

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Sonography Program Admission Packet

Contact Information:

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The Field of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Sonographers perform ultrasound exams by transmitting high frequency, non-ionizing sound waves into a patient's body and subsequently collect the reflected echoes to form an image. This image, which results from the reflection of sound from the body, is viewed on a screen and may be recorded for permanent record and used in interpretation and diagnosis by physicians. Specialties in sonography include abdomen, obstetrics/gynecology, neurosonology, breast, echocardiography, and vascular technology.

Sonographers also perform other tests and assist with some invasive procedures. There is some exposure to body fluids. Sonographers must understand and practice universal precautions and sterile technique. Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a direct patient care field. Sonographers interact with patients of all ages, levels of health, and backgrounds.

Diagnostic medical sonographers may work in hospitals, physicians' offices, diagnostic imaging centers, ambulatory care facilities, and mobile units as well as various other settings.

Some typical tasks in this career:

- Explain the procedures and prepare the patient for the exam.
- Perform sonograms and record normal anatomy and pathologic data for interpretation by the physician to formulate a diagnosis.
- Provide patient education on the diagnostic use of medical ultrasound.

The career outlook for this profession:

- Employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2014 (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Sonography/Radiologic Technician is listed among the Top 50 fastest growing occupations in Florida. (Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation).

Physical capabilities required for sonography:

- Two upper extremities that can function simultaneously. A sonographer must hold the transducer and manipulate the controls on the unit as well as have the ability to extend their extremities to reach the patient and the machine simultaneously.
- The ability to see the monitor screen accurately at approximately a three-foot distance in a dimly lit room.
- The ability to communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals.
- Details of additional physical requirements are outlined in the "Technical Standard" section in this packet.

Licensure/registry of sonographers:

- Sonographers are not licensed.
- Registry is optional at this time, but strongly recommended. The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) is the internationally accepted registry. A combination of tests must be passed to become a registered sonographer. Graduates of the sonography program at Pensacola State College have an overall pass rate of over 90%. The global average is approximately 63%.

Good sources for information about diagnostic medical sonography:

- Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) at www.sdms.org
- American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) at www.aium.org
- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) at www.ardms.org
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at www.bls.gov

Diagnostic Medical Sonography at Pensacola State College (A. A. S. Degree)

Mission Statement

The Program's mission is to prepare students to become competent allied health practitioners in diagnostic medical sonography. Didactic courses concentrate on sonography of the abdomen, superficial structures, obstetrics, gynecology, and sonographic physics and instrumentation. Patient care and other skills required of a general sonographer, including vascular studies performed by general sonography departments, are also covered. Laboratory and clinical courses are integrated into the program to practice and perfect scanning skills. Students earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree. Applicants who have successfully completed a single, two-year program in a patient care allied health field, or are enrolled in one, may be eligible for special admission requirements and exemption from many of the general education courses. Admission requirements are detailed under a separate section of this information packet.

The program has three main focuses: didactic education, clinical experience, and professionalism. These foci combine to produce professional sonographers. The goals of the program include graduating sonographers who: possess the qualities and skills necessary for employment in the health care system, are technically capable of performing entry level routine diagnostic medical sonographic examinations, and are academically prepared to sit for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The program is committed to the community by graduating sonographers prepared to provide quality health care, to the students by providing quality education, and to the field of sonography by maintaining the highest of professional standards.

There is one Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. A prior allied health degree is not required to enter the program. Admission criteria are detailed below. Students who have already successfully completed a single, two-year allied health education program that is patient care related and who wish to earn their sonography degree may articulate into the program. Their admission criteria are slightly different and detailed below. The general education portion of the program is designed to prepare the student for the sonography core curriculum. It is assumed that health care providers have covered this material to earn their health care degree; thus, they are not required to take the general education courses. All students are expected to have a good recall and working knowledge of all prior anatomy and physiology courses in order to be successful in this program.

Requirements for GENERAL admission: Associate of Applied Science SON-AAS

1. Application to the college.
2. Official high school diploma or equivalent received by the college.
3. All official transcripts received by the college.
4. Application to the program.
5. Minimum score of 55 on both the reading and math sections of the Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test (HOBET) (Additional information about testing is on the next page.)
6. Minimum grade of “C” in all of the following courses:
(Students may request course substitution by completing the appropriate form.)

