: ask for student's input.
- ❑ Second rotation: chosen by what student needs to complete requirements.





Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Clinical Information

Clinical Sites:

Bright Light Imaging

Christ Hospital

Edward Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital

Evanston Hospital

Gottlieb Hospital

Humboldt Park Hospital

Illinois Masonic

Little Company of Mary Hospital

Loyola MFM

Loyola University Medical Center

Lutheran General

Mt. Sinai Hospital

North Shore Skokie

Resurrection Medical Center

Rush Hospital

Rush Oak Park Hospital

Sherman Hospital

University of Chicago Medical Center

University of Illinois OB

University of Illinois Hospital

West Suburban Hospital

This list is subject to change each semester. No student is guaranteed a specific site or location.



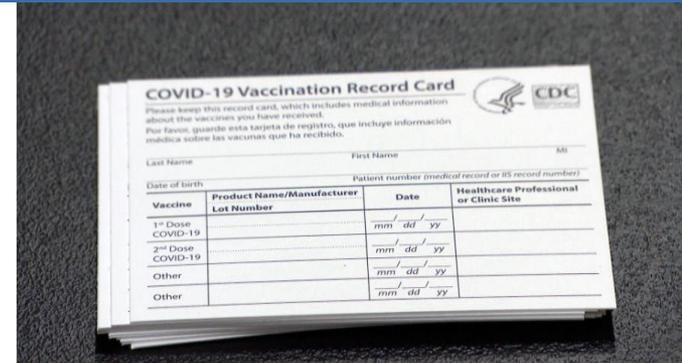
Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Clinical Information

Clinical Assignment Requirements:

- Physical with immunization updates and titers.
- Current CPR and First Aid Certification.
- Criminal background check.
- 10-panel Drug Test prior to placement.
- Proof of health insurance.
- Uniform.
- Flu and Covid-19 vaccines are required.

All requirements are the student's responsibility.



BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

BLS Provider  American Heart Association.

has successfully completed the cognitive and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) Program.

Issue Date **Renew By** **eCard Code**

To view or verify authenticity, students and employers should scan this QR code with their mobile device or go to www.heart.org/cpr/mycards.



Member Name
Member Name
 Member ID
XYZ123456789

Group No. **023457**
 BIN **987654**
 Benefit Plan **HIOPT**
 Effective Date **00/00/00**



Dependents
Dependent One
Dependent Two
Dependent Three

Plan **PPO**
 Office Visit **\$15**
 Specialist Copay **\$15**
 Emergency **\$75**
 Deductible **\$50**



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Contact Us

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□ Christoph Cox

Health Careers Information Specialist

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Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Thank you for your time!

Questions?

Email any questions you have once you have met with an academic advisor and attended the mandatory information session to: **heatheramwoza@triton.edu**

This power point is available on the Diagnostic Medical Sonography page at: **triton.edu/sonography**

