

# SPOKANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Health and Environmental Science Division



# Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

# **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Information Guide, 8th Edition**

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# Overview of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

*Welcome to the Health Sciences Division. Healthcare is an exciting field. Health professionals play a significant role in the overall well being of our community.*

The Spokane-area medical community identified a need for a full complement of imaging programs (radiology, sonography, and vascular technology) at Spokane Community College [SCC]. In addition, the Sonography Program need was identified by clinical sites utilizing other SCC health science programs. This particular need was more formally identified by the Spokane Healthcare Skills Panel.

After receiving state program approval on 9/18/2006, SCC admitted the first class of Sonography students in fall quarter of 2006. This action assisted the medical community towards achieving the Spokane Healthcare Skills Panel's goals.

## HEALTH SCIENCE DIVISION

Dental Assisting  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Echocardiography  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Expanded Dental Assistant  
Invasive Cardiovascular  
Medical Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Radiology Technology  
Respiratory Therapy  
Surgical Technology  
Vascular Technology

On a national level, the U. S. Department of Labor describes a need for sonographers with the following statement:

*"...Employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is projected to grow 17 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations.*

*As the large baby-boom population ages, the need to diagnose medical conditions—such as blood clots and heart disease—will likely increase. Imaging technology is a tool used in making these diagnoses. Moreover, diagnostic medical sonographers, cardiovascular technologists and technicians, and vascular technologists will continue to be needed in healthcare settings to provide an alternative to imaging techniques that involve radiation.*

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm#tab-6>

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the typical level of education that most workers need to enter the field of Diagnostic Medical Sonography is an Associate of Applied Science Degree. In Washington State, the trend for both

short- and long-term employment opportunity is “growth”. In addition, Washington State Employment Security Department has posted an average annual growth rate (2014 – 2024) at 2.7% with an average annual wage at \$75,780. <https://fortress.wa.gov/reports-publications/occupational-reports/occupations-in-demand/occupation-detail?soc=292032&area=000000>

The purpose of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is to provide educational opportunities that will enable students to obtain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for success in the field of Sonography. The Diagnostic

SCC is:

- **Affordable:** Tuition at SCC is among the lowest in the state. You'll save thousands of dollars by completing the first two years of a four-year degree with us or studying in one of our career-technical programs.
- **Comprehensive:** At SCC, you can prepare for high-pay, high-demand careers, take classes that transfer to a four-year university or earn a GED, learn English as a Second Language or prepare for college.
- **Student-centered:** Your academic and personal development is important to us. Our student support staff can help you overcome personal and academic challenges, achieve educational goals and get involved in campus life.
- **Focused on student success:** More than 60 percent of SCC students successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and almost 80 percent of our career-technical students find employment after graduation.

Medical Sonography program provides educational opportunities regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, physical challenges, academic disadvantage, or economic disadvantages.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program provides an atmosphere to achieve the philosophical concepts identified by SCC's mission statement. The program is balanced with classroom, laboratory and clinical experience. This combination of learning environments provides the student with a solid structure which allows for fulfillment of individual capabilities.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program strives to meet the needs of the healthcare community in which it serves. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program goal is to prepare competent entry level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

Through achievement of this goal, our intent is to produce graduates who are prepared for employment in the general areas of communication, math, interpersonal relations and professional ethics. The expectation is that graduates will competently perform sonographic examinations of the abdomen, superficial structures and obstetrics & gynecology disciplines.

This Diagnostic Medical Sonography Student Application Packet was designed to help you understand the program requirements. In addition, this packet should help provide guidelines for application.

## Program Description

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is an allied Health Profession where non-physician professionals perform a diagnostic procedure using high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to produce dynamic visual images of organs, tissues, or blood flow inside the body. Sonography is used to examine many parts of the body: abdomen, breasts, OB/GYN, thyroid, scrotum, and blood vessels. It is also used to guide needles for tissue biopsy or drain an abnormal fluid collection from a body cavity. Sonography is a radiation-free imaging modality and procedures are performed at the request of a physician.

