

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Associate in Applied Science Degree Program FALL 2025 ADMISSION

Due to the high volume of qualified in-district applicants - 100 percent of the accepted applicants may be in-district residents – depending on merit score. Please see page 3 for more information.

The Sonography program has 16-18 seats available each year depending on clinical site availability.

NOTE: Please monitor this program admission packet for updates and/or modifications.



Application Deadline – May 5, 2025 by 5pm

Program Chair: Melissa McKirdie, MS, RDMS, RVT mckirdiem@cod.edu

Website - www.cod.edu/sonography

Note: Please see specific program registration or admission packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/ source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed.

Students are not accepted into this program until they receive official acceptance letters from the College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division.

ASSOCIATE IN SONOGRAPHY (AAS – DMIS)

Program Description/Introduction

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound) is a clinical discipline involving the use of equipment that produces sound waves that create images of human anatomy for medical interpretation and diagnosis by a radiologist. The Sonography Degree Program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in Sonography. Admission requirements are outlined in this packet. To be considered for Fall 2025 admission **all application materials must be received by the application deadline. NOTE: All prerequisite and general education courses must be completed by the end of the Spring semester that is prior to program start in the Fall.**

The program is full-time on campus and at hospitals/clinics.

1st semester = (2) 12-hour days/evenings on campus

2nd-5th semesters = (2) 8-12-hour days/evenings on campus AND (3) 8.5-hour shifts per week at a hospital/clinic (shifts can be days, nights or weekends per facility discretion)

6th semester = (3) 8.5 hour shifts a week at a hospital/clinic

Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Diagnostic Medical Imaging in Sonography (DMIS) Associate in Applied Science Degree Program is to provide students with didactic, laboratory, and clinical education/experience in preparation for a health career as a Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonographer. The graduate will demