

## Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

### Progression Information Packet

2012



# Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Thank you for your interest in our DMS program. Admission to the sonography program is based on the student's readiness for admission. There are two degree programs in sonography, cardiovascular and general imaging. Selection is based on a point system and clinical placement availability. Applicants should follow the progression process outlined in the college literature and website. ALL Sonography program pre-requisites MUST be completed prior to applying for progression. No exceptions will be made for any applicant. Please read this document in its entirety and attend an Information Session during your first or second term as an admitted DMS student or if you are a prospective student seeking additional information.

## Mandatory Requirements to Apply for Progression - 2012

- ***Declared DMS Program major: DMSC or DMSG***
  - *Maintain "active" student status for at least 2 semesters prior to progression*
- ***Completion of all Prerequisite courses with a C or higher***
- ***Overall GPA 2.75 or higher at time of progression***
- ***Science/Math GPA 2.75 or higher at time of progression***
  - *Math and Science courses must be completed within 5 years of application*

## Optional Criteria used to Calculate Application Points

- ***Curriculum course GPA 2.75 or higher at time of progression***
- ***Information Session Attendance***
- ***The HOBET & Critical Thinking Assessments***
- ***Scan Lab Observation Sessions***
- ***Healthcare Education and/or Experience Documentation***

The accrediting agency of DMS programs, JRC-DMS, requires college level course completion prior to acceptance and they may impose changes for accreditation requirements at any time. Therefore, progression requirements are subject to yearly changes. Students are held to the requirements of the year in which they progress to core level.

*\*Requirements effective for the academic year 2011 -2012 and are subject to yearly revisions. Students are encouraged to attend a yearly information session.*

# DMS Curriculum Level Progression

Admission to the program is selective. Approximately 24 students, 12 for the *Cardiovascular degree* and 12 for the *General Imaging degree*, are admitted to the curriculum (core) level of the sonography program each year. Applicant selection is based upon a point system and students with the highest number of total points will be selected. The point system was implemented as an objective means for evaluating sonography applicants. Points may be accumulated in several categories. The information in this document details each category. Students interested in applying for progression will be required to complete and submit a **Progression Application** to the program chair. The packet is on the DMS organization website, available only to DMS degree seeking students.

## 1. INFORMATION SESSION

Students, who have declared DMS as their major or prospective students interested in learning about the program and profession, are welcomed to attend a Sonography Information Session. Students are encouraged to attend the next available session after admittance to the DMS major. Detailed information will be provided about the profession, our program and progression requirements. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** and you must be present for the entire meeting. Attendance will be taken. Each participant will receive an attendance certificate to submit with their application. *DO NOT DELAY* attending a Sonography Information Session!

Session information and the reservation form may be obtained at the E-form link: [https://swebapps.cincinnati.state.edu/eforms/eform.aspx?form\\_id=521](https://swebapps.cincinnati.state.edu/eforms/eform.aspx?form_id=521)

Space is limited so please reserve your space no later than three days prior to the session.

## 2. PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Students must declare either DMSC (cardiovascular) or DMSG (general imaging) as their program major prior to being accepted into the curriculum level of the program. The prerequisite courses are designed to assess a student's aptitude for math and science as well as critical thinking skills. The DMS program prerequisites include:

- Anatomy & Physiology 1,2 & 3 (semester equivalent: 1 & 2)
- Precalculus
- Health Physics
- Patient care skills
- Medical Terminology
- Survey of Sonography

Completion of FYE 90XX First Year Experience is a college wide requirement  
(if student enters with less than 18 credit hours of college coursework)

### 3. **CUMULATIVE GPA – 2.75**

A cumulative grade point average of **2.75** on a 4.0 scale is required for admission into the curriculum level of the DMS program. All undergraduate work, including transfer courses will be included in the calculation of the *GPA*. It is the responsibility of each applicant to make sure all transfer credit has been received *and* processed by the office of the Registrar prior to progression. An applicant with less than a 2.75 cumulative GPA will be removed from the applicant pool and will not be considered for program progression. The applicant must meet all program requirements prior to completing a new application the following year.