A diagnostic medical sonographer is a highly-skilled professional who uses specialized equipment to create images of structures inside the human body that are used by physicians to make a medical diagnosis. Prior to starting a procedure, the sonographer must obtain an appropriate history, assess physical findings and review pertinent laboratory data. This information is used to tailor the procedure to ensure comprehensive and diagnostic images are acquired.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([caahep.org](http://caahep.org)) upon the recommendation of Joint Review Commission of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS [jrcdms.org](http://jrcdms.org)).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
9355 - 113th St. North, #7709  
Seminole, Florida 33775-7709  
727-210-2350

JRC-DMS  
6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
443-973-3251

After successful completion and graduation of the program, graduates are able to take the national Abdomen and OB/GYN registry examinations administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. SCC students have the option of taking the registry examinations up to 60 days prior to graduation and earning their full credential on graduation day!

## Program Goals

1. Communicate effectively and in a professional manner with physicians, patients and other members of the healthcare team.
2. Competently perform sonographic examinations of the abdomen, superficial structures and obstetrics & gynecology disciplines on patients, while tailoring the examinations to enhance the presence of abnormalities.
3. Comprehend a clinical understanding of the anatomy, physiology, pathology, diagnosis and treatment of the major adult and fetal diseases and deformities.

4. Establish the ability to quantify, subjectively evaluate and interpret the data collected to assist the physician in arriving at a diagnosis.
5. Strive to meet the health care needs of the community.



## Career Opportunities

Diagnostic medical sonography is a rapidly advancing specialty due to continued technological advances. The Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates diagnostic medical sonography as one of the highest-paying jobs typically held by those with associate degrees. Typical sonographer employment sites include hospitals, imaging clinics, physician offices, and equipment manufacturers. Full- time and part-time employment opportunities for sonographers are excellent on a national level, but somewhat limited in the Inland Northwest. It is common for areas with sonography programs to have fewer positions on a regular basis.

More information about career choice visit SDMS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K6tf27z6wU&feature=youtu.be>



## Admission Requirements

- Applicants are responsible for gaining admission to SCC and submitting transcripts documenting completion of prerequisites. All required application materials (except final Spring Quarter transcripts) must be submitted by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** of the year of application.
- All math and science prerequisites must be completed within the last five years with a grade of 2.5 or better to ensure current competency in content. Applicants are advised that most accepted students achieve a higher than minimum GPA.
- Students applying to the program must provide documentation of 40 hours as a volunteer or employee in a patient care setting. Ten of those hours completed in a Sonography setting observing. More information below.
- Students must provide three confidential letters of professional recommendation dated within 3 months of application. (Sealed in envelope with Signature over seal)
- Interviews are conducted as part of the selection process for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.
- National Background Checks are conducted during the first and fourth quarters of the program to ensure records are free of felonies or other infractions that might preclude clinical placement or employment in a field with access to vulnerable patients.

- Within 30 days of clinical assignment, required immunizations and drug screening are collected. Additional information distributed during the first quarter of program.
- Sonography courses are limited to students of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

After entering the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, students are required to obtain a minimum of a 2.0 grade in each class before proceeding to the next quarter. Students may repeat a professional class once, but it must be completed within two years.



## Prerequisite Courses

Prerequisite courses must be completed with at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. All courses must be completed prior to application to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. Courses can be completed at any accredited institution of higher learning. It is the student's responsibility to provide/request official transcripts for evaluation by Spokane Community College transcript officials.

BIOL	160	General Biology w/Lab
BIOL	241	Human A & P 1
BIOL	242	Human A & P 2
CMST	210	Interpersonal Communications
ENGL	101	English Composition I
HED	125	Medical Terminology
PHYS	100	Introductory Physics
MATH	107 OR 146	College Algebra *

\* Math 108 taken prior to Fall 2022 will be accepted. Starting Fall 2022 Math 107 or Math 146 are the prerequisites.

