

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Applied Associate Degree, AAS

About the Program

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College will be transitioning to semesters starting in the fall of 2012. Students interested in applying to the DMS program for the 2012-2013 academic year will be governed under the process outlined in this information pamphlet. Students should plan to make an appointment with a DMS advisor to assure a smooth transition to semesters. Admission to the sonography program is based on the student's readiness for admission. A maximum of 24 students are admitted annually as a cohort class: 12 *Cardiovascular degree seeking* and 12 *General Imaging degree seeking candidates*. Selection is based on a point system and clinical placement availability. **ALL** sonography program prerequisites **MUST** be completed prior to applying for progression. No exceptions will be made for any applicant. Applications will be accepted between December, 2012 –January, 2013. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by February 2013. Program courses will begin summer semester, May 2013.

About the Profession

Sonographers are well versed in human anatomy and physiology. They must work closely with physicians and other health care providers and utilize critical thinking skills to discover potential pathology and disease. Sonographers are routinely involved in direct patient contact and deal with individuals ranging from healthy to critically ill. A successful sonographer is a knowledgeable, resourceful and caring individual who serves in the best interest of the patient. A sonographer must be committed to life-long learning to maintain competency, knowledge and expertise in a rapidly growing health care profession.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS)

*DMS is an allied health profession that uses sound waves to produce two and three dimensional images of soft tissue and to evaluate blood flow within those organs. Sonography specialty areas include: **General Sonography** (abdominal organs, obstetrics and gynecology), **Cardiac Sonography**, **Vascular Sonography** and various subspecialties. Sonographers are highly skilled professionals who use specialized ultrasonic equipment to create diagnostic images. Sonographers provide patient services using diagnostic techniques under the supervision of a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy.*

The DMS program at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education programs (CAAHEP) upon recommendation from the Joint Review Committee for diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDMS)

2012 Application Deadline:
JANUARY 18, 2013

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Qt: How do I apply to the program?

A: 1. Submit an online application to the admissions office and specify your program interest as:

DMSC (cardiovascular associate degree program) **or**
DMSG (general imaging associate degree program)

2. Take the COMPASS Test to determine math and English placement levels or request a waiver (online form)
3. Request official transcripts be sent to Cincinnati State College
4. Make an appointment with your financial aid officer
5. Make an appointment with the appropriate academic advisor

Qt: Who is my academic advisor?

A: All admitted pre-technology students working on developmental courses as indicated by the COMPASS exam must meet with an academic advisor in room 168 Main, prior to seeing a program advisor. Please make an appointment prior to registration in order to know which classes you should take before beginning your academic career at Cincinnati State College. Please call 513-569-1552 to make your appointment.

Once you complete your DE requirements and are ready to start the prerequisite courses, you may make an appointment with a DMS program advisor by calling **513-569-1670** Monday – Friday during normal business hours.

Qt: What if I am unsure which DMS degree I am interested in pursuing?

A: Students may choose between two areas of specialties: **Cardiovascular Sonography** or **General Imaging Sonography**. Cardiovascular sonography involves the demonstration and evaluation of structures within the heart and vascular systems. General Imaging sonography involves demonstration and evaluation of abdominal structures, superficial structures, pelvic structures and fetal structures. We recommend researching both programs to determine which specialty area is suitable to your personality. Information on careers in sonography may be found at www.ARDMS.ORG, click the *quick links* for jobs in sonography.

Qt: When may I start classes?

A: You may begin taking courses **any term**. Due to the high demand of the program, you are strongly encouraged to work closely with the appropriate advisor in order to avoid any unnecessary courses or delays in your progression. Advisors are listed within this document.

Qt: How does the program work?

A: The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Cincinnati State offers a two-year associate degree of applied science for those who have limited or no health care experience.

Qt: What are the admission requirements?

A: Students must meet all college requirements for admission. Accepted students will be given a pre-DMS status. Initial acceptance to the DMS major allows students the ability to take the prerequisite courses for eligibility to apply for progression to the DMS core program. Transfer students must submit college transcripts to the registrar office to receive applicable transfer credit. Students with less than 18 credit hours must complete the college-wide First Year Experience (FYE) course requirement as well.

Qt: What courses are required to apply for progression for the DMS program?

