

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Admission Criteria

This is a selective and competitive admission program. Admission to the college doesn't guarantee admission to the clinical component of the program. Work with your advisor to apply to the clinical/core component of the program.

Minimum Criteria to Apply: See the point system

The accepted time limit for science courses (HACC or transfer) for use in health career program requirements is 7 years.

Advising: You are required to meet with a with a DMS advisor during your first semester. Find your advisor on MYHACC. If you do not have a DMS advisor please contact the Program Director, Julia Imboden at jimbode@hacc.edu for additional details.

Shadowing: Information regarding the required 8-hour shadowing experience is provided during your advising session and during each DMS Information Session. **Shadowing must be completed by April 1.**

Application: Applications are posted on the [Health Careers Diagnostic Medical Sonography website](#) **May 15.**

Application Deadline: June **15**

Class Selection Date: mid-August (after summer grades are posted) for fall start

Admission Interview: All qualified applicants will be scheduled for on-campus personal behavioral interviews in July. Interviews will be pass/fail. Students who pass the interview will be considered for clinical admission.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO STARTING THE CLINICAL PORTION OF THE PROGRAM (after acceptance)

Additional information and required forms will be provided to you upon acceptance into clinicals. Failure to provide all the necessary documentation before the established deadline could lead to denial of admission into the clinical program. The following must be completed (at your own expense) after you have been selected for, but prior to starting the clinical portion of the program:

Physical Examination and Required Immunizations

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must submit a health examination form completed by a physician/nurse practitioner/physician's assistant with immunization history including verification through blood work. No student will be admitted with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline.

Background Checks

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo annual Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check and State Police Criminal Record Check. No student will be admitted with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance. Students with criminal backgrounds interested in admission into the clinical portion of any health career program at HACC must follow the Prohibitive Offense Procedure for Health Career Programs.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a drug and alcohol screen annually at the laboratory specified by the program on or before the stated deadline. This lab is used to protect the integrity of the results being reported. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline.

Current Certification in American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Any candidate not meeting these criteria will be denied admission into the program.

rev 11/19/18

HACC
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
Point System – Fall 2019

Students will be considered for admission into the diagnostic medical sonography program who have:

- 2.5 overall GPA
- Completed English 101, Math 103, and Biology 111* or [Biology 121 **AND** Biology 122] with a “C” or better
- Completed a shadowing experience (must be completed by April 1)
- Met with a DMS advisor during your first semester
- Attend a mandatory information session the year of application by May 1

* Courses must be completed by August 15. Points are calculated after summer term grades are posted.

All sonography program applicants will be ranked on the following criteria:

Your Points	Points	Criterion
	10 to 20	* Grade in BIOL 111 A-20 points, B-15 points, C-10 points OR Completion of BIOL 121 AND 122 (C or higher) = 20 points
	10 to 20	* Grade in MATH 103 A-20 points, B-15 points, C-10 points
	10 to 20	*Grade in ENGL 101 A-20 points, B-15 points, C-10 points
* Note: All transferred BIOL 111, MATH 103, ENGL 101 will be assigned the number of points based on the actual grade earned. For any course where credit is given but the course was never taken, a grade of "C" will be assigned.		
	-3 (per occurrence)	Minus 3 for each W, D, or F in DMS, NURS or other Allied Health program core course (within the past 7 years). Equivalent transfer courses are subject to the same deductions.
	0-30	*** Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) Exam For every score above norm, 3 points per skill (8 skills total) above norm, 0 points if below norm Dexterity Persistence Problem Solving Graphs Judgement Spatial Visualization Logic Overall USA score above norm, 6 points
	0-90	Total Score (90 Max) Minimum 25 points required In event of a tie, Program GPA will be used.
	Pass/Fail	Admission Interview: All qualified applicants will be invited for on-campus personal behavioral interviews. Interviews will be <u>pass/fail</u> . Students who pass the interview may be offered clinical admission.

The accepted time limit for science courses (HACC or transfer) for use in health career program requirements is 7 years.