Course	Title	Credits
BSC 1093	Anatomy & Physiology I	3
BSC 1093L	Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1
MAC 1105	College Algebra (Category IV)	3
PHY 1025	Intro to Fundamentals of Physics (Category V)	3
ENC 1101	English Comp I (Category I)	3
7. Minimum 2.5 GPA (after pre-requisite courses are completed).
8. Signed and submitted information/pre-orientation sheet. (The sheet is available at the end of this packet and at the Health Admissions Office.)

Applicants will not be considered for the program (no seat will be held) until **all** of the admission criteria are met.

Details regarding entrance testing requirements

- Applicants must achieve a minimum score of 55 on both the reading **AND** math sections of the Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test (HOBET).
- This test is offered by the testing departments of Pensacola State College on both the Warrington and Pensacola Campuses.
- Students make their own arrangements for testing.
- The current cost of the test is \$30 and must be paid prior to scheduling an appointment for testing. Payment is made at a college bursar’s office. The receipt is proof of payment.
- Pensacola Campus (484-1656) Warrington Campus (484-1076)
- This test may be taken at other locations, and the results transferred to Pensacola State College. Scores are valid for two years.
- Students may also be required to take a placement test (CPT) before registering for the pre-requisite courses. Those scores are not used for acceptance into the sonography program.

Health Professional Articulation Agreement

Applicants who have already successfully completed a single two-year allied health education program that is patient care related may articulate into the program. The program may be longer than two years, e.g. bachelor’s level, but **MUST** be in a patient care related field. Examples include: A.A.S. or A.S. radiography, A.A.S., A.S., or B.S. nursing. A degree of any level in biology, psychology, sociology etc. is not patient care related and does not qualify for this articulation. The degree used to qualify for this articulation agreement can **NOT** be this sonography program. Students enrolled in a qualifying program may apply before they graduate, but must successfully complete their program before entering the sonography program.

The articulation agreement allows these qualified candidates to enter the program at the sonography core curriculum and earn their sonography degree. These students do not need to repeat or substitute general education courses. They join the program beginning with the summer term of the first year. (The curriculum is detailed further in this packet.)

Changes to the general admission criteria include:

1. Submit proof of a qualifying allied health degree.
 2. Complete and return the Health Care Professional Supplemental Admission Form available at the end of this packet.
 3. No pre-requisite courses will be required.
 4. No entrance testing required (HOBET not required).
- All other requirements apply.

Evidence of current successful completion of HIV/AIDS and OSHA education will be required prior to the first clinical course. This is not a pre-requisite and should not be submitted with the application.

Admission Process for ALL students

- o The program accepts a new class once a year to begin each January with the spring term. (Health care professionals join the class in progress in May but are considered part of the class at all times.)
- o Class size is limited by available clinical space. The class size is usually 15 students.
- o Seats are assigned on a first qualified – first seated basis from the candidate list. This includes all A.A.S. applicants, whether or not they are health care professionals before this program.
- o When applicants successfully complete all the components of the application process, they become candidates and the date this process was completed becomes their placement number.

Candidates may elect to defer accepting their seats in the program for one year the first time a space is offered to them. If they do not accept their seats the next year, they will be dropped from the candidate list and will need to reapply to the program if they wish to be considered for a seat.

Requirements of all students to complete the program (not admission criteria)

- o Current certification in American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (CPR & AED) is required before the first clinical course and must be maintained through all clinical courses.
- o Students must pass a drug screen and federal background check. These will be completed the semester prior to the first clinical course. The cost is part of the course fee.
- o Students must pass a physical exam by a physician and meet the technical standard of the program. The physical must be completed the semester prior to the first clinical course. The form and instructions will be distributed at that time. Any costs involved are the student's responsibility. The technical standard is included in this packet.
- o Students will be required to meet the appearance and conduct standards for the program. Uniforms are required during the clinical rotations. The cost of the uniforms is the student's responsibility. Hair, jewelry, visible body art, and cosmetics are regulated as part of the uniform as well as the clothing worn. Special accommodations may be restricted in the clinical settings.
- o Students may not be employed outside of school past midnight on the nights before a clinical course.

Curriculum:

(Health care professionals join the class in progress in summer term of the first year.)

