



ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

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**DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM**

Thank you for inquiring about admission into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program offered through Delgado Community College located at the Delgado-Charity School of Nursing Campus.

Diagnostic Ultrasound is one of the most highly developed and complex diagnostic imaging modalities of the medical field. The field is rapidly changing and growing and promises to remain an important imaging technique which contributes to improved patient care. Diagnostic Medical Sonography involves the use of low intensity, high frequency acoustical waves to provide diagnostic information about human anatomy and pathology. Ultrasound is one of the more operator dependent examinations in diagnostic imagery. The diagnostic medical sonographer, or person who creates ultrasound images with sophisticated instrumentation, has a very important role in the process of providing a patient an optimal Diagnostic Medical Sonography exam. To create images which represent the actual anatomy and pathology for interpretation by a physician, the sonographer must use considerable judgement and have a broad base of knowledge in acoustical wave behavior and instrument variables. The sonographer must have a complete understanding of multiplanar cross-sectional anatomy. The creation of an ultrasound image demands that the sonographer be responsible and conscientious. The sonographer must be able to communicate with the patient, other employees, and physicians who are responsible for interpretation of ultrasound exams and provide the physician with pertinent clinical information from the patient's chart. He/She must be responsible for the immediate safety and comfort of patients while they are receiving the ultrasound exam.

Upon acceptance into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Delgado Community College, it is a sixteen (16) month commitment of daytime clinical and didactic education. The program is academically based with practical experience offered at numerous affiliated clinical education centers in the New Orleans area. The number of students selected each year for admission to the program is dependent upon the number of available affiliated clinical education centers.

The Delgado Community College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and reviewed by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). Upon successful completion, students will be eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography exams in Obstetrics-Gynecology, Abdomen and Physics. Students will receive Delgado Community College credits for all successfully completed didactic and practical training.

Classes are to start in the fall semester (August) and extend through the following December. The deadline for receipt of completed applications, transcripts*, narrative and acknowledgement statement form is **May 1st** of each year. All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Sonography Admissions Committee. Those candidates who are not accepted will be advised accordingly by letter.

**Transcripts for the current Spring semester courses, other than Delgado, should be submitted as soon as available.*

PLEASE NOTE: The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is atypical with regard to semester length. Once a student is accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, classes begin earlier and last longer than what is printed on the class schedule and in the College Catalog Calendar. This is necessary to fulfill Program requirements.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The applicant must possess the personality and physical ability to work in close contact with patients, hospital employees and physicians on a day to day basis. Good physical and mental health is necessary for students' general well-being in order to meet physical performance standards and possess clarity of mind necessary for health care duties. **Applicants are required to pass a physician's physical examination.** Program applicants should be aware that visible tattoos and body piercings (other than earrings) are not permitted in many clinical education centers. Upon acceptance into a program and the commencement of clinical rotations, students may be required to cover visible tattoos and remove visible piercings. All students accepted into the program are required to have the Hepatitis B vaccine. The program has a policy which addresses the pregnant student. Students should request a copy which is available in the Program Director's office. Students must be responsible for their own medical insurance coverage.

Applicants must be willing to work with sick and disabled persons, should be accurate, thorough, empathetic, congenial, cordial, versatile and ambitious. Applicants must also be dependable, responsible, reliable, and able to abide by policies, procedures and schedules. Applicants must be able to meet the technical standards of the profession. (See DMS website)

Students must also possess a sincere desire to consistently provide high quality diagnostic images and possess the ability to work closely with the supervising physician responsible for interpretation of the ultrasonic examinations. Students should be able to accept the professional responsibilities that are demanded by one of the more operator dependent examinations in diagnostic imagery.

Delgado Community College assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status or veteran's status in the admission to, participation in, or employment in the program and activities of the college.

APPLICANTS WITH COLLEGE CREDITS OLDER THAN TEN YEARS SHOULD CONTACT THE ALLIED HEALTH ADMISSIONS OFFICE FOR ADVISING. Delgado has a policy which addresses Academic Renewal. Academic Renewal is the act of declaring void all prior credits attempted and earned. If you are interested in information regarding Academic Renewal and the procedure to initiate this process you must contact the Delgado Admissions Office at (504) 671-5040.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

To meet the academic qualifications for the **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program** the applicant must:

1. Complete the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program application.
2. Be able to meet the Technical Standards of the Profession. (See DMS Website)
3. Be a graduate of a 2-year associate degree accredited allied health occupation program such as registered nurse, radiologic technology, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, medical technologist, etc. **OR** have at least 60 credit hours of post secondary education including the following coursework. Previous or additional coursework **MUST** include the following pre-requisite courses.

Anatomy and Physiology I and II (Lecture and Lab)
(BIOL 251, 253 and BIOL 252, 254)

Elementary Physics (PHYS 101)

Medical Terminology (HESC 111)

Contemporary Math (MATH 120)

College Algebra (MATH 130) or
Introductory Figures (MATH 203)

English Composition I (ENGL 101)

English Composition II (ENGL 102)

*All coursework must be completed by the end of the **Spring semester prior to program entrance.**

BIOL 141/143 (general biology lecture and lab) are prerequisites to Anatomy & Physiology courses.

An Associate Degree is strongly recommended by the Program Selection Committee.

4. Possess a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 including all colleges attended. Grade reports from Delgado may not reflect this information.

****NOTE:** Science courses over 7 years old may require repetition. Check with the Allied Health Admissions Office.

Research into all aspects of the career of sonography is advised to enhance the applicant's general knowledge of the profession.

