

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are the basic details of the program?**
 - Duration: 18 months
 - Schedule: Full-time (Mon-Fri)
 - Application deadline: February 1
 - Start date: First Monday in July
 - Graduation date: First Friday in December
- **Is this program affiliated or offered by West Virginia University?**
 - No, all the imaging programs are sponsored and located at WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial.
- **Are the courses offered in an online or hybrid option?**
 - No, there are no online courses or hybrid option available in this program. All classes are in-person.
- **Can clinicals be done somewhere other than Morgantown, WV?**
 - No, to ensure all students are exposed to the same type of exams and quality education all clinical rotations must be at our Morgantown area sites.
- **Can the prerequisite courses be completed through WVU Medicine Imaging Science Programs?**
 - No, this program is hospital-based sponsored by WVU Medicine and not affiliated with West Virginia University.
- **Do you accept international students?**
 - International students are considered for admission; however, West Virginia University Hospitals is **NOT** approved by the Department of Homeland Security to issue Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status". Therefore, we are unable to provide the documentation necessary for international students to obtain an F or M educational visa.
- **Is this program accredited?**
 - Yes, it has been accredited since 1987. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCEDMS).
- **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 I transfer into this program from another ultrasound program, college, or university?**
 - No. We are unable to accept transfer students.

- **Can I attend part-time?**
 - No, due to the rigorous nature of this program, full-time attendance is mandatory.

- **When does the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program start and when is the deadline for applications?**
 - The program will begin on or near July 1st of each year. Applications will be accepted until February 1st. Applications that are not received or incomplete (including 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/>
 - 500 Patient Care hours per calendar year. Hospital based experience is preferred. (clinical experience and /or current job experience accepted)
 - Job shadowing or volunteer hours will not be accepted.
 - The college classes required:
 - a. Algebra, statistics, or higher mathematics course
 - b. General college-level physics and/or radiographic physics
 - c. Communications
 - d. Human anatomy and physiology
 - e. Medical Terminology

- **How can I get the required patient care hours without additional education or training?**
 - There are many jobs offered at hospitals that involve patient care, and no additional schooling. Some examples offered at WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Hospital: Patient transport, Technical assistant in the radiology departments at Ruby Memorial and Children's Hospital, and EKG technician. The hours are limited to these positions or locations.

- **Can shadow, volunteer, or observation hours count for patient care?**
 - No, they cannot. To qualify applicants must have direct patient care experience. This can come from a job or clinicals associated with your degree.

- **What is the basic format of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?**
 - It is an 18-month full-time program, Monday - Friday, 7-8 hours per day, approximately 40 hours per week, post-secondary educational program. Part of the day spent in clinic and part of the day spent in class.

- **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 participating institutions in the state of West Virginia with minimal additional courses.

- **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
 - Maternal Fetal Medicine
 - Children's Hospital
 - Cheat Lake Physicians
 - University Town Center
 - Fairmont Gateway Clinic

- **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) 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.

- **Is financial aid available?**
 - Federal financial aid is not available, students are able to borrow from private lenders.

- **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 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.

- **Is WVU Medicine tuition reimbursement available for this program?**
 - West Virginia University Hospitals has participated in various employment programs that incentivize students with financial support in return for an employment commitment post-graduation. These programs are independent of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and offered strictly at the discretion of WVUH administration.

- **How does this type of education differ from other post-secondary education programs?**
 - Sonography education is more hands-on and structured than many traditional college programs. In addition to classroom learning, a large portion of your time is spent in clinical settings, where you apply what you've learned by working directly with patients under supervision.

Unlike programs that are primarily lecture-based with flexible schedules, this program follows a more rigorous, full-time schedule—similar to a job. Students are expected to attend classes and clinical rotations regularly, develop technical skills, and demonstrate professionalism in real healthcare environments.

Because of the combination of academic coursework and clinical training, students must balance studying with practical skill development. This makes the program more intensive, but it also better prepares graduates to confidently enter the workforce upon completion.

Additional questions may be directed to:

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