



Gulf Coast Community College

5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, Florida 32401-1058

(850) 769-1551

HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Gulf Coast Community College. Enclosed is the application packet you requested. It includes information you will need to read, and forms you must complete to begin the application process.

You will also find enclosed a checklist which gives you information on how to proceed, and the steps you will need to take in order to be considered for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Beginning in January 2009, the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will be a 24-month program, with the application deadline of October 15th every year. Applications will be considered after the deadline provided space is available.

Please review the application for prerequisite requirements for each start date. If you should have any questions or concerns after reviewing the enclosed material, please contact us by means of the information given below.

Good luck with your educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

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Gulf Coast Community College

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Application Packet

Diagnostic Medical Sonography, one of the more recent specialties in diagnostic medicine, uses a high frequency sound wave similar to sonar in a submarine. The reflected echoes from the body tissues are displayed as two-dimensional images on a video monitor. Some of the medical problems that may be diagnosed with diagnostic medical sonography include gallstones, heart disease, blood vessel obstruction and fetal abnormalities. The technologist who performs the examination is called a sonographer. Examples of qualities desirable in sonographers are thoroughness, accuracy and empathy. They should be congenial, versatile, mildly assertive, and ambitious. Sonographers work under the supervision of a licensed physician who has specialized in one or more specialty areas of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

The sonographer is responsible for recordkeeping, reviewing and/or recording the pertinent clinical patient history, performing the sonographic examination, providing for the comforts and needs of the patient during the examination and recording the anatomic, pathologic and/or physiologic data for interpretation by the supervising physician.

ADMISSIONS

There are two Sonography tracks available.

The **Associate Degree track** is for those students who have not already completed programs in certain allied health fields. (This track does not require applicants to have previous medical training.)

The **Certificate track** is for those who have completed, or are about to complete, certain two-year allied health programs. Recommended areas of study include, but are not limited to, radiography, respiratory therapy, nuclear medicine technology, or nursing. Health practitioners in other specialties should contact the Program Director regarding eligibility for the certificate track.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance is critical to successfully complete any of the Health Sciences programs. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, complete examinations, and complete all assigned clinical rotations.

- You must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above in each course.
- You must exhibit professional and ethical conduct at all times.

Applicants who are most competitive:

- Have completed the general education required courses
- Have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 (4.0-point scale), including courses in math and sciences
- Advanced degree (BS, BA, MS, etc.) in certain allied health fields dealing with patient care
- Have documentation of experience observing sonographic procedures, volunteer or work.
- Have submitted 3 letters of recommendation from professionals within the medical community
- Demonstrate genuine interest in the field of Sonography

Application deadline is October 15th of every year.

Applications will be considered after the deadline provided space is available.

Please follow these program prerequisites and general education requirements for the application submission.

Required Prerequisites

BSC 2085 Human Anatomy/Physiology I	ENC 1101 English Composition
BSC 2085L Human Anatomy/Physiology I Lab	MAT 1033 or higher
PHY 1007, RTE 1613 or Approved Physics Course	

General Education Requirements

These classes must be successfully completed prior to graduation, however, students are **strongly encouraged** to take these classes **prior** to entering the program.

PSY 2012 General Psychology	<u>OR</u>	Humanities I, II, or III
SYG 2000 Principles of Sociology		
OST 1257 Medical Terminology		

Sonography Program Curriculum

<u>Spring 2009</u>		<u>Spring 2010</u>	
SON 1000C	Intro to Sonography	SON 1112	Abdominal Sono II
SON 1170	Sono Circulatory System	SON 1122	OB/GYN Sonography II
SON 2113	Cross Sect. Anatomy	SON 1814	Clinical Education II
		SON 2175	Vascular Sonography
<u>Summer 2009</u>		<u>Summer 2010</u>	
SON 1211	Sonography Physics	SON 1052C	Sonographic Pathology
SON 1100C	Principles / Protocols	SON 1144	Superficial Structures
		SON 1824	Clinical Education III
<u>Fall 2009</u>		<u>Fall 2010</u>	
SON 1111	Abdominal Sonography I	SON 2834	Clinical Education IV
SON 1121	OB/GYN Sonography I		
SON 1804	Clinical Education 1		
SON 2171C	Intro to Vascular Sono		

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

ADMISSION CHECKLIST

1. _____ **APPLY FOR GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE.** Applications are available at the Office of Admissions and Records and online at www.gulfcoast.edu .
2. _____ **SUBMIT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS.** Applicant must request official transcripts from high school or GED (scores required) and all colleges attended be sent to the Office of Admissions and Records. Transcripts must be received and evaluated by the Office of Admissions prior to the admission deadline date.

Note: If you are enrolled in classes at another institution that will not be completed prior to the deadline and you want these uncompleted classes to be considered in selection, you must submit documentation of enrollment to the Division of Health Sciences prior to the deadline.