*** See attached for an explanation of this activity

11/19/18

HACC does not discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected classification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CLINICAL APPLICATION

Application Process Details:

- 1) Students will apply online using SurveyMonkey© for selection into the DMS program from **May 15 to June 15** each year. Find the link posted June 1 on the Health Careers DMS web page - <http://www.hacc.edu/ProgramsandCourses/Programs/HealthCareers/Diagnostic-Medical-Sonographer.cfm>.
- 2) DMS faculty will review the application.
- 3) If the student is eligible, DMS faculty will email the student the information needed to schedule the Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) Test. Please see additional details below.
- 4) The USA test must be completed by **July 1**.
- 5) If the student is eligible, the student will be scheduled for the *Behavioral Interview* in July. Dates will be noted on the SurveyMonkey DMS application.
- 6) Once summer grades are posted, the DMS faculty will calculate the points and complete the ranking process. Letters of acceptance and non-acceptance will be emailed mid-August.

Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) Test is a **required test** for students submitting an application to the HACC Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

General Test Details:

- The exam specifically tests examinees for: dexterity, persistence, problem solving, graph interpretation, judgment, spatial ability, visualization and logic.
- An aptitude test does not test knowledge; therefore, you cannot study or prepare.
- Retesting is not permitted.
- There is no time limit for the test, but most candidates take about 60 minutes.
- The candidate does not see their results, they are sent electronically to the Program Director.

Specific Test Details:

- The USA test is offered only at the Harrisburg campus test center in the Whitaker Hall 118.
- After completing the clinical application, the student will receive an email with the testing approval form containing:
 - The phone number to make payment (\$65) for the USA test directly to the vendor
 - The student must call the vendor (Monday –Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) to make payment using your credit card (no cash or checks)
 - The phone numbers to schedule the USA test at the test center
 - The student must call the test center (Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) to schedule the test.
- The day of the scheduled test at the Harrisburg campus test center
 - Students take the signed testing approval form to the test center with them
 - Students pay a testing fee of \$10 at the test center. Cash, check or VISA, Master Card, Discover and debit cards are accepted.
 - Test Center will provide calculator, scratch paper and pencil.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR HEALTH CAREER PROGRAMS
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

All individuals, including persons with disabilities, who apply for admission to the diagnostic medical sonography program must be able to perform specific essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation.

The following outlines the abilities and behavioral characteristics necessary for the student to be admitted to, continue in, and graduate from, the diagnostic medical sonography program at HACC. **These essential qualifications are standards of admission.**

The applicant should carefully review the essential qualifications for the program and ask questions if not familiar with the activities or functions listed. The applicant must decide if he or she has any limitations that may restrict or interfere with satisfactory performance of any of the requirements. It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to meet these essential qualifications if accepted into the program.

The applicant should consult with the program director to discuss any individual situation if he or she may not be able to meet these essential qualifications. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be considered. Contact the program director if you have any questions about this matter.

COMMUNICATION

1. Communicate verbally using clear and effective English
2. Write legibly in clear and effective English using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling
3. Quickly and accurately comprehend and follow verbal instructions in English
4. Quickly and accurately read, comprehend and follow written instructions in English
5. Actively participate in group discussions
6. Use communication equipment – telephone, computer, other device used for communication

PHYSICAL SKILLS

Possess fine and gross skills sufficient to handle equipment and provide safe and effective patient care

1. Exert maximum physical force to lift, push, pull or carry objects up to 50 pounds (oxygen cylinders, beds, patients, or any other type of equipment (ultrasound system))
2. Wear lead aprons (approx. 10 pounds) up to 8 or more hours
3. Move quickly, freely and safely around the assigned work area and patient care settings
4. Sustain professional activities for up to 8 or more hours
5. Remain standing up to 8 or more hours
6. Remain sitting up to 8 or more hours
7. Reach above shoulder level (to manipulate equipment)
8. Reach below waist level (to manipulate equipment)
9. Move upper and lower extremities, back, hips, and knees without restriction - bend, stoop, and squat
10. Keep hand and arm steady while moving arm or while holding arm and hand in one position
11. Make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects
12. Coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down

OBSERVATION AND SENSORY SKILLS

1. Hear, comprehend and interpret conversation and sounds not solely based on visual cues (including alarms, monitors, faint sounds, such as heart and breath sounds, taking blood pressure; discriminate audible Doppler flow signals, including arterial, venous, low and high resistance and stenosis)
2. Ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer) and at a distance.
 - a) Function efficiently in various degrees of light, from dark to bright lighting
 - b) Differentiate colors, varying shades of same color, and shades of black, white and gray
 - c) Read fine print and hand writing
3. Detect and distinguish odors from clients and environment
4. Distinguish textures, degrees of firmness, temperature differences, pulse rate and vibrations; feel anatomical landmarks and veins
5. Distinguish and describe patient affect, body language and physical responses which the patient cannot verbally relay (i.e. facial expressions, sweating, trembling, color change, bleeding, etc)