### 4. **PROGRAM CURRICULUM GPA- 2.75**

All curriculum courses taken prior to progression acceptance must be completed with a C or better and will be counted in the students overall curriculum GPA. A curriculum GPA of **2.75** on a 4.0 scale will be assessed for progression points. All undergraduate work, including transfer grades will be included in the calculation of the *GPA*. For every **repeat** attempt at a course, there will be a one point deduction from the total points awarded for this category. Additional curriculum courses that may be taken prior to progression are:

- *ENG English I,II & III (terms)*
- *PSY Intro. to Psychology*
- *COM Public Speaking*
- *CULT Issues in Human Diversity*
- *BIO Pathophysiology*
- *HUM Elective*
- *MCH Basic EKG*

*Please note: Completion of any of the above courses prior to acceptance into the core program may result in less than full time course load within that semester.*

### 5. **SPECIFIC SCIENCE/MATH GPA – 2.75**

Successful completion of math and science courses are vital to a student's success in the field of sonography. Therefore, *all* math and science courses will be calculated into a formula that will reflect competency in the following courses:

<i>MAT 1152</i>	<i>Pre-Calculus or higher level</i>
<i>PHY 1145</i>	<i>College Physics</i>
<i>BIO 4014</i>	<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</i>
<i>BIO 4015</i>	<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</i>
<i>BIO 4016</i>	<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology III</i>
<i>DMS4630</i>	<i>Survey of Sonography</i>

*For every repeat attempt at a course, there will be a one point deduction from the total points awarded for this category.*

## **6. HEALTH OCCUPATION BASIC ENTRANCE TEST (HOBET) & CRITICAL THINKING ASSESSMENT (CT)**

Students may take the HOBET and Critical Thinking assessments prior to submitting an application for progression. These assessments are designed to assess a student's aptitude and retention for math, science, reading, writing as well as critical thinking skills prior to entrance into the DMS curriculum courses. We recommend completion of the prerequisite courses before scheduling the assessments. If you are transferring credit from another institution, we encourage you to refresh your knowledge prior to scheduling. Locations, times, fee's and the registration process will be administered by the Health & Public safety Division. Students may only take the HOBET assessment one time per academic year. HOBET scores will be valid for 2 years. The Critical Thinking assessment may only be taken once.

*To order study guides and practice tests please go to [www.ataliiedhealth.com](http://www.ataliiedhealth.com). On the top right of the page click "online store". Scroll down slightly. On left side of page click "HOBET products". At this point, the students can purchase products for the HOBET-V.*

## **7. SONOGRAPHY OBSERVATION LAB SESSIONS**

Students may attend no more than two, 1 hour lab sessions, prior to applying for progression. We encourage students to complete their observation hours prior to taking DMS 4630, but this is not a requirement. Currently, labs are only available during the ***Early Fall, Late Fall and Winter terms on Mondays and Wednesdays*** during daytime hours. Please check the DMS Blackboard social network for specific times.

To schedule Your Sonography Lab Sessions, you must sign up in the Health Professions Building Main Office, room 312. While you are attending, you may be asked to serve as a scan volunteer for the DMS clinical level students.

## **8. HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

Direct patient care experience refers to no less than six months of full - time work experience ( $\geq 960$  clock hours) - not volunteer experience. It must be in an area where you interacted directly with the patient and utilized the skills acquired in either a patient care skills course, nurse aid training course or obtained in your formal education training or certificate programs (if applicable). Examples include: patient transport (lifting, moving patients), EMT, paramedic, front office medical assistant (vital signs, back office -not clerical). Examples that are NOT eligible include, but are not limited to: clerical or front office in a doctor's office or health facility, pharmacy technician, scheduling, housekeeping, etc.

All work experience must have occurred within the 10 years preceding your application for progression and be documented by an administrator or human resource representative of the facility on company letterhead. It should include: the job description, list of duties performed, date range and number of hours completed during employment. It should also include the contact information for the person providing the documentation. Acceptance and validation of the experience is at the discretion of the program chair. If you are unsure if your work experience qualifies, please contact a program adviser or the program chair for clarification.

## **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Once students are accepted into the curriculum (core) level of the DMS program, they will be required to submit a Criminal Background Check in order to verify eligibility for clinical placements. The background checks must be received by the program chair prior to starting the DMS sequence courses. Failure to complete the paperwork in an appropriate timeframe to assure the results are received in a timely manner will be grounds for dismissal from the program. You should also be aware that many clinical facilities also require a drug screening prior to placement. That will be determined throughout the year based on the sites you will be assigned.