APPLICATION

The completed application packet must be received by the Allied Health Division on or **BEFORE MAY 1st** for your application to be considered for admission to the upcoming August class of the **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program**. **This application is complete only when ALL information requested is received. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THAT THEIR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE.**

NOTE 1: Notify the **Allied Health Admissions Office**, Delgado Community College, 615 City Park Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, promptly of changes in your address/phone number.

NOTE 2: Please make the necessary arrangements to have all application documents (application, transcripts, etc.) bear ONE name. Make sure **ALL** documents are dated.

NOTE 3: Admission requirements may change from year to year as modifications occur in the program. Applicants are strongly urged to contact the Allied Health Admissions Office periodically to avoid the risk of not meeting admission requirements in the expected time frame.

COSTS:

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students pay the same fee for each semester as other credit students enrolled in the college. Please refer to the current College Student Handbook for tuition cost and fees.

In addition to each semester's tuition and fees, there are additional expenses. These expenses include, but not limited to: books background check, drug test, TB test, vaccines & titers, physician's physical, medical insurance, uniforms, travel to clinical education settings and CPR certification. These other costs are approximately \$1500 over the duration of the program.

Various financial assistance options are available to students. Information on scholarships, loans and grants may be obtained through the college's Office of Financial Aid, (504) 671-5040.

The curriculum for the Post-Associate certificate program for Diagnostic Medical Sonography is as follows:

SEMESTER 1: (FALL) DMSU 200 Ultrasound Patient Care (1) DMSU 201 Directed Reading (1) DMSU 221 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation I (2) DMSU 241 Ultrasound Learning Lab I (3) DMSU 251 Ultrasound Practicum I (1) DMSU 261 Ultrasound OB/GYN I (2) DMSU 271 Abdominal Ultrasound I (2)	SEMESTER 3: (SUMMER) DMSU 223 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation III (1) DMSU 253 Ultrasound Practicum I (3) DMSU 263 Ultrasound OB/GYN III (1) DMSU 273 Abdominal Ultrasound III (1)
SEMESTER 2: (SPRING) DMSU 211 Superficial Structures (1) DMSU 222 Ultrasound Physics & Instrumentation II (2) DMSU 242 Ultrasound Learning Lab II (4) DMSU 252 Ultrasound Practicum II (1) DMSU 262 Ultrasound OB/GYN II (2) DMSU 272 Abdominal Ultrasound II (2)	SEMESTER 4: (FALL) DMSU 254 Ultrasound Practicum IV (2) DMSU 280 Comprehensive Seminar (1)

Due to the large amount of "one on one" training required for an active educational experience in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the limited number of clinical positions available in affiliate hospitals, the number of students enrolled in the program is limited. Selection into the program is based upon the candidate's overall qualities rather than solely relying upon test indicators. College background, academic success, interest in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and evidence of interpersonal qualities which are necessary for completion of the program will be evaluated. The Admissions Committee for the **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program** reviews and evaluates each application on an impartial basis. The most qualified applicants with the greatest potential for contributing to the profession are selected. Meeting the **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS** does not guarantee admission into the program.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has a limited enrollment based on the number of clinical positions available in affiliate hospitals.

Selection to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is based on evaluation of the following criteria for each student.

1. College and professional education background. (*Official transcripts from each college / university attended other than Delgado*)
2. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) and most importantly pertinent GPA (GPA in the prerequisite and required related courses which are part of the curriculum.) The pertinent GPA is calculated on the basis of all courses taken, including those repeated. A grade of "D" on any general education or required related course is not considered competitive.
3. The number of times a student has applied to program with enhancement. The application can be enhanced with an increase of applicant's GPA in pertinent courses and medical experience, paid or voluntary, documented by the appropriate forms distributed found on the Program Website.
4. Typewritten Personal Statement (*Please be professional*)
5. Technical Standards Questionnaire / Acknowledgement Statement Form
6. Documentation of Experience/Observation (*Strongly recommended*)
6. Group Informational Session (*Mandatory for applicants*)
7. Resume' (*optional*)

*****Volunteer hours in an ultrasound environment are STRONGLY recommended for enhancement of your application. Any rotation through ultrasound during any previous education is *NOT* considered volunteered time. New applicants are recommended to have no more than a maximum 40 observation hours. Applicants re-applying are recommended to have no more than 25 additional hours of observation.**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Persons accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will be required to:

1. Pass a physician's physical examination prior to entrance into the program.
2. Initiate the Hepatitis B Vaccine series prior to entrance into the program.
3. Be tested for tuberculosis prior to entrance into the program. (Within last 6 months)
4. Provide current immunization card, inclusive of all booster shots.
5. Titers must be provided for MMR, Varicella, and Hepatitis B.
6. Be certified in CPR prior to admission, once accepted to the program.
7. Be willing to work with sick and disabled persons, be accurate, thorough, congenial, flexible and ambitious, be dependable, responsible, reliable, and abide by rules, regulations and schedules.
8. Be able to provide own transportation to clinical sites.
9. Meet the Technical Standards of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography profession which are available for review on the program website. The program has a policy which addresses the pregnant student. Students can request a copy which is available in the Program Director's Office.
10. Be responsible for their own medical insurance
11. Submit to and pass drug test and background check.

Please note that the mandatory clinical training is conditional predicated on a clean drug screen test result and a clear criminal background check. Information on drug testing and criminal background check and where these are to be done will be presented upon acceptance to program. These will be at the student's own expense.