

## IMAGING SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can the courses be taken online?**
  - No, there are no online courses available in this program.
- **Can I attend clinical rotations at my local hospital?**
  - 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.
- **Is this part of West Virginia University?**
  - No, all the imaging programs are sponsored by WVU Medicine, at the flagship hospital, Ruby Memorial.
- **For 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.
- **Can I transfer into this program from another ultrasound program, college, or university?**
  - No. We are unable to accept transfer students.
- **What kind of physics course is required?**
  - Any college-level physics course.
- **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.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications will be accepted until February 1<sup>st</sup>. 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/>
  - The college classes required:
    - a. Algebra, statistics, or higher mathematics course
    - b. General college-level physics and/or radiographic physics (lab not required)
    - c. Communication skills
    - d. Human anatomy and physiology
    - e. Medical Terminology
    - f. Patient Care (clinical experience and /or current job experience accepted)
  
- **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 – vascular lab and inpatient general diagnostic ultrasound
    - Maternal Fetal Medicine – Children’s Hospital
    - Children’s Hospital
    - Cheat Lake OB/GYN and general ultrasound
    - University Town Center OB/GYN and radiology clinics
    - 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) 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.
  
- **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?**

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. During the program's initial months, students may find it challenging to balance their time as they will need to devote a lot of time to the course. The workload can feel like holding down a job while attending school, as students must be in class or clinic for up to eight hours on some days, in addition to completing assignments and studying for exams. It is important to note that students are responsible for both the theoretical and practical aspects of the program, so they will need to put in a lot of effort to succeed.

The clinical component is a crucial part of a student's education. Clinical rotations are assigned early in the program, exposing students to various aspects of healthcare that may be unpleasant for the untrained. They should expect to encounter adult and pediatric patients with a range of conditions, including fractures, severe deformities, malignancies, bleeding, and contagious diseases. Regardless of the patient's sex, race, socioeconomic status, or physical condition, students are required to provide care. It is essential for students to remain professional and reassuring while maintaining strict confidentiality about the patient and their condition.

**Additional questions may be directed to:**

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