3. _____ **TRANSFER TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE EVALUATED.** All college credits granted by another institution must be evaluated by Gulf Coast Community College Office of Admissions and Records prior to admission deadline date.
4. _____ **SUBMIT A COMPLETED SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM APPLICATION (including the Technical Standards form and Letter of Intent)** to the Administrative Office of Health Sciences Division. The application deadline is October 15th of each year. Applications will be considered after this date provided space is available. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their folder is **complete** prior to the deadline. Applications are also available online at <http://radiography.gulfcoast.edu/sonography.htm> .

5. _____ **DEMONSTRATE COLLEGE LEVEL COMPETENCY IN READING, ENGLISH, AND ALGEBRA.** Students **MUST** demonstrate college level competency using the computerized placement test (CPT) with the minimum scores indicated below **OR** have completed the required course with a “C” or better.

English and Reading CPT score of 83 **or** a “C” in ENC 1101.

Algebra CPT of 72 **or** a “C” in MAT 1033 or higher level of math.

6. _____ **COPY OF HEALTH SCIENCE LICENSE (if applicable).**

7. _____ **DEMONSTRATE A CUMULATIVE 2.5 GPA.**

8. _____ **COMPLETE THE FOLLOW PREREQUISITES:**

BSC 2085 Human Anatomy/Physiology I

BSC 2085L Human Anatomy/Phys. I Lab

PHY 1007, RTE 1613, or Approved Physics Course

MAT 1033 or higher

ENC 1101 English

How Sonography Students are Selected

Step One: Applications are separated into two categories; those that meet minimum requirements and those that do not.

Step Two: Transcripts, GPA, and competencies of those who meet minimum requirements are evaluated.

Step Three: Applicants with the highest composite admission scores will be offered conditional acceptance into the program, pending receipt of physical/vaccination records, CPR, and satisfactory fingerprint /criminal background check (at student's expense). Fingerprint/criminal background check MUST be done through Gulf Coast Community College. Conditionally accepted applicants will be notified by mail.

Gulf Coast Community College is an equal opportunity, equal access institution which does not discriminate with respect to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or marital status in the admission, or access to, or treatment, or employment in its programs and activities.

Requirements after Conditional Acceptance

1) Physical examination with immunizations for the protection of patients, students and employees, and in compliance with state regulations, this program requires you to be properly immunized. You must show proof of the following immunizations:

- Tuberculin test in the past 12 months
- Varicella, rubella, and rubeola immunity
- Up-to-date diphtheria and tetanus shots
- Hepatitis B vaccination or signed declination

Documentation of vaccinations must be provided to the Program Director prior to the start of class.

2) Submit current CPR certification for Health Care Providers and maintain current certification throughout the program.

3) Complete a satisfactory fingerprinting and background check. Students must pass a criminal background check, fingerprinting, and possibly a drug screening test if required at certain clinical sites, prior to the start of classes.

Fingerprinting/criminal background check MUST be done through Gulf Coast Community College at the student's expense.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PAST

Applicants to the Sonography Program in the Health Science Division of Gulf Coast Community College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our program makes every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. However, in addition to meeting basic entry requirements, applicants must also consider how their personal history may affect their ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.

Some of our Health Science Programs will require students to visit certain clinical sites that may require background checks in order for students to work with their patients. Students who cannot produce a favorable background check may not be able to meet their program's clinical obligations, which would jeopardize their ability to successfully complete that program.

Students who graduate from our programs must also pass licensure exams in order to be employable. The various entities that provide testing and licenses for Health Professionals, oftentimes, require background checks prior to sitting for the exams and applying for licensure. It is possible to successfully graduate from a health science program but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check.

Employers of licensed health professionals can also have a variety of requirements that must be met prior to the granting of employment. These can include background checks, of varying depths, and/or drug screenings. It is possible to graduate from a program and obtain the health professional license, but be denied some employment options due to an unfavorable background check or drug screen.