Counselor approved Math 100+ courses might serve as substitute



## Volunteering Requirement (40 hours)

Prospective students are required to gain healthcare exposure by volunteering for a minimum of 30 hours in a direct patient care setting. The goal of this requirement is to ensure compatibility in dealing with sick patients and their families at any stage of the illness. If the prospective student is employed within the healthcare system, work hours satisfy this requirement. Many hospitals are willing to work with volunteers to expand the services offered in a variety of departments. The volunteer activity should involve some level of direct patient care. A good place to start is by contacting the Volunteer Support office at your local hospital. In addition to the 30 hours of patient care experience, prospective students are required to complete at least 10 hours observing in an ultrasound department. The goal of this requirement is to broaden the understanding of ultrasound and sonographer duties. Direct interaction with the sonographer should allow the prospective student to make certain it's the correct career



path. In an effort to minimize disruption of providing routine services, Healthcare and Imaging facilities have limits of what they are able to offer as observation or volunteer hours within the ultrasound department. Most facilities have a limit of 8 hours per student and a set number of students per year. This can require you to contact more than one site for ultrasound volunteering. A good place to start is by contacting the HR Department or Volunteer Support office at the facility where you would like to volunteer. Please feel free to contact the Program Director at SCC, if you feel you have exhausted all possibilities of completing this requirement.

Please understand it is your responsibility to locate and coordinate this volunteer experience. Depending on your location, you could be competing with several other students with similar requirements. Sites with the ability to provide patient care and ultrasound experience change year to year, so it is not possible to publish a list of participating providers. Completing of this volunteer requirement takes time, so plan accordingly and start the process early!



## **Additional Recommendations**

The student *might* consider taking additional math, science, or health related courses. Any additional courses will help the student to gain a deeper understanding of material presented in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Some recommended courses might include:

- HED 109 or HED 129
- Nursing Assistant courses



## **Student Disabilities Statement**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, accommodations for students with disabilities will be considered at the student's request. The student will be required to register with the Disability Support Services office and provide documentation of disability. Once the student is qualified by the DSS Manager as having a disability, requested accommodations will be considered. Accommodations for the classroom, laboratory, or clinical setting will be considered according to reasonableness. Accommodations that compromise patient care, or that fundamentally alter the nature of the program or activity, are not considered to be reasonable.

A student denied accommodation may request an individualized determination to assure that the denial is not a result of disability discrimination. *Concerns may be expressed to the Dean of Health and Environmental Sciences at 533-7295 or to the Manager of Disability Support Services and Testing at 533-7498.* Procedures for student grievance are outlined in the *SCC Student Handbook* and in the *SCC Center for Students with Disabilities Student Handbook*.



# Spokane Community College Mission and Core Themes

**Mission:** Spokane Community College offers educational opportunities in college readiness, workforce training, and university transfer that meets the needs of the diverse communities we serve. We are committed to student success through active learning, dynamic relationships, and supportive environments.

**Core Themes:** The college has identified four core themes to further define the mission which are used evaluate mission fulfillment.

- **Workforce Development**  
SCC's professional technical certificate and degree programs are industry standard, preparing students for entry level positions in their discipline.
- **Academic Transfer**  
Students enrolled in Academic Transfer courses are well prepared and successful as they transfer their coursework and/or Associate degrees in pursuit of the next step in their education plan.
- **College Readiness**  
College Readiness programs meet the needs of students and prepare them for college-level courses while empowering them to succeed academically, personally, and professionally.
- **Student Success**  
Students are provided with the opportunity to succeed in a supported environment that enhances individual and professional growth through academic, personal and professional development.

**Vision:** Spokane Community College is where students transform their lives and attain their goals, enriching our communities.

**Core Values:** Student Success, Excellence, Accessibility, Inclusiveness, Collaboration, Mutual Respect, Responsiveness, Life-long Learning

## Program Curriculum

Course of study for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Programs is developed in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines as set forth by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), 25400 US Highway 19 N, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763 727-210-2350 <http://www.caahep.org/Content.aspx?ID=30>

The components of instruction include General Education, Medicolegal, Patient Care, Anatomy and Physiology, Pathophysiology, Ergonomics, Principles of Ultrasound Physics, Abdomen, Superficial Structures, and OB/GYN. These components and their rationale are further defined with verbiage adapted from SDMS Educational Guidelines as outlined below:

General Education includes units of instruction are covered in prerequisites to the program and reinforced during the program.

Medical / Legal assures sonographers are knowledgeable of medical law as it relates to their professional scope of practice. Exposure to medicolegal consequences are minimized through education in legal process, principles of decision-making, ethical dilemmas, HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), and coding and reimbursement. Professionalism is demonstrated through practice according to nationally recognized scopes of practice and codes of ethics.

Patient Care concepts helps prepare sonographers to provide an environment of safety and comfort for patients. They practice effective oral, written and non-verbal communication in a professional manner and adhere to the prescribed professional and ergonomic standards.

Anatomy and Physiology and Pathophysiology provide sonographers with an understanding of structures visualized with medical sonographic imaging. They are required to identify both normal and abnormal structures that might present with various disease processes.

Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorder (WRMSD) represents a consequence of scanning without proper ergonomics. Ergonomics is an area of study designed to reduce these consequences of scanning to achieve career longevity.

Principles of Ultrasound Physics provides an understanding of the physical principles required to produce an ultrasound image. The knowledge of ultrasound interaction within the human body is important to differentiate real structures from artifacts. Optimization of ultrasound images is critical to the accurate diagnosis of pathology.

Abdomen sonographic evaluation is directed by the clinical indications and physician orders. This type of patient examination includes comprehensive imaging of the following organs / systems: Liver, Biliary System, Pancreas, Renals

and Lower Urinary Tract, Spleen, Adrenal, Abdominal Vasculature, Gastrointestinal Tract (GI), Abdominopelvic Wall and Cavities

Superficial Structures is another form of sonographic examination and includes imaging of the neck, thyroid, breast, scrotum and prostate.

Gynecology refers to the accurate assessment and performance of gynecologic/female pelvis sonograms, which requires student sonographers to assemble a comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and sonographic appearances of the female reproductive system.

Obstetrics refers to the accurate assessment and performance of obstetrical sonograms, which requires sonographers to assemble a comprehensive knowledge of the development and sonographic appearance of the fetal and extra fetal anatomy throughout the gestational period.

## Curriculum by Quarter:

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Career Guide – Effective Fall 2012 AAS Degree [104 Credits]			
<b>First Quarter</b>			
HED 109	Human Physiology and Disease		5
SONO 111	Diagnostic Ultrasound I – Intro to Sonography		2
SONO 112	Vascular Fundamentals		4
SONO 121	Human Cross-Section Anatomy		4
SONO 125	Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation I		<u>5</u>
			20
<b>Second Quarter</b>			
SONO 122	Vascular Procedures I		4
SONO 131	Diagnostic Ultrasound II – Abdomen		5
SONO 132	Abdominal Pathophysiology		4
SONO 135	Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation II		<u>5</u>
			18
<b>Third Quarter</b>			
SONO 123	Survey of Cardiac Sonography		5
SONO 141	Diagnostic Ultrasound III – OB/GYN		5
SONO 144	OB/GYN Pathophysiology		<u>4</u>
			14
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>			
SONO 142	Diagnostic Ultrasound IV – Small Parts		4
SONO 143	Sonography Clinical I		<u>9</u>
			13
<b>Fifth Quarter</b>			
SONO 253	Sonography Clinical II		<u>13</u>
			13
<b>Sixth Quarter</b>			
SONO 263	Sonography Clinical III		<u>13</u>
			13
<b>Seventh Quarter</b>			
SONO 273	Sonography Clinical IV		<u>13</u>
			13

## Academic Assessment & Standards:

The quality of course work is measured with the standards listed below. All academic scores and quarterly grade computations are converted into the numerical system equivalents for recording purposes.

### Grading Policy

The total points earned, as a percentage of total point possible, will determine the final grade for all courses within the program. At the instructor's discretion, weighting of certain class assessments or requirements can be applied. A 2.0 [79%] or better is required to pass each course in the Sonography program. Students are not allowed to progress in the program, if they fail to achieve a minimum of 2.0 in each course.

The following grading scale is utilized for computation of course grades within the Sonography program.