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS**

### **Computer Access/Email**

In addition to the other requirements, all students must be able to access the college online teaching platform, Blackboard, and must be accessible via an electronic mail address. We will not use personal email addresses. All correspondence will be sent via the students Cincinnati State email account. Students may utilize any of the computers on any campus to create and check their email accounts and to access Blackboard. Blackboard and email accounts should be checked frequently (at least 3 times /week) for assignments, announcements and/or messages. Students are responsible for keeping their demographic information current by updating their personal information as needed.

### **Computer Skills**

Sonography students are required to demonstrate a variety of computer skills throughout the length of the program. Students are required to access the Internet and perform internet searches, submit writing assignments as Word documents, and access and utilize the college on-line teaching platform, Blackboard. Students will also be required to develop charts and tables, embed images within power point presentations, etc. throughout the program. In addition, many of the sonography clinical sites utilize computer systems for patient schedules and patient information; all sonography students must be able to utilize any clinical site's data/patient management system as allowed by the clinical site. A student who is unfamiliar with using a computer or who has limited computer skills is expected to seek instruction in computer programs and usage prior to progression into the curriculum level of the program so that he/she will be able to meet the requirements of his/her courses.

# Curriculum Level Progression Process

## PROGRESSION APPLICATION PACKETS

**Applications will be available starting in November 2011 and accepted between November 19, 2012 – January 18, 2013. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by March 2013. Program courses will begin summer semester, May 2013.**

All sonography applicants who are selected to progress into the core level of the curriculum will receive notification by mail of their status for the upcoming program year. Applicants not selected may reapply for admission to the program for the next academic year. Students should be aware that it may be necessary to travel 50 miles or more from the main campus for clinical education. Students must provide their own transportation to clinical sites.

## Technical Standards for a DMS Student and Sonographer

In the required DMS courses, as well as in the DMS profession, the student will need to have the ability to perform the following activities:

1. Lift and move patients and accessories;
2. Coordinate movements of equipment, such as portable machines, furniture and other accessories;
3. Utilize the skills needed to perform procedures with "universal precautions" when working with all types of patients;
4. Give clear oral instructions to patient, peers and healthcare personnel;
5. Hear audible cues and warnings on imaging equipment and life support devices;
6. Utilize the sense of touch in order to provide patient care and position patients for sonographic procedures;
7. Evaluate images distinguishing between black, white and shades of gray tones
8. Utilize interpersonal skills to handle patients with physical or emotional trauma.
9. Transport in and out of the ultrasound room non-ambulatory patients who may arrive in wheelchairs or on stretchers.
10. Develop, duplicate, or evaluate ultrasound images within the confines of a dark room.
11. Distinguish color variations in hues, tone, or brightness.
12. Distinguish slight audible Doppler signal variations.

## Professional Standards

### **Scope of Practice of the Profession:**

The Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional is an individual qualified by professional credentialing and academic and clinical experience to provide diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. The scope of practice of the Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional includes those procedures, acts and processes permitted by law, for

which the individual has received education and clinical experience, and in which he/she has demonstrated competency.

### **Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound Professionals:**

- Perform patient assessments
- Acquire and analyze data obtained using ultrasound and related diagnostic technologies
- Provide a summary of findings to the physician to aid in patient diagnosis and management
- Use independent judgment and systematic problem solving methods to produce high quality diagnostic information and optimize patient care.

### **Clinical Standards of the Profession**

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers function in a broad spectrum of clinical situations. In order to ensure patient safety and provide accurate diagnostic information, sonographers must be able to adapt and perform in a variety of settings. The following are some of the skills and abilities needed to function as a professional sonographer:

- **Physical Activity:** Long periods of standing and frequent walking; Repetitive motion activities (scanning, entering computer data); Pulling and pushing of equipment and stretchers; Performing fine gross motor skills with both hands; Visually discriminate shades of gray and various shades of colors; Visual assessment of images on computer terminals and video recordings
- **Communication:** Speak in a clear comprehensible manner; Communicate effectively with patients and medical personnel; Assess non-verbal communications; Receive detailed information through oral communication and make fine discriminations in sound
- **Intellectual and Quantitative Abilities:** Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize data; Comprehend three dimensional relationships; Understand the spatial relationships of structures; Use problem solving skills
- **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Use of good judgment; Ability to follow protocols; Ability to develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others; Ability to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to a changing environment, display flexibility; Display compassion, integrity and concern for others; Possess motivation and commitment to providing quality patient care and diagnostic information; Demonstrate concern for the patient's care, needs, safety and right to privacy; Adhere to accepted professional and ethical standards.

11/01/11