A: The following *prerequisite* courses must be completed with a grade of C, S or better:

<u>PREREQUISITES COURSES:</u>		<u>CREDITS</u>
BIO 4015	Anatomy & Physiology 1	4
BIO 4015	Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
BIO 4016	Anatomy & Physiology 3	4
MAT 1152	Pre-Calculus	5
PHY 2245	Health Physics 2	4
DMS 4630	Survey of Sonography	3
MCH 4806	Medical Terminology 1	3
COM 1023	Interpersonal Communication or	
COM 1020	Public Speaking	3
SSM 1000	Disaster Preparedness	2
MCH 4805	Patient Care Skills	2

All science courses must be completed \leq 5 years from the date of admission to the pre-DMS program. Some of the above courses have additional prerequisite courses prior to taking. Please check the course listing prior to registration.

****Course codes subject to change when semester transition occurs September 2012****

Qt: Are there additional requirements for progression?

A: Yes, a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of >2.75 , a math/science GPA of >2.75 and a program curriculum GPA of >2.75 on a 4.0 scale will be tabulated for progression eligibility. Students must also have declared DMS as their major at least 2 terms prior to submission of their application.

Qt: What do I need to do after my prerequisite courses are complete?

A: Once you have completed your courses with the required GPA's, you will be **eligible to submit a Progression Application**. There are optional criterion that may be used to increase your total score for progression such as: a basic aptitude assessment, critical thinking assessment, previous healthcare experience and/or education as well as scan lab observation sessions. In addition, attendance of a DMS Information Session is strongly suggested prior to submitting your application for progression. (*Please see the DMS website for dates*)

Qt: How do I progress in the DMS program?

A: Progression into the program will be based on a point system of the above criterion. Acceptance to the college as a pre-DMS students and completion of required courses does not guarantee or constitute admittance into the DMS curriculum program. All students who are accepted for progression will be notified of their status by mail. Accepted applicants will be required to submit to a *criminal background check* and *drug screening* prior to final acceptance into the program. In addition, all accepted students must have a valid CPR certification. While waiting for progression, students may begin working on certain curriculum courses listed below:

<u>Curriculum courses</u>		<u>Credits:</u>
ENG 1001	English Composition 1	3
ENG 1002	English Composition 2	3
ENG 1003	English Composition 3	3
MCH 4870	Basic EKG & Arrhythmia	3
BIO 4020	Fundamentals of Pathophysiology	5
CULT 1602	Issues in Human Diversity	3
PSY 1505	Introduction to Psychology	3
?HUMXXX	Humanities Elective	3

Please note, the above courses are included in the semester curriculum. 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.

The Clinical Experience

DMS curriculum courses and the clinical experience begins following progression acceptance. Please see the catalog or website for the curriculum. Random and periodic drug screenings may be required by some clinical affiliates. Refusal or failure of screening may result in dismissal from the program.

Qt: Will I be able to work while I participate in my clinical rotations?

A: The program is intensive and requires a great amount of study. The DMS curriculum level is a full time (40+ hours a week), day time program. There may be occasional evening courses as well. Therefore, most students find it difficult to work while in the second year of the program. If a student must work, we recommend working no more than 16 hours/week while in the curriculum DMS courses.

Qt: Who should I call if I have additional questions concerning the program or the acceptance process?

A: You may call the health division and make an appointment with any DMS program advisor or the program chair. They will be more than happy to advise you either in person, by phone or email. The health division may be reached at 513- 569-1670.

A:

Qt: What does a Sonographer do?

A: Sonographers are well versed in human anatomy and pathology and work closely with physicians and other health care providers. Sonographers are routinely involved in direct patient contact and deal with individuals ranging from healthy to critically ill. A successful sonographer is a knowledgeable, resourceful and caring individual who serves in the best interest of the patient. A sonographer must be committed to life-long learning to maintain competency, knowledge and expertise in a rapidly growing health care profession.

Qt: What is the salary range of an entry-level sonographer?

A: New graduates may earn approximately \$19.00 - \$22.00 per hour. This will vary dependent upon the geographic area.

Qt: Where can I obtain additional information on the DMS program and profession?

A: Additional information about the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program may be obtained at www.CincinnatiState.edu under the Health and Public Safety Division. Information about the profession may be found at our national society's websites: www.sdms.org, www.asecho.org, and www.svunet.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAM & WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE!