

# **DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY INFORMATION SESSION**

**TRINITY RIVER EAST CAMPUS**

**TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT**



# AGENDA FOR DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY INFORMATION SESSION

1. Introduction & Requirements for Patient Safety & Welfare
2. Application Period/Seats Available/Cost of Program
3. Competitiveness/Stats/Selection Notification
4. Eligibility and Required/Recommended Courses
5. Length of Program
6. FAQ

# INTRODUCTION TO DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

**Associate of Applied Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography**

## **Introduction**

Sonography equipment directs non-ionizing, high frequency sound waves into areas of a patient's body to collect reflected echoes that form an image. A physician interprets the image to diagnose a variety of diseases and conditions.

## **Career Opportunities**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of diagnostic medical sonographers, cardiovascular technologists and technicians, including vascular technologists, is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024. Most technologists gain employment in hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers, urgent care centers, and doctor offices.

## **Program Content**

The Sonography Program is a 22-month continuous program. There are seven prerequisite courses that must be completed before applying to the Sonography Program. The program covers content for both general and vascular concentrations. The general concentration includes abdomen, ob/gyn, and small parts. The program is a face-to-face program and consists of classroom and clinical instruction. Attendance in both classroom and clinical instruction is critical and is enforced.

## **Starting Salaries**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2015, the median hourly wage for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers is \$33.16 and the annual wage is \$68,970.

**WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?**

**[www.tccd.edu/sonography](http://www.tccd.edu/sonography)**

# PATIENT SAFETY AND WELFARE ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

**Visual acuity** (with corrective lenses if needed) to:

- Identify cyanosis
- Observe absence of respiratory movement in patients
- See adverse skin reactions to treatments
- Read physician's orders
- Read very fine print on medication containers
- Visualize displays on monitors and equipment
- Evaluate images for diagnostic quality
- Discern differences in color

**Hearing ability** (with auditory aids if needed) to:

- Understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face
- Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, equipment timers and alarms
- Take/hear blood pressure
- Detect differences in sounds, pitch and loudness

**Manual dexterity** to:

- Use aseptic and sterile techniques
- Prepare needles, syringes and contrast media
- Manipulate, film, cassettes and equipment
- Move arms and legs quickly
- Keep hand and arm steady while moving other arm to manipulate machine or patient
- Adjust controls of equipment quickly and repeatedly
- Coordinate 2 or more limbs while sitting or standing
- Move fingers and hands precisely to manipulate equipment and/or patient position
- Perform coordinated movements while sitting or standing

**Physical ability** to:

- Stand for prolonged periods of time
- Exert muscle force with endurance in performing repetitive movements
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Transfer patients and objects of 50 pounds or more
- Perform treatment procedures using two hands
- Push patients and pieces of equipment from room to room
- Maneuver in limited spaces

# SONOGRAPHY PROFESSION: DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

## **Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals:**

- Perform patient assessments
- Acquire and analyze data obtained using high frequency sound to evaluate the internal organs, structures and vasculature of the body
- 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.

## **Major Areas of Specialization**

- Abdominal and superficial structures
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Vascular
- Echocardiography-potential future offering

## **Students must:**

- Have critical thinking skills
- Must be able to think in 3-D

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

- TCC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- The TCC DMS program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

254000 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158

Clearwater, FL 33763

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)

# **APPLICATION PERIOD**

**November 1st through March 1st**

**For Fall Admission**

**Online Application (Print and Fill Out)**

**You can bring the application to an advisor for  
review**

**OR**

**Mail it in:**

**Attention: SONOGRAPHY APPLICATION**

**245 E. Belknap Street**

**Fort Worth, Texas 76102**

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM SEATS, COSTS, AND AVERAGE SALARY INFO

How many seats per  
application period?

The TCCD Sonography program currently accepts UP TO 12 students per application period. Those selected will begin classes in the Fall semester. This is a new program so we do not have information regarding how many students apply in a single application period at this time.

Program Cost

**\$5,363!**

This includes uniforms, books, tuition and other miscellaneous costs. How does this compare to other local A.A.S. Sonography programs?

Parker University (Dallas): approx. \$50,000

College of Healthcare Professions (CHCP): approx. \$39,500

Weatherford College: approx. \$8,000



# SELECTION NOTIFICATION: CANDIDATES AND SELECTION INTO PROGRAM

## **When Will I Be Notified?**

3 to 4 weeks after the application deadline, the top 25 candidates are selected for an interview.

## **Selection Into Program**

Acceptance Notification of the selected 12 applicants are sent within 10 days after the interviews

## **Alternates**

The remaining applicants within the Top 25 are designated as alternates.

It is important to remember that selection is based on how each applicant compares with others in the applicant pool for this program.

Applicants with higher GPA's, Hesi A2 scores and science grades... will be the most competitive.

The selection committee notifies all candidates by mail of their admission status (accepted, alternate, not accepted or incomplete). It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure the correct mailing address has been provided.

# ELIGIBILITY

## Must have a TCCD ID Number

- To be eligible to apply for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, the student must first be a current TCCD student. This means that the student has a TCCD student ID number and has already applied and been accepted to the college.
- Individuals that have not applied to the college may follow this link: [Apply For Admission](#) to begin the process.

## Transcript Evaluation

- ALL official transcripts from a college or university other than TCCD, must be received and evaluated by TCCD at the time of Application to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.
- First, submit your transcripts to the Transcript Office or your local Registrars office.
- This process can take up to two months, please keep this in mind.
- Also remember to include an official transcript with your application IF your evaluation has not yet been completed.

## TSI Requirements

- Meet TCCD's Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. For additional information on TSI requirements, Please visit: [TSI Requirements](#)

# ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED

## Prerequisite Science Courses

- The courses below, or equivalents, must have been completed within 5 years from time of application.
  - BIOL 2401
  - BIOL 2402
  - Please note that you must have a C or higher for these grades to be considered. Also you have a maximum of two attempts per course.
  - Please ALSO note that SCIT COURSES are not accepted replacements for the BIOL courses. We will not allow any exceptions.

## Immunizations/Screenings

- Please be aware that the TAC (Texas Administrative Code) and DFW Hospital Council Standards require that all students in health-related programs complete certain immunizations. These MUST be submitted with your application. They are currently as follows:

- ✓ HEPATITIS A&B
- ✓ MMR
- ✓ TDAP
- ✓ Varicella
- ✓ Influenza
- ✓ TB Skin Test

**\*Some of these immunizations take up to 6 months to complete (Hep A & B), it is best to get started NOW, or you cannot apply for the program.**

## Other Requirements

- Once accepted into the program, you will be required to complete a drug screen, keep CPR current (American Heart Association certified BLS for Healthcare Providers), and a criminal background check. If you have any criminal charges, you need to email me to discuss what you must do in order to find out whether or not you can apply for the program. Felony's, Assault, Domestic Violence and Drug Charges automatically bar you from eligibility.
- You will also need to renew your TB annually and Flu seasonally.

# PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED

**ALL DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY AND GENERAL  
EDUCATION COURSES MUST BE PASSED WITH A MINIMUM GRADE  
OF C**

You must have completed the following 7 prerequisite courses with a grade of C or higher before applying to our program.

- **Elective: Language, Philosophy and Culture or Creative Arts**
- **ENGL–1301 English Composition I**
- **MATH–1314 College Algebra**
- **PHYS–1401 General Physics **or** PHYS 1415**
- **PSYC–2301 Introduction to Psychology**
- **BIOL 2401 (Anatomy and Physiology I)**
- **BIOL 2402 (Anatomy and Physiology II)**

The **BIOL** courses, or approved equivalents, must have been completed within 5 years from the time of deadline. There are absolutely NO exceptions.

- Please note that the 7 prerequisite courses listed above, HESI A2 exam, immunizations and all TSI Requirements must be completed prior to application

# NEW PROGRAM CHANGES

## ALL APPLICANTS MUST NOW HAVE A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Not only will there be a minimum GPA of 2.5; you will also be required to take the HESI A2 test prior to application.

**What does the HESI A2 test cover:**

**Math**: Basic math skills; a 50 item exam that focuses on math skills needed for health care fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ration and proportion, household measures, and general math facts that are useful. Personal calculators are not permitted during this part of the test although there is a basic function calculator available within the test.

**Reading Comprehension**: A 47 item exam that includes reading scenarios that are health related. Provides reading scenarios in order to measure reading comprehension, including: identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, making logical inferences, etc.

**Vocabulary & General Knowledge**: A 50 item exam that contains vocabulary terms that are commonly used in both general English speaking settings and in health care fields.

**Grammar**: A 50 item exam that contains basic grammar including: parts of speech, important terms and their uses in grammar, and commonly occurring grammatical errors.

### **Other Information**

Please check the following link for more HESI A2 Information (registration, cost, test dates):

<https://www.tccd.edu/admission/testing-centers/hesi-a2/>

Results of test will be available immediately after completion ... the test is 4.5 hours long, most people finish in 2 hours.

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM SCHEDULE/LENGTH

## Course & Clinical Hours

Program courses and clinicals usually (tentatively) meet weekdays between 7am and 5pm. While in the program the potential exists for afternoon, evening and weekend clinical rotations.

## This is a Full-Time Program

Students need to be able to commit to a full-time schedule for six consecutive semester (2 YEARS). Part-time or evening learning options are not available. You can expect to attend 5 days per week in the Fall and Spring semesters and 4 days per week in the Summer semester.

# **DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM**

## **Coursework in the First Fall Semester**

DMSO 1110 Introduction to Sonography

DMSO 1441 Abdominopelvic Sonography

DMSO 1302 Basic Ultrasound Physics

DMSO 1266 Practicum: Diagnostic Medical

Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician

## **Coursework in the First Spring Semester**

DSVT 1103 Introduction to Vascular Technology

DMSO 2305 Sonography of Obstetrics/Gynecology

DMSO 2243 Advanced Ultrasound Physics

DMSO 1366 Practicum

# **DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM CONTINUED**

## **Coursework in the First Summer Semester**

DMSO 2253 Sonography of Superficial Structure

DMSO 2242 Sonography of High Risk Obstetrics

DMSO 1267 Practicum

## **Coursework in the Second Fall Semester**

DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology

DSVT 1300 Principles of Vascular Technology

DMSO 1367 Practicum

## **Coursework in the Second Spring Semester**

DSVT 2335 Advanced Vascular Technology

DMSO 2130 Advanced Ultrasound and Review (Capstone)

DSVT 1364 Practicum



# FAQ

**If you have any questions, please  
contact:**

**TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu**

**Program Director**

**jacqueline.bennett@tccd.edu**

**Administrative Assistant**

**brenda.mckeon@tccd.edu**



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