FIRST YEAR

<u>Term II (Spring semester)</u>		Credits
HSC 1590W	AIDS/OSHA/DV/ME*	1
BSC 1094	Anatomy & Physiology II (Lecture)	3
BSC 1094L	Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	1
----	Humanities/Fine Arts (Category II)	3
----	Social/Behavioral Sciences (Category III)	3
SON 1004C	Basic Sonographic Procedures	<u>4</u>
		15

Term III (Summer semester)

SON 1100C	Principles/Protocols of Sonographic Imaging	4
SON 1170	Sonography of the Circulatory System	<u>3</u>
		7

SECOND YEAR

Term I (Fall semester)

SON 1211	Medical Sonography Physics	3
SON 1111	Abdominal Sonography I	3
SON 1121	OB/GYN Sonography I	3
SON 1214	Practical Aspects of Sonography I	3
SON 1804	Sonography Clinic I	<u>3</u>
		15

Term II (Spring semester)

SON 1212	Medical Sonography Physics II	3
SON 1112	Abdominal Sonography II	3
SON 1122	OB/GYN Sonography II	3
SON 1215	Practical Aspects of Sonography II	3
SON 1814	Sonography Clinic II	<u>3</u>
		15

Term III (Summer semester)

SON 1144	Superficial Structures (Small Parts)	3
SON 1824C	Sonography Clinic III	<u>4</u>
		7

TOTAL CREDITS = 72

* This course contains dated material and should NOT be taken prior to assignment of a seat in the program.

This publication is to provide general career and program information and is not to be construed as a contract between the student and Pensacola State College. The student is encouraged to work closely with counselors and the department to verify the appropriateness of courses before registration. The sequence of courses required may change. Graduation requirements will be based on the sequence of courses when the student is assigned a seat in the core curriculum.

- Once assigned a seat in the program, classes must be taken as sequenced.
- The sonography program is a full-time program. Some of the courses in the first semester may have been taken prior to accepting a seat in the program which would make that semester part time.
- Students must be available for daytime classes Monday through Friday for the last three semesters of the program.
- There is the possibility of some early evening clinical assignments.
- Refer to the information sheet for additional details regarding class and clinic time requirements.

Estimated cost of the sonography program:

Tuition is by credit hour. A.A.S. = 72 college credits

	Per Credit	Total Fee
○ In-state	\$ 98.05	\$ 7,059.60
○ Alabama resident	99.05	7,131.60
○ Non-Florida Resident	369.58	26,609.76

(Fees based on 2010-2011 catalog)

Tuition rates are subject to change. Contact Registrar's office for current costs.

Additional expenses (approximate):

Books	\$ 800
Clinic and Lab Fees	\$ 175
Uniforms and Equipment	\$ 250
CPR certification	\$ 45

Expected expenses that cannot be approximated:

Transportation to clinical sites
Immunizations and Physical

Fees may vary and are subject to change

Financial aid:

Students requiring financial assistance are directed to the Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs (OFA & VA) (850) 484-2349 for information on numerous grants and scholarships available. Short-term loans are available at registration. Students needing assistance for an education are encouraged to seek every avenue of financial aid available for that purpose. Financial counseling, as well as help with the application process, is available. Students needing financial assistance must contact the Financial Aid offices as soon as the need is determined.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
Pensacola State College

Technical Standards

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is considered a strenuous profession. The student must be able to perform the following technical standards to be safe and successful in the program.

- Visual acuity to discern sonographic detail and colors on a video monitor and/or film at a distance of approximately three feet in a semi-dark setting
- Sufficient motor skills to be able to respond to medical emergencies
- Sufficient motor skills to manipulate sonographic equipment
These motor skills may include, but are not limited to the ability to perform the following:
 - extend the hands and arms in any direction and in different directions simultaneously
 - work with arms extended in different directions for periods up to one hour with minimal breaks
 - seize, hold, grasp, turn and otherwise work with both hands simultaneously
 - pick, punch or otherwise work fingers with dexterity
 - push and pull equipment routinely
 - reach object at different heights routinely, from floor level to overhead
 - sit or stand for periods of time up to one hour
- Transfer and assist in lifting patients to and from the exam table safely, without injury to patient, self, or other health care workers
- Communicate sufficiently to be able to respond to patient needs and interact with patients while performing the duties of a sonographer
- Verbal and written skills necessary to respond effectively in communication with patients, co-workers, and physicians
- Function competently and remain calm and professional
 - with diverse patient populations
 - in emotionally charged situations
 - during medical procedures
 - dealing with body fluids (blood, urine, emesis, amniotic fluid, etc.)
 - in emergency situations
- Ability to withstand a physically and emotionally taxing workload

Note: A physical workload of 50 pounds is often required by employers

Student Checklist for **GENERAL** (students with no prior health care degree).
(Student worksheet only. Do not submit.)

