



# HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAMS



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## Diagnostic Medical Sonography INFORMATION SESSION





This PowerPoint is available on the Triton College website for Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

<https://www.triton.edu/about/dept/academic/school-of-health-careers-public-service-programs/diagnostic-medical-sonography/>



## What is ultrasound?

A medical imaging modality using high frequency sound waves to create medical images

## What types of exams do we do?

Abdominal

Thyroid

OB

Lumps and Bumps

Female Reproductive

Biopsies

Male Reproductive

Other Procedures

Vascular



## **Ultrasound in the field**

- Very close contact with patients
- 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
- Must look at computer screen in dark rooms
- Dynamically changing and advancing in procedures



## Technical Standards

These standards give an idea of skills and cognitive abilities that one should have to be successful in the field of sonography.

**Please review and direct any questions you may have to**  
**heatheramwoza@triton.edu.**





## Technical Standards

**Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are expected to have the ability to:**

- ▶ Communicate clearly, promptly, and effectively via speech, reading and writing in English
- ▶ Regularly talk and hear
- ▶ Regularly stand, walk, sit, kneel, squat, bend/stoop, use hands and fingers to handle or feel
- ▶ Routinely push/pull with good body mechanics: 20 lbs.-constantly (67-100%), over 50 lbs.-frequently (34-66%), and over 100 lbs.-occasionally (0-33%)
- ▶ Routinely lift, carry and/or move using good body mechanics: 10 lbs.-constantly (67-100%), 25 lbs.-frequently (34-66%) and 50 lbs.-occasionally (0-33%)
- ▶ Have full use of both hands, wrists, and shoulders to perform fine and gross activities, manipulate or handle objects and operate equipment
- ▶ Assist patients on and off exam tables
- ▶ Distinguish audible sounds
- ▶ Distinguish multiple shades of grey and color



**Students enrolled must meet the following criteria:**

## **Health and Physical Abilities**

- Physical stamina is required for the hard work involved: standing on one's feet for a long period of time, pushing and pulling equipment, lifting and positioning patients, and continuous scanning may cause strain on legs, back, shoulders and wrists





- Good hand mobility for gripping and squeezing-like motions as well as repetitive hand and wrist motion
- Visual acuity to view detail differentiation
- Free of communicable diseases and infections as you will be working with sick patients and constantly being exposed to communicable diseases and infections. (Documentation through the Health Verification Form)



## Technical Aptitude

- Ability to conceptualize images in three-dimensional form
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Ability to hear and distinguish the differences of audible signals



## Communication Skills

- Ability to effectively communicate with patient to give adequate explanations and instructions
- Ability to effectively communicate with other health care professionals to expedite adequate patient care in acquiring a diagnosis
- Ability to effectively communicate with Sonologist their interpretation of images acquired
- Student must be able to read and write at a technical college level and communicate orally with patients, physicians, and other health care professionals



## **Emotional Stability**

- Ability to deal compassionately with patient in time of stress and crisis.
- Ability to remain calm and flexible by disruption of routine.
- Ability to interact with physicians and other medical personnel to relay diagnostic information.



Now accepting applications for **Fall 2025**





## Steps to Take Before the DMS Application:

- ▶ Complete Triton College Application  
[www.triton.edu/application/](http://www.triton.edu/application/)
- ▶ Send all transcripts to Triton College
  - ▶ High school
  - ▶ College
- ▶ Take placement exam if needed





## 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:  
[www.triton.edu/placementtesting](http://www.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:**

Attend a mandatory DMS Degree information session



## **Steps to Take Before the DMS Application:**

- ▶ After you have completed all the general application and testing steps, make an appointment with an academic advisor to set up an academic plan
  - ▶ 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:

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 **OR** PHY 100 General Physics
- AHL 120 Comp. Med. Terminology

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



❖ Physics Prerequisite

**Can take DMS 100 here at Triton College**

Intro to Imaging Physics or a physics course at another college

DMS 100 only 1 credit hour\*\*\*\*



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/>

This should be completed new each application year!





