

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

Information on requirements, forms, and deadlines for applications are available on our website at <https://dacc.nmsu.edu/dms/>. You can also find information at the Health Sciences Division Office (room DAHL 190), or by calling (575) 528-7015.

## Associate of Applied Science Degree

### Certificate of Completion

The Doña Ana Community College Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) 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 (JRC-DMS). *The program's assessment and outcome report can be found on our website (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/dms/>) under the "Program Outcomes" link.*

Sonography is an allied health specialty that uses high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to image many structures in the body. Sonographers function as members of the healthcare team by providing and evaluating high quality images that aid physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of their patients. Sonographers are highly motivated, independent, critical thinkers who enjoy one-on-one patient interaction.

Employment opportunities are available in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, physicians' offices, and veterinarian practices. There are also opportunities in sales, education, management, research, marketing, and product development. Because job prospects in the Las Cruces–El Paso area occasionally are limited, it may be necessary to conduct a wider job search.

Training involves a combination of academic courses and a clinical internship in the ultrasound department of area hospitals and clinics where students will gain hands-on training under the supervision of registered diagnostic medical sonographers and will work alongside physicians and other health-care professionals. Coursework covers abdominal and OB-Gyn ultrasound, pediatric sonography, acoustic physics and instrumentation, and introductory vascular technology. Students will participate in lab activities and learn to write case reports and journal article reviews. The clinical sites include facilities in Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Ruidoso, and Silver City, New Mexico, as well as El Paso, Texas.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program offers a certificate track for students who already possess an associate degree in a medically related, allied healthcare program or a bachelor's degree in a related field. The associate degree track is designed for those who do not meet the entrance requirements for the certificate-track program. Once accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program the curriculum for certificate and associate degree pathways is identical.

Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program are required to complete and pass a variety of background/screening measures that include a security background check, FBI fingerprinting and drug screening, in order to participate in the clinical education portion of the program. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the program and gaining employment in the field.

Students who satisfy program requirements are qualified to apply for national certification examinations in the specialty areas of Abdominal and OB/GYN Sonography. These examinations are administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and/or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Licensing requirements vary by state; New Mexico requires sonographers to obtain a state license. Continuing education beyond graduation is required to maintain credentials earned by the ARDMS and ARRT; and for maintaining state license in New Mexico.

## Required Physical and Cognitive Skills

Sonography students must be able to do the following:

1. Read, write and communicate effectively in English.
2. Possess emotional and physical health sufficient to meet the demands of the profession.
3. Position, move, and lift patients in wheelchairs and stretchers.
4. Maintain prolonged arm positions necessary for scanning.
5. Position and move ultrasound equipment on wheels (up to 500 lbs.)
6. Effectively operate sonographic equipment.
7. Evaluate sonograms, acquiring appropriate diagnostic information.
8. Integrate diagnostic sonograms, laboratory results, patient histories and medical records, and adapt sonographic examinations as necessary.
9. Use independent judgment to acquire the optimal diagnostic sonographic information in each examination performed.
10. Evaluate, synthesize, and communicate diagnostic information to be used by the attending physician.
11. Communicate effectively with the patient and healthcare team, recognizing the special nature of sonographic exams and patients' needs.
12. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public and healthcare team.
13. Follow established departmental procedures.
14. Work efficiently and cope with emergency situations.

*Reasonable accommodations may be available through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office. Please contact the Program Director for more information.*

## Special Admissions Criteria- Associate Degree

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) is a limited-entry program admitting students in the spring semester only. Prior to applying to the program, students will have taken all program Core and Related Requirements. The following items are among the criteria considered in the selection of program applicants:

- Completion of program orientation
- Minimum overall college GPA 3.0
- GPA in Core and Related Requirements courses
- County of residence
- Completion of bonus point courses
- Prior healthcare experience

A complete description is available on the DMS program website (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/dms/>).

## Special Admissions Criteria- Certificate of Completion

This is a limited-entry program accepting students only in the spring semester. Criteria and factors used in evaluating applicants include the following:

- Completion of either
  - (a) an associate degree in an allied health program which is medically related and involves human-patient care (proof of current certification in ones' allied health area is required), OR
  - (b) a bachelor's degree in a related field that includes at least one semester of anatomy & physiology.
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- College-level course in algebra (MATH 1220G College Algebra or equivalent)
- College-level course in general physics or introductory physics for the health sciences or radiographic physics or equivalent.

## Course Fees

In addition to tuition, a fee of \$200 is charged for each of the following courses: DMS 170, DMS 180, DMS 270, DMS 280.

Prefix	Title	Credits
DMS 170	Clinical Practicum I	1
DMS 180	Clinical Practicum II	4
DMS 270	Clinical Practicum III	3
DMS 280	Clinical Practicum IV	5