We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision concerning making application to one of our programs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some typical tasks in this career?** Education and preparation of the patient for diagnostic use of ultrasound; perform sonograms and record anatomy and pathologic data for interpretation by the physician; analyze and present diagnostic data for use in interpretation and diagnosis by the physician; and work in hospitals, physicians' offices, diagnostic imaging centers, ambulatory care facilities, and mobile units as well as other settings.
- 2. What is the Associate Degree Track?** The Associate Degree track is for students who have not already completed programs in certain allied health fields.
- 3. What is the Certificate Track?** The certificate track requires a prerequisite of an associate level degree in an allied health field that is patient care related.
- 4. What are the entrance requirements for the certificate track?** Associate degree in an allied health field that is patient care related; current in CPR, AIDS, and OSHA; a completed application returned to the program including Technical Standards form and Letter of Intent; all prerequisites; and demonstrate appropriate college level competencies.
- 5. What is available beyond graduation?** With additional training and experience, sonographers may become specialists in other areas of ultrasound.
- 6. What is the career outlook for this profession?** Sonography is listed among the top 50 fastest growing occupations in Florida. (Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation.)
- 7. How many students are selected for the program?** Each class will consist of 12 students.
- 8. What is the cost of the Program?** In-state tuition is \$5,400 (2008-2009 academic year); out-of-state tuition is \$19,061 (2008-2009 academic year). This does not include cost of books and uniforms. Tuition costs are subject to change with each academic year.
- 9. What should I do if I am not accepted into the program?** If you wish to be considered for the next class, your application will be retained in the program application pool, provided you returned our Acceptance Indicator form that would have been mailed to you.
- 10. What are the hours of the program?** This program requires that you attend classes throughout the day. Between the classes and clinic, you will attend 4-5 days a week.
- 11. Can I complete this program on a part-time basis?** No. Due to the progressive building of the educational and clinical aspects of the program, all courses must be completed in a certain sequence because they are only offered once a year.
- 12. Can I work while I am a student in the program?** Employment is not encouraged, but you might be able to work minimally. Students must earn a minimum grade 75 (or "C") to continue in the program.
- 13. Do you assist with job placement after graduation?** GCCC has a job placement assistance program available.
- 14. Do I need to take a test after graduation?** The students are prepared to take the registry exams from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist or the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Students may sit for the ARRT exam immediately following graduation, but students may not sit for the ARDMS registry until 12 months after graduation. There is an exam for each specialty, as well as a Physics exam.
- 15. How much is an annual salary for graduates of this program in this area?** Entry-level graduates may expect to earn \$17-\$22 per hour. Benefits and overtime are determined by the individual employer.

**GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION
5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401-1058
(850) 872-3827 or 913-3311
(850) 747-3246 - FAX
1-800-311-3685**

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM APPLICATION

Please check one: **CERTIFICATE TRACK** or **ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN APPLIED SCIENCE**
Answer all questions - please TYPE or PRINT (use black ink).

Name _____
First
Middle
Last
Maiden Name

Male Female Social Security Number _____

Home Address _____
No. and Street
City
State
County
Zip

Permanent Address (if different from above) _____

Home Phone: Area Code: (____) _____ Cell Phone: Area Code (____) _____

Business Phone: Area Code: (____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____

EDUCATION

*Official Transcript(s) MUST BE RECEIVED by the Office of Admissions and Records.
ALL schools and colleges attended must be listed for the application to be complete.*

Name of School	Location of School	From Month/Year	To Month/Year	Did you Receive Diploma? Degree? Certificate?	What was your Major/Minor?
High School or GED:					
Technical Program:					
College or University:					
College or University:					

	Type	Issued by which State or Agency	License No.	Date
Professional Licenses or Certifications	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Technical Standards Form

The sonographer is responsible for recordkeeping, reviewing and/or recording the pertinent clinical patient history, performing the sonographic examination, providing for the comforts and needs of the patient during the examination and recording the anatomic, pathologic and/or physiologic data for interpretation by the supervising physician.

Special Qualifications

In addition to minimum requirements regarding reading and math skills, the student must:

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and interpret written material, unassisted
- Follow written instructions, unassisted
- Synthesize information from written material and apply the knowledge to various situations, unassisted

Communication Skills

The student must demonstrate:

- Ability to interact and verbally communicate with others
- Knowledge of basic written, grammar, and spelling skills
- Communicate effectively with staff and patients
- Accurately perform the sequential steps in Sonography examinations

Psychomotor Skills

- Vision - normal, corrected
- Hearing - normal, corrected or hearing aid
- Touch - average tactile sensitivity
- Critical thinking skills
- Sound judgment
- Emotional stability and maturity
- Empathy for others
- Physical and mental stamina
- Ability to learn and function in a variety of settings

Physical Endurance

Students must be able to:

- Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
- Lift 150 pounds, with assistance
- Manage a 200 pound patient, unassisted
- Assist patients on and off examining tables
- Push and pull routinely
- Kneel or squat routinely
- Have full use of both hands and wrists
- Adequately view images, including color distinctions
- Distinguish audible Doppler signals
- Work standing up 80 percent of the time
- Work for three hours without a break

You must be able to perform the essential functions of the profession and meet the standards of the curriculum. To seek exceptions to these standards or reasonable accommodations, you should initiate a request with the Program Director.

I have read the above and feel that it is within my ability to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of a Sonographer.

Signature

Date

LETTER OF INTENT

In the space provided, please elaborate on your interest in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and how these interests developed, as well as why you want to become a Sonographer.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____