Raw Average	Grade Point	Equivalent Letter
98.5 -100	4.0	A
98.0-98.4	3.9	A
97.0-97.9	3.8	A
96.0-96.9	3.7	A-
95.0-95.9	3.6	A-
94.0-94.9	3.5	A-
93.0-93.9	3.4	B+
92.0-92.9	3.3	B+
91.0-91.9	3.2	B+
90.0-90.9	3.1	B
89.0-89.9	3.0	B
88.0-88.9	2.9	B
87.0-87.9	2.8	B-
86.0-86.9	2.7	B-
85.0-85.9	2.6	B-
84.0-84.9	2.5	C+
83.0-83.9	2.4	C+
82.0-82.9	2.3	C+
81.0-81.9	2.2	C
80.0-80.9	2.1	C
<b>79.0-79.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>C [Lowest acceptable]</b>
Grades below this mark = unlikely to progress		

An instructor may assign a letter grade of I or incomplete. This will indicate that additional work by a student is still required before a final grade is assigned. The student must complete all course work to rectify the incomplete grade within three weeks following the last class of that course.

Remedial training may be designated by the individual instructor and may consist of additional tests, quizzes, reading assignments, written or oral reports, etc. Remedial training must be completed before the start of the next quarter if it is a pre-requisite for the class in the following quarter.

The instructor will keep in mind that remedial training is imposed to assist in developing the student's knowledge base in a particular subject and not as a punishment for lack of personal achievement. Remedial training will continue through the next quarter until a minimum level of achievement of at least a 2.0 point grade is obtained.

Students who are dismissed from the program for academic reasons may re-enter the program once and readmission is based on space availability [class size < 16]. It is common to use Independent Study Courses to assist in getting the returning student at a competent academic level prior to fully returning to the program.

### Attendance Policy

The student should be aware that excessive absences from either didactic or clinical instruction may result in failure of the course. Students who are ill or unable to attend their assigned clinical time will follow course instructions and notify their instructor or the clinical facility prior to the time scheduled for clinical. Students not attending regularly or who are tardy will be counseled by their program director or clinical instructor.

A working definition of excessive absenteeism is missing 10% or more of the classroom and/or clinical time.



## **Program Dismissal & Readmission**

Dismissal Policy Students will be dismissed from the program due to course failure, refusal of Clinical Site assignment or dismissal from clinical site.

Course failure results when the student does not achieve 2.0 on the clinical practice evaluation (regardless if he/she has a passing grade in the didactic portion of the course), or when the student fails to achieve a 2.0 in didactic portion of the course.

Refusal of clinical site results when the student is unwilling to attend clinical internship at site recommended by the program faculty. Students MUST be emotionally and financially prepared to complete clinical internship regardless of location. Because faculty members strive to select students for site that allows best "fit" and clinical sites participate on a voluntary basis, site variability occurs with each round of student placement.

Clinical site dismissal Development and maintenance of clinical sites is essential to the program's success. Students are instructed to maintain a high level of professionalism and demonstrate high level of interest in the profession, so clinical staff members feel their training efforts are not in vain. If a student is released from site due to lack of professionalism, unsatisfactory clinical evaluation, or unsatisfactory progress as a sonographer, they will be dismissed from the

program. It is highly unlikely the student will gain readmission to the program because of site constraints.

Any student failing a required course must repeat and pass that course with a 2.0 grade before continuing in the program. Re-enrollment in any Diagnostic Medical Sonography class is dependent on space available [class size < 16 students] and demonstration of successful remediation of cause for inability to obtain a passing grade in the course.

### Readmission Policy

If a student exits during the first quarter for any reason other than pregnancy and would like to reenter the program, they must REAPPLY for the program. Any student that exits the program during the first quarter and reenters is required to complete the program under the student curriculum and policies in effect the year of readmission.

A student that exits the program after the first quarter for personal reasons or unacceptable academic/clinical grades is eligible for readmission with successful admission interview, class availability (<16 students), and documentation of academic remediation. Remediation includes Independent Study Contract for classes in the last quarter attended. Remediation is best accomplished by completing an Independent Study Course at least 2 quarters prior to quarter of required readmission. Course requirements are individualized for each student. Formal program readmission would occur in the quarter where student exited to fulfill program requirements.