## Application Deadlines:

September 15, 2024

January 15, 2025





## 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](mailto:christophacox@triton.edu)

The information specialist is the only one who can evaluate student points during the application process.





## 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



## 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 (1 credit) **OR** current CPR card (must be Basic Life Support from the American Heart Association, not CPR from another provider)
- General Education/Humanities or Fine Arts (3 credits)\*
- Social/Behavioral Science (3 credits)\*



**Points are awarded for the following courses using the grade scale  
A = 4 pts, B = 3 pts, C = 2 pts, and 0 points for D's or those in progress:**

- 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.**



**Applicants may receive additional points as follows:**

- 1 extra point is awarded for an A or B grade in BIS 241
- 0.5 extra points are awarded for passing HTH 281 or holding proper CPR certification (must be Basic Life Support from the American Heart Association)
- 0.5 extra points will be awarded for having **some** general education courses complete
- 1.5 extra points will be awarded for having **all** general education courses complete

**Maximum Points: 23**





## How many students do we accept?

- We accept approximately 30 students each year
- Why only 30?
  - Limited by number of qualified clinical sites that meet requirements of JRC-DMS
  - Don't want to flood job market
  - Want salaries to stay competitive

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



## 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

- In-district
- Out-of-district
- Out-of-state

Review Admissions Step by Step or visit [www.triton.edu](http://www.triton.edu)

❖ Please check current rates online

Please refer to college catalog schedule for specifics, subject to change.





## In-District Towns

Bellwood	Hines	River Forest
Berkeley	LaGrange Park*	River Grove
Broadview	Maywood	Riverside
Brookfield*	Melrose Park	Rosemont*
Elmwood Park	Norridge*	Schiller Park
Forest Park	Northlake	Stone Park
Franklin Park	North Riverside	Westchester
Harwood Heights*	Norwood Park*	
Hillside	Oak Park	

\*Only portions of these communities are located in district.



## Chargebacks:

Chargebacks are no longer valid.  
Refer to Cooperative Instructional  
Programs/Joint Agreement link:

<http://www.triton.edu/Chargeback-Information/>





## **We are accredited by the JRCEDMS (CAAHEP)**

- We are a fully-accredited general sonography program
- Allows you to sit for ARDMS (professional license)
- Gives you more job opportunities
- Follows essentials of JRC, protects students, and watches over curriculum to meet needs of the field of sonography
- Visit [jrcecms.org](http://jrcecms.org), [caahep.org](http://caahep.org), and [sdms.org](http://sdms.org) for more information





## Background Check

- Background checks are required. No exceptions! The cost is subject to change (currently around \$50 each)
- No hits on the background check are acceptable
- ARDMS requirement-disqualifying criminal convictions
- Completed prior to entry and repeated at start of clinical





- This program requires a very 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



- The general curriculum is available online
- Curriculum is listed under Catalog, curriculum C217E, Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree
- Tuition, college placement, and chargeback policies are all available online in the Catalog



## Clinical Rotations

- Typically, 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



## **Clinical Sites**

Christ

Edward

Elmhurst

Evanston

Fetal Diagnostic Centers

Gottlieb

Illinois Masonic

Little Company of Mary

Loyola

Lutheran General

Mt. Sinai

Resurrection

Rush

Sherman

Skokie

University of Chicago

UIC

West Suburban

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



## Clinical Assignment Requirements

- Physical exam with immunization updates and titers
- Flu and Covid-19 vaccines are required
- CPR kept current and active
  - Must be AHA BLS: Basic Life Support from the American Heart Association, not other types of CPR
- Criminal background check and drug test prior to placement
- Proof of health insurance
- Uniform and program badge

*All requirements are the student's responsibility*



## Contacts

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Health Careers Information Specialist  
[christophacox@triton.edu](mailto:christophacox@triton.edu)







**Thanks for your time!**

**Heather Amwoza**

Program Chairperson

After you have attended the mandatory information session and met with an academic advisor, e-mail any questions to [heatheramwoza@triton.edu](mailto:heatheramwoza@triton.edu)