INTELLECTUAL, COGNITIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1. Concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted
2. Apply principles of critical, logical thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw sensible and valid conclusions
3. Combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
4. Perform multiple tasks simultaneously
5. Arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (alphabetize)
6. Integrate information quickly, consistently, accurately, especially in an emergency situation

BEHAVIORAL / SOCIAL SKILLS / ETHICS

1. Display a high level of professionalism and discretion in all actions and communication (written, oral and electronic)
 2. Function effectively and display integrity, poise and emotional stability under stress (emergency, critical, or dangerous situations) in actions with all (peers, patients, staff, faculty)
 3. Use team approach to carry out responsibilities
 4. Respond to all persons sensitively and with respect for cultural diversity
 5. Maintain general good health and self-care
 6. Display flexibility and adapt to changing environments
 7. Manage time effectively
 8. Accept responsibility for own behavior and be forthright about errors or uncertainty
 9. Refuse to perform or participate in any illegal, unethical or incompetent acts, to include but not limited to the following: falsifying or knowingly making incorrect entries into a patient's record or related document; copying other student's written assignments; cheating on a quiz or examination; making untrue statements to a faculty member or administrator
 10. Monitor/assess performance of self, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action
 11. Capable of developing mature sensitive and effective relationships (with patients, staff, coworkers, etc.)
-

As an applicant to this program or student in this program, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the essential qualifications. **I acknowledge that I am capable of performing the abilities and skills outlined in this document** with or without reasonable accommodation and understand that my status as a student in this program depends on my continued ability to successfully demonstrate these abilities and skills. **I understand that if I am no longer able to meet these essential qualifications I will immediately notify the program director.** _____ (Initial)

I have read and understand the program admission criteria as posted on the HACC Health Careers website. _____ (Initial)

I understand that all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a physical and a drug and alcohol screen annually at the student's expense at the laboratory specified by the program on or before the stated deadline. This lab is used to protect the integrity of the results being reported. The test is at the cost of the student. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline. _____ (Initial)

I have read and understand the Health Careers Code of Ethics as posted on the HACC Health Careers website. _____ (Initial)

I have read and understand the Prohibitive Offense Procedure as posted on the HACC Health Careers website. _____ (Initial)

I understand that some clinical sites do not allow tobacco use and may require testing at the student's expense. _____ (Initial)

I understand that all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo an annual Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check, and State Police Criminal Record Check at the student's expense. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance. _____ (Initial)

I understand that students accepted into the clinical component of the program may perform procedures which may expose them to bloodborne and airborne pathogens, ionizing radiation and potentially hazardous materials. _____ (Initial)

I understand that all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must have the following immunizations (at the student's expense): MMR, DPT, Varicella, an annual TB screen, and an annual influenza vaccination. _____ (initial)

I understand that in the event of an incident in the clinic, lab or outside rotation that I am responsible for all related medical expenses. _____ Initial

I understand that intentional deceit or falsification on this document will disqualify a student from admission and/or continuation in any health career program at HACC. _____ (Initial)

Have you ever been admitted to another clinical health career program at HACC from which you did not graduate?
_____ I have not _____ I have (Good Standing Form to be completed)

I understand that if I have ever worked at a hospital and am ineligible for re-hire I may not be eligible to be admitted to or continue in the program. I understand that if I am released from my duties, I will immediately notify the program director. _____ (Initial)

2/3/15
JRI/vg

Applicant Signature

Date

Witness

Program

Print Name

HACCid

Health Career Code of Ethics

In order to promote excellence in patient care, the HACC Health Career student, while in their program, or in their clinical uniform, are to:

- Treat patients with respect for the dignity, rights, and value of each individual.
- Provide nondiscriminatory and equitable treatment for all patients.
- Promote and strive to protect the health, safety, and rights of each patient.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient information following privacy regulations required by law.
- Not disclose or share information associated with their health career program about or relating to any patient, person, clinical facility, or clinical experience outside of the sanctioned educational context of the classroom or online course environment with oversight of an instructor. This includes communication in any format including verbal, written, and digital (includes but is not limited to text, email, photographs, and social media).
- Perform procedures or functions within his/her level of education in the profession.
- Refuse to participate in any illegal, unethical, or incompetent acts.
- Disclose any illegal, unethical, or incompetent acts of others to the proper authority.
- Avoid any conduct that creates a conflict of interest.
- Demonstrate professional behavior that reflects integrity and a positive image of the profession and the college.
- Follow all principles of ethical and professional behavior, as identified in the code of ethics of his/her chosen health career.