If a student has to withdraw from the program due to active military duty, they will not have to reapply. A position within the program will be guaranteed for a period of one year after being discharged from active duty.

If a student has been dismissed due to “disciplinary or behavioral issues”, the student **will not** be allowed to re-enter the program.



## **Program Clinical Site**

Clinical instruction is a critical component of the learning process for sonography students. Involvement in a laboratory on a full-time basis provides the student with an opportunity to interact with patients and healthcare team members, improve image acquisition skills, and apply image evaluation skills necessary for pathology identification. The student must always remember they are a guest at the facility and participate in laboratory functions as a professional.

It is the Program's responsibility to develop sites which provide a positive clinical environment. The student should **not** contact potential sites directly but offer a list of possible facilities when requested to do so. Students should prepare emotionally and financially for placement at a facility outside of the immediate



Spokane area. It is the student's responsible to arrange for transportation to the clinical area and for housing and expenses incurred during all clinical rotations.

Clinical site assignment is made on a multi-tiered system.

1. Sites have the prerogative of "requesting" students of whom there is an existing working relationship due to multiple circumstances. Those requests are honored to facilitate continued relationship with the site.
2. Site interviewing for student selection:
  - a. Some sites request a student pool to interview and program faculty select students for interviews. Students requesting an opportunity to interview at said sites will put their names in the site "bucket" and the number of requested interviewee names will be drawn. Interviews are generally scheduled during late April / May timeframe.
3. Final clinical site placement for the remaining students will include discussions with students and placement where best fit is identified.

While the program is continually developing new sites to ensure an adequate number, sites participate in the educational process on a voluntary basis and have the prerogative of declining acceptance of a student at any given quarter. Any student, who declines a clinical site, is in jeopardy of not continuing in the program if an alternate site is not available.

Clinical assignments are designed to carry out the objectives of the program and laboratory specific policies must be followed as to hours and duties performed. The clinical instruction is completed after the student has successfully passed [ $\geq 79\%$ ] the didactic instruction, simulator scanning and protocol driven scanning at the school laboratory.



## Registry Examinations

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®), incorporated in June 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular interpretation and vascular technology. [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)

ARDMS offers these credentials:

- RDMS® – Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer®
- RDCS® – Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer®
- RVT® – Registered Vascular Technologist®
- RPVI® – Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation®
- RMSKS – Registered Musculoskeletal Sonographer

**ARDMS Mission:** The ARDMS empowers sonographers to provide exceptional patient care through rigorous assessments and continual learning.

Specialty areas within the RDMS credential include abdomen, breast, neurosonology, obstetrics and gynecology, and fetal echocardiography. Specialty areas within the RDCS credential include adult, pediatric and fetal echocardiography. The RVT credential is specific to noninvasive vascular technology. The RMSKS is a relatively new specialty which represents acknowledgment of the growing ultrasound application in the area of musculoskeletal imaging

ARDMS credentials document personal achievement of recognized professional standards. However, ARDMS does not monitor the day-to-day job performance of individuals. Credentials awarded by ARDMS are widely accepted in the medical community by ultrasound and vascular professional organizations.

The only means of obtaining an ARDMS credential is by examination. Required examination prerequisites must be met before an applicant can take an ARDMS examination. Applicants are then required to pass two comprehensive examinations to earn a credential: (1) sonography physics and instrumentation examination, and (2) at least one corresponding specialty examination.



## Financial Considerations

Upon entering the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, the student should be prepared to meet certain financial expenditures. The following amounts are ESTIMATES covering the entire program and used as a guideline ONLY. These expenditures DO NOT include costs incurred for transportation, relocation and living expenses during the 10 months of clinical internship.

