

**IMAGING SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS****Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program****Frequently Asked Questions**

- **When does the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program start and when is the deadline for applications?**
  - The program will begin on or near July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications will be accepted until February 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications that are not received or are not complete (this includes receipt of all required transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, etc.) by the February deadline will not be considered for the enrollment year.
- **What are the prerequisites for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?**
  - Please refer to the full admissions policies located on our website.
  - <https://wvumedicine.org/radtech/ultrasound/>
  - The college classes needed are:
    - a. Algebra, statistics, or higher mathematics course
    - b. General college-level physics and/or radiographic physics
    - c. Communication skills
    - d. Human anatomy and physiology
    - e. Medical Terminology
    - f. Patient Care (clinical experience and /or current job experience accepted)
- **Can I still be accepted without a physics course?**
  - No. Physics is a big part of how the ultrasound image is generated and sonographers use this knowledge to improve the image. Therefore, a basic knowledge of physics is essential.
- **What kind of physics course is required?**
  - Any college-level physics course.
- **Can the Diagnostic Medical Sonography courses be taken on-line?**
  - No, there are no online courses available in this program.
- **Can I attend part-time?**
  - No, due to the rigorous nature of this program, full-time attendance is mandatory.
- **Is this part of West Virginia University?**
  - No, all the imaging programs are sponsored by WVU Medicine, at the flagship hospital, Ruby Memorial.
- **What is the basic format of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?**

- It is an 18-month full-time program, five days a week, 7-8 hours per day, approximately 40 hours per week, post-secondary educational program consisting of didactic and clinical education.
- **What kind of degree will I receive when I graduate?**
  - You will receive a certificate of graduation from this program. The credits you earn in this program do transfer to a Board of Regents bachelor's degree at WVU.
- **Where and what are the clinical locations?**
  - Clinic rotations include outpatient general diagnostic ultrasound, inpatient general diagnostic ultrasound, vascular ultrasound, OB/GYN ultrasound, and pediatric ultrasound.
  - The clinic locations are WVU Medicine clinics and facilities as listed below:
    - Physician's office center
    - Ruby Memorial Hospital – vascular lab and inpatient general diagnostic ultrasound
    - Maternal fetal medicine
    - Children's hospital
    - Cheat lake OB/GYN
    - University town center OB/GYN
    - University town center ultrasound
- **When are students notified of their application status for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?**
  - Candidates are notified in the beginning of February (shortly after the application period closes) regarding whether they have been granted an interview. Interviews are scheduled in late February and candidates are notified whether they have been accepted by the first week of March.
- **If I'm not accepted this year, do I have to reapply next year?**
  - Yes, you must resubmit a new application if you wish to reapply for the next year. Application files are kept, so if you reapply within 1 year, you will not need to resubmit your ACT/SAT scores or your academic transcripts unless you have completed additional course work or retaken the ACT/SAT exam(s) during that time frame. You can also contact the Education Coordinator for additional suggestions if you feel inclined.
- **How does this type of education differ from other post-secondary education programs?**

Students enrolled in the Sonography program are expected to be mature, responsible adults that are willing to make a commitment to the Institution and the profession. This commitment is demonstrated by demanding high quality academic work, exceptional patient care /clinical skills, and good attendance. The first few months may seem difficult as the program does require a lot of the student's time and because

all of the information and experiences are new. It may seem like working and going to school because you are required to be in attendance for up to 8 hours on certain days and then you will find it necessary to spend additional time completing assignments and/or preparing for examinations. Students are responsible for simultaneously completing the didactic and clinical components of the program. Therefore, each student will have to dedicate a lot of time to his or her education.

A critical aspect of the student's education is the clinical component. Students are assigned to clinical rotations very early in the program; therefore, they will be immediately exposed to certain aspects of health care that may be unpleasant to the untrained individual. Students should expect to experience adult and pediatric patients with a variety of conditions such as fractures, severe deformities, malignancies, bleeding, and contagious diseases. In addition, students will be required to provide care regardless of the patient's sex, race, socioeconomic status, and/or physical condition. It is imperative that students respond in a mature, reassuring, and professional manner when providing healthcare to the patient population while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding the patient and their condition.

**Additional questions may be directed to:**

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