Students shall be denied admission to a program for breaches in any of the above code of ethics. Students who are in a clinical program and breach the code of ethics will be dismissed from the program and denied access to any other health career program at HACC.

Student Signature

Date

Print Name

HACCid

Health Careers Medical Marijuana Policy

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is currently implementing the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program, a component of the Medical Marijuana Act (MMA) that was signed as [law](#) on April 17, 2016. This program provides access to medical marijuana for patients with serious medical conditions as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Currently, the federal government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act, which does not recognize the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. Under federal law, marijuana is a Schedule 1 controlled substance, which means that it is considered to have no medical value. Practitioners may not prescribe marijuana for medical use under federal law.

Students entering any Health Careers Program are required to have laboratory screenings for drugs and alcohol upon admission to the clinical phase of the program and on a yearly basis while participating in the clinical experiences. As per current policy, if the results are positive, the student will be dismissed from the program immediately and referred for appropriate counseling.

Students using medical marijuana will not be eligible for clinical placement in any HACC clinical program, due to the current discrepancy between state and federal law regarding Drug Free Work Place Act and the MMA. Businesses who are not in compliance with federal law are at risk for criminal or civil charges; and additionally may find issue with eligibility for federal contracts and grants. Additionally, Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana statute specifically provides that an employer does not have to accommodate an individual in a safety sensitive position if that person is under the influence of medical marijuana. Most positions involving direct patient care will be considered safety sensitive positions.

Students should also understand that under current Pennsylvania State Board law, many health career licensing boards require drug screening at the time of application for licensure. Similarly, most health care employers will perform routine drug screening as a condition for employment, as these positions involve direct patient care, and are considered safety sensitive positions. **This discrepancy between federal and state law allows our clinical partners to deny student placement for clinical experiences and the State of Pennsylvania to deny licensure.**

In order to be transparent with this entire process, we recognize our responsibility to fully inform students of HACC's policy regarding the use of medical marijuana. Due to current laws we cannot provide admission to the clinical phase in any of our Health Career Programs and students who have been admitted and are later to be found positive for medical marijuana will be removed.

Student Signature

Date

12/10/18

Print Name

HACCid

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Student Signature

Date

Frequently Asked Questions about Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Q: Where do sonographers work?

A: Sonographers are employed by hospital, imaging centers and private physician offices.

New graduates will be employed primarily in the hospital setting.

Q: What are the duties of a sonographer?

A: Diagnostic medical sonographers use critical thinking skills to perform diagnostic imaging examinations and prepare preliminary reports according to established procedures under the supervision of a licensed physician. Sonographers are credentialed health care professionals who have completed program requirements and have passed national examinations.

The general sonographer is able to perform the following:

- Obtain, review, and integrate pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results;
- Perform appropriate procedures and record anatomic, pathologic, and/or physiologic data for interpretation by a physician;
- Record, analyze, and process diagnostic data and other pertinent observations made during the procedure for presentation to the interpreting physician;
- Exercise discretion and judgment in the performance of sonographic and/or other diagnostic services;
- Demonstrate appropriate communication skills with patients and colleagues;
- Act in a professional and ethical manner;
- Provide patient education related to medical ultrasound and/or other diagnostic vascular techniques, and promote principles of good health

Q: What is a typical day in the life of a sonographer?

A: A sonographer usually works an eight-hour shift and during that time completes 10-12 or more ultrasound scans along with required paperwork and documentation. This involves interaction with patients, physicians and other health care professionals. The sonographer provides quality patient care. Ultrasound cases are often “added on” to the schedule each day, and then sonographers will be required to work additional hours. Schedule changes play a role in the stressful demands of the career.

Q: Part of the sonography career includes being “on call”. What does that mean?

A: Depending upon the facility, sonographers will be required to be called back in to the department after hours, weekends, and holidays. For example if your shift is over at 4:30 pm, you could drive home and be called back to the hospital at 9 pm, return home to sleep and be called again at 3 am to return to the hospital and then you are still required to be at work at 8 am.

Q: What role do sonographers play in patient care?