Date completed:

_____ Complete and submit the Pensacola State College Application (\$30) for general admission. (1)

_____ Complete the Florida Residency Affidavit (if applicable). (1)

_____ Request high school transcripts (Must be received by the college for application to be complete). (1)

_____ Request all college transcripts (Must be received by the college for application to be complete). (1)

_____ Minimum accumulative grade point average of 2.5 after pre-requisite courses are completed.

_____ Complete the health-related program application and submit to the Health Programs Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus. Mail, hand deliver, or fax. Details on form. (2)

_____ Print, read, sign, and return the information/pre-orientation sheet available at the end of this packet to the Health Programs Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus. Mail, hand deliver, or fax. Details on form. (2)

Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test (HOBET) (3)

_____ Reading Comprehension (Minimum score of 55)

_____ Essential Math Skills (Minimum score of 55)

Prerequisite Courses: Minimum grade of "C":

_____ BSC 1093 A&P I (3 credits)

_____ BSC 1093L A&P I lab (1 credits)

_____ MAC 1105 Algebra (3 credits)

_____ PHY 1025 Intro to Physics (3 credits)

_____ ENC 1101 English Comp or LIN 1670C Traditional English Grammar & Composition (3 credits)

Do NOT send any admission paperwork directly to the Sonography Program or Allied Health Department.

(1) Forms and/or assistance with general college requirements is available on line or from general admissions on any campus.

(2) Forms and/or assistance with the health-related program requirements is available on line or from the Health Admissions Office at 484-2210.

(3) Questions about and arrangements for testing should be directed to the testing center on the Pensacola Campus (484-1656) or Warrington Campus (484-1076).

Student Checklist for qualified **ARTICULATION** students.
(Student worksheet only. Do not submit.)

Date completed:

- _____ Complete and submit the Pensacola State college Application (\$30) for general admission. (1)
- _____ Complete the Florida Residency Affidavit (if applicable). (1)
- _____ Request high school transcripts (Must be received by the college for application to be complete). (1)
- _____ Request all college transcripts (Must be received by the college for application to be complete). (1)
- _____ Minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- _____ Complete the health-related program application and submit to the Health Programs Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus. Mail, hand deliver, or fax. Details on form. (2)
- _____ Print, read, sign, and return the information/pre-orientation sheet available at the end of this packet to the Health Programs Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus. Mail, hand deliver, or fax. Details on form. (2)
- _____ Print, complete and return the Health Care Professional Supplemental Admission Form (Articulation Qualification) with attached proof of graduation or current enrollment in an allied health program to: Sonography Program, Pensacola State College Warrington Campus, 5555 West Highway 98, Pensacola, FL 32507 or deliver to the Allied Health Department, Bldg. 3100, Room 3170, Warrington Campus.

Do NOT send paperwork other than the articulation qualification form directly to the Sonography Program or Allied Health Department.

- (1) Forms and/or assistance with general college requirements is available on line or from general admissions on any campus.
- (2) Forms and/or assistance with the health-related program requirements is available on line or from the Health Admissions Office at 484-2210.

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
Health Care Professional Supplemental Admission Form**

Name _____ Student # _____
(Print)

Title of qualifying single, two-year patient-care related allied health education program

e.g., A.A.S. radiography, A.A.S. registered nurse, B.S. registered nurse

(This Sonography program does NOT qualify!)

(Applicants who are currently enrolled in a qualifying program may be required to furnish proof of continuing attendance and will be required to furnish proof of completion of their program.)

School granting degree

Address of school

Telephone number of school

Attach proof of graduation or current enrollment

Signature of Student _____

Date _____

Send completed form with attached proof of graduation/current enrollment in an allied health program to Sonography Program, Pensacola State College Warrington Campus, 5555 West Highway 98, Pensacola, FL 32507 or hand deliver to the Allied Health Department, Bldg. 3100, Room 3170, Warrington Campus.

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

TO: REGISTRAR

Name of High School, College, or University

Address of School

City

State

Zip Code

Please forward an official transcript of my academic work:

_____ College transcript

_____ High School Record (showing graduation date or date of withdrawal)

_____ General Education Development Test Scores (GED)

_____ Transient Student Form/Letter of Good Standing (for non-degree transient students)

Mail transcript to:

**Admissions Office:
Pensacola State College
1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504-8998**

The following information is furnished to assist you in locating my records:

Name: _____

Name used when attending the institution above: _____

Birth Date: _____ Student Number: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Current Address: _____

City

State

Zip Code

If there is a fee for this service, please bill me at the address above.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Information/Pre-orientation Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

This information sheet is designed to inform potential students of the rigorous requirements of the program. Please read, sign, and return all pages of this information packet (initial pages with no signature) to the Health Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus. This packet will serve as a pre-orientation and is a requirement for acceptance to the Sonography Program. Questions about the program can be directed to Liesa Bromet, Sonography Program Director, at (850) 484-2251 lbromet@pensacolastate.edu. Questions about the college or admissions can be directed to Sarah Lewis in the Health Programs Admissions Office at (850) 484-2210 healthprograms@pensacolastate.edu or Brenda Brantley in the Allied Health Department at 484-2250.