### **Estimated Expense List (All expenses subject to change)**

Books & supplies	\$ 2500.00
Drug Screening (if required)	\$ 15.00
Immunizations	\$ 200.00
Lab Fees	\$ 720.00
Liability Insurance [4 quarters]	\$ 32.00
Locker – Optional [per year]	\$ 3.00
Medical Insurance [7 quarters]	\$ 119.00
National Registry Exam [3 exams]	\$ 700.00
Parking [4 quarters]	\$ 112.00
Student Assessment Testing Fee	\$ 20.00
Resident Tuition & Fees [7 quarters – 104 credits]	\$ 12000.00
Clinical Attire (scrubs, lab coat)	\$ 150.00
	<u>\$ 16,571.00</u>

## SCC Allied Health Science Student Requirements

Students must have their health science clinical files completed before they attend clinical during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of program. Students reentering the programs or entering with advanced standing must update their files before attending clinical. All required paperwork is submitted to the health science office, room 132.

**National Background Check** – A national background check is conducted during Fall Quarter and Summer quarter to ensure the student is cleared for clinical placement. Lab fees cover the cost of the check through True Hire. Students will receive instructions for requesting the check when appropriate. Please be aware criminal records that might preclude you from working with vulnerable populations and disqualify you from clinical internship or future employment.

### **Photocopy of following records:**

Students must submit a copy; the office is not equipped to make copies for students.

- **Medical insurance** - submit a copy of your medical insurance card or purchase medical insurance from the SCC cashier and bring in a copy of your receipt. SCC medical insurance must be updated each quarter and a copy of your receipt submitted to office for your file.
- **CPR** – submit a copy of current CPR card (Healthcare Provider). As long as enrolled in the program, CPR must be updated every 2 years with a copy on file.

### **Original report of the following records required:**

- **TB test** - provide documented results of two- step TB test (two separate tests within the last year). Documentation must show results and be signed and dated by a healthcare provider. The TB test must be within the last year and updated annually in your file as long as student is in the program and a copy on file.
- **DTap** - Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years. Must be signed and dated by a healthcare provider.
- **MMR** - Measles/Mumps/Rubella vaccination or a titer for each of the diseases showing immunity. Must be signed and dated by healthcare provider.
- **COVID** - COVID vaccination is required at most clinical sites, some may allow an exemption, but this is not gaurenteed.
- **Drug screening** – 10-panel drug screens are completed at the request of clinical site and done within 30 days of clinical start. Not all clinical sites require a drug screen.
- **Hepatitis B** - SCC form - completed and turned in for file.
- **Chicken Pox (Varicella)** - SCC form - completed and turned in for file.
- **Clinical Agreement form** - SCC form - completed and turned in for file.

**Student Portfolio** - Students are advised to keep a copy of their physical, TB test results and immunizations for their own records. Clinical sites and potential employers will request this same documentation and the school is not responsible for providing such documentation.

Students who change programs or are reentering a program with advanced standing: previous files are not considered current and many file requirements will have to be updated.

It is in your best interest to obtain a documented shot record from your healthcare provider and keep that record, along with updates, in a safe, accessible place in your personal file. It is also important for you to keep a copy of your CPR card. The Health Science office does not provide copies.

***A Student who does not fulfill these requirements is subject to suspension and or dismissal.***

## Application Checklist

The following materials must be submitted to the Curriculum Advisor (Listed on SCC DMS Website) by June 30th of the application year. We prefer that everything is submitted in **one packet** except for final grades / official transcripts from Spring Quarter of the application year.

- \_\_\_\_\_ SCC Admission or Student Update form  
<http://www.scc.spokane.edu/Admissions/Apply.aspx>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed application worksheet and unofficial transcripts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three confidential letters of recommendation – sealed envelope with writer signature across the seal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Documentation of 40 hours patient care/Sonography observation hours – please see form on next page.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Formal Transcripts – request delivery of transcripts from any college other than SCC

Students are notified of interview date and time the last week of June. Notification of date and time of interview are distributed via email only. Please make sure your records have an accurate and working email address. Interviews are conducted early in July and applicants are notified of results within two weeks of interview.

## Volunteer Documentation

Patient Care Volunteer Hours (30 hours) can be submitted with a letter on facility letterhead stating duties at time of volunteering or employment documentation if completed during employment in the medical field.

Sonography Volunteer Hours (10 hours) can be submitted with a letter on facility letterhead or the following form.

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has observed patient examinations in our laboratory to gain observation hours suitable to fulfill requirements associated with application to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

Date Observed	# of Hours	Sonographer / Instructor Signature