A: Sonographers are patient focused and provide care to all patients: **biopsy, emergent, intensive care, obstetrical, trauma etc.** The sonographer will deal with patient issues such as vomiting, bleeding, use of the bed pan etc.

Q: Do sonographers deal with needles, blood, and/or bodily fluids?

A: Yes, sonographers are patient care givers and indeed deal with all these items and also **go to the ER, ICU, NICU and OR to perform ultrasound imaging.**

Q: Sonographers image babies all day, right?

A: Actually sonographers image many parts of the body - organs of the abdomen: liver, kidneys, pancreas, spleen, gallbladder; organs of the pelvis: uterus, ovaries, prostate; glandular organs: breast, thyroid, testicles. Also the vascular system is imaged by sonographers. Procedures such as transvaginal imaging are a major part of the imaging day. Sonographers **assist with biopsies and other procedures including cases in the operating room.**

Q: When I had my ultrasound the sonographer sat and moved the wand around? Is the job physically demanding?

A: Yes, you are on your feet most of the day. You need to be able to help transfer patients from wheelchairs to stretchers, move ultrasound equipment to other hospital areas, and assist as needed in the hospital.

Q: Is the career stressful?

A: Sonographers are challenged each day to acquire diagnostic images, write accurate impressions and deal with the emotional stress of illness and critical diseases. **Emotional stress** often involves fetal abnormalities including fetal death.

Q: How competitive is the HACC DMS program?

A: We have had 20-40 applicants for the 10-12 positions, so it is very competitive. Check out the [Admitted Students Profile](#) at www.hacc.edu under Health Careers (Admission Criteria). This is why it's important to work closely with your DMS advisor.

Q: Can the DMS program be completed part time?

A: No, a full time commitment is required. Students have not been successful if they attempted to work more than 12-16 hours a week. *Most students find that they are not able to work at all while they are taking the DMS courses.*

Q: What kind of time investment does this program involve?

A: The DMS program requires a considerable amount of time. It is estimated that 2 hours of studying and test preparation is required for every hour of instruction. The courses require completion of assignments and projects in addition to the studying. Students are obligated to about 40 hours per week from the combination of lecture, lab, open lab and clinical rotations.

Q: What are some of the challenges of this program?

A: At the end of each semester students are required to successfully complete multiple comprehensive final examinations which range from 50-200 questions. The grading for the DMS program is set as: A (93-100), B (85-92) and C (77-84). All DMS courses must be completed with a C or higher grade to continue in the program and graduate.

Q: Where would I do my clinical rotations?

A: Faculty assigns you to an imaging facility for specific learning outcomes; students do not get to choose locations. Students change clinical sites each semester. **Sites can be as far as 80 miles from Harrisburg.** (As you plan your finances for the program, please keep in mind the cost of gas and auto expenses as you are required to drive to the sites for your clinical rotation.)

Q: Is there a national or state certification or credentialing examination that is required in order to be employed?

A: Yes, you are required to pass three American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® ([ARDMS](#)) credentialing exams. Sonography Principles and Instrumentation, Abdomen, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Exam costs total \$725.00 and are not included in the program cost (it is an out of pocket expense). Check out the ARDMS web site www.ardms.org.

Q: Is the DMS program at HACC accredited?

A: Yes, HACC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs \(CAAHEP\)](#), 1361 Park Street, Clearwater, FL 33756, Phone: 727-210-2350, Fax: 727-210-2354. Check out the CAAHEP web site www.caahep.org.

Q: What is the job market like?

A: Nationally there is a demand for DMS professionals. The job market in central Pennsylvania may be limited due to the number of graduates in the area. However, HACC graduates have been successful in finding employment:

Graduation Year	ARDMS Exam Pass Rate (Within program --prior to graduation)			Job Placement Rate (When seeking employment within 12 months of graduation)	Program Completion Rate (# graduates in cohort / # students initially in cohort)
	SPI (Physics & Instrumentation)	Abdomen	OB/GYN		
2018	100%	100%	100%	100%	83 %
2017	100%	100%	100%	92%	100%
2016	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2015	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
2014	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%
5 Year Average	100%	100%	100%	98%	85%

Q: What is the starting salary for new graduates in our area?

A: Starting salary in south central Pennsylvania ranges from \$24.00-\$27.00 an hour for a part time or full time position and a \$28.00-\$29.00 for a PRN or flex position.

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____