The Pensacola State College Sonography Program is a two year, 72 college credit (including prerequisites) Associates of Applied Science program. Students who have completed a single, two year patient care allied health program prior to the sonography program may not be required to complete all of the admission requirements or courses in the program. This is detailed in the program admission packet. Students with prior college credits, but who do not have a health care degree, may transfer credits if applicable, but are not eligible for the same exemptions as health care providers.

Enrollment into the sonography core curriculum is limited. After successfully completing the admission requirements the applicant becomes a candidate. Seats in the program are offered to candidates in a first qualified, first placed order using the date the student became a candidate.

Once students are assigned a seat in the program, courses must be taken as sequenced. The program cannot be taken part time. The second year of the program meets 36 hours per week. Most days are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, but some students may be assigned a clinical site ending as late as 8:00 pm.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is an intense area of study. The academic requirements should not be taken lightly. All courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C to progress to the next semester.

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions and clinical rotations. Tardiness and leaving class early are considered partial absences. Students must make up time lost beyond the maximum absences allowed. Excessive absences may result in the student's being withdrawn from the program.

Students will be assigned to a clinical site for each semester. Some students may be assigned to more than one clinical site during a semester. Assignment of clinical sites is made by the program faculty to best utilize the clinical resources and provide an equitable education to all students. Students do NOT select their clinical sites. Personal needs and preferences of the student are NOT the basis for clinical assignment.

Clinical sites assigned during the second year of the program will require the student to have independent, reliable transportation. Assignments may be up to a two hour drive from Pensacola, Florida. Transportation to the clinical site assigned is the student's responsibility.

Students must successfully complete a health form, have current immunizations, and meet the technical standard prior to clinical assignment. Any costs for the medical form, tests required, or immunizations are the student's responsibility. The school has contracted with a local facility to provide these services at a reasonable cost and will attempt to continue this arrangement.

student's initials

All students will be required to pass a drug screen and background check prior to attendance at a clinical education site. Students with a criminal record may be restricted from attending some clinical sites and may have difficulty or be denied eligibility to sit for a registry. The Allied Health Department Head, Dr. Steve Bannow, is available to discuss issues and questions in this area. Registry bodies are independent from the school. It is the student's responsibility to determine his or her eligibility to sit for a registry.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is considered a strenuous profession. A technical standard must be met for the student to be successful in the profession. Every effort will be made to accommodate students with different abilities and needs, but all accommodations necessary for student success may not be available in all clinical settings. The technical standard is included in the information packet and also available in the department or program offices.

Uniforms are required during the clinical rotations. The costs of the uniforms are the students' responsibility. Hair, jewelry, visible body art, cosmetics and the uniform worn are regulated. There is very little flexibility in these regulations. Applicants with questions or concerns about the appearance rules should contact the Sonography Program Director, Liesa Bromet.

At this time, the Sonography Program is not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in conjunction with the Joint Review Committee in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The program is actively seeking this accreditation.

The program encourages students to sit for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). All students should be eligible to sit for the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation part of the registry after successfully completing the sonography physics courses. Some students will be required to obtain additional hours of experience in the field of sonography to qualify for the specialty examinations. Requirements of the ARDMS can be found on their website at www.ardms.org.

Current program policies and handbooks are available in the program office.

The college may need to contact you. It is your responsibility to keep your contact information current with the school. If we cannot reach you by telephone or mail, you will be dropped from the eligible candidate list. Any changes necessary must be made with the Student Affairs Office on any campus. You can also complete any changes online through Spyglass. Please do not call the department or program to make changes for you.

This information sheet is NOT a contract. The requirements of the program and processes may be altered by the college or program. You will be held to the requirements and processes which are current when you are actively participating in the program.

Name (Print)

Date

I have read and understand the information sheet regarding the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Pensacola State College.

Signature

Return this form to the Health Program Admissions Office at 5555 West Highway 98, Pensacola, FL 32507 or fax to (850) 484-2375.