

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

## Program Description

A diagnostic medical sonographer is qualified by professional credentials and academic and clinical experience to provide diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound. The scope of practice includes those procedures, acts, and processes permitted by law for which the individual has received education and clinical experience, demonstrated competency, and completed the appropriate credentialing, which is the standard of practice. Coursework includes using sonography relevant to gynecology, obstetrics, abdominal subjects, superficial structures, and vascular applications.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program was established in 1984. It is accredited by CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) in conjunction with the CoA Committee on Accreditation, known as the JRC-DMS (Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography).

After eighteen consecutive months of competency-based classroom, laboratory, and clinical preceptorship instruction, students receive the Certificate of Achievement and may choose to complete an Associate in Science degree option. Students are eligible to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) exams.

**Program Goals:** To prepare competent entry-level diagnostic medical sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the abdominal-extended and obstetrics and gynecology sonography concentrations.

Learn more about the program on the [Diagnostic Medical Sonography website](#).

## Program Learning Outcomes

The program's goals align with the institution's mission and focus on student learning outcomes (SLOs) that meet college and state requirements. These SLOs are integrated into the accreditation process, with each course having its own specific SLOs. The primary program learning outcomes (PLOs) include:

- Students demonstrate essential knowledge, technical skills, analytical skills, interpersonal skills, and diagnostic abilities within the scope of practice for diagnostic medical sonography.
- Students demonstrate essential knowledge and values related to professional demeanor, including the implementation of confidentiality and privacy in the practice of diagnostic medical sonography.

## Career Opportunities

Students typically pursue technical careers in the hospital, clinic, and office. With additional technical experience, career positions may include supervisory positions as travelers or independent contractors. Most management, corporate, and education positions require a baccalaureate or Master's degree in a related field.

## Award Type(s)

- AS = Associate in Science Degree
- CA = Certificate of Achievement

## Units Required

- Major: 115
- Certificate(s): 115

## Program Application

Admittance to this program is through an application process. Program information, admission criteria, and application to the program can be found on the [Diagnostic Medical Sonography program website](#).

## Program Prerequisites

Must be completed with a grade of "C" or better unless otherwise noted.

- High school diploma, GED, or equivalent.
- Successful completion of a two-year Allied Health Program with direct patient care experience such as Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Registered Nurse and/or bachelor degree from an accredited institution in the United States in a science/medically related discipline such as premed, registered nurse, or kinesiology with physical therapy assistance experience. Not all healthcare positions can or will provide the appropriate experiences. Please see the program website for more information.

Code	Title	Units
BIOL 40A & BIOL 40B & BIOL 40C	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I and HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II and HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY III <sup>1</sup>	15
	or a semester of Anatomy and a semester of Physiology with laboratories <sup>1</sup>	
PHYS 2A	GENERAL PHYSICS (or equivalent) <sup>1</sup>	5
	Intermediate Algebra or equivalent	5
ENGL 1A	COMPOSITION & READING	5
	or ENGL 1AH HONORS COMPOSITION & READING	
	or ESLL 26 ADVANCED COMPOSITION & READING	
	or equivalent	
AHS 52	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY (or equivalent)	4

<sup>1</sup> Must be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.5.

## Associate Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>English Proficiency</b>		
Select one of the following:		
ENGL 1A	COMPOSITION & READING	5
ENGL 1AH	HONORS COMPOSITION & READING	5
ESLL 26	ADVANCED COMPOSITION & READING	5
	or equivalent	
<b>Ethnic Studies</b>		
Any course in the ETHN (Ethnic Studies) subject code, currently approved for Area F of CSU GE and Area 7 of IGETC		
<b>Mathematics Proficiency</b>		

College-level math course at or above the level of Intermediate Algebra

A minimum of 90 units is required<sup>1</sup> to include:

- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: Foothill General Education, CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)
- Core courses (115 units)

<sup>1</sup> Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

**Note:** All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a grade of "C" or better is required for all core courses used for the degree or certificate.

## Core and Support Courses

### Core Courses

Course	Title	Units
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Quarter</b>		
DMS 50A	DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PRINCIPLES & PROTOCOLS	4
DMS 50B	SONOGRAPHY & PATIENT CARE	2
DMS 60A	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY I	2
DMS 72A	DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROCEDURES & APPLICATIONS	11.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>19.5</b>
<b>Winter Quarter</b>		
DMS 51A	SECTIONAL ANATOMY	3
DMS 53A	DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY I	2
DMS 54A	GYNECOLOGY	2
DMS 60B	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY II	2
DMS 70A	CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP I (32 hrs/wk for 13 wks)	11.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>20.5</b>
<b>Spring Quarter</b>		
DMS 52A	PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY I	2
DMS 53B	DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY II	2
DMS 54B	GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS	2
DMS 60C	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY III	2
DMS 70B	CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP II (32 hrs/wk for 12 wks)	10.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>18.5</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Summer Session</b>		
DMS 52B	PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY II	2
DMS 53C	DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY III	2
DMS 55A	OBSTETRICS I	2
DMS 60D	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY IV	2
DMS 70C	CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP III (32 hrs/wk for 11 wks)	9.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>17.5</b>
<b>Fall Quarter</b>		
DMS 55B	OBSTETRICS II	2
DMS 56A	VASCULAR SONOGRAPHY	3
DMS 60E	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY V	2
DMS 70D	CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP IV (32 hrs/wk for 13 wks)	11.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>18.5</b>

### Winter Quarter

DMS 52C	PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY III	2
DMS 56B	ADVANCED APPLICATIONS OF VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY	2
DMS 60F	CRITIQUE & PATHOLOGY VI	2
DMS 70E	CLINICAL PRECEPTORSHIP V (32 hrs/wk for 12 wks)	10.5
DMS 80A	ADVANCED SONOGRAPHIC PRINCIPLES	4
<b>Units</b>		<b>20.5</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>115</b>

## Certificate Requirements

### Certificate of Achievement in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Units: 115

The certificate of achievement is awarded upon completion of the core courses. General education courses are not required; however, the prerequisites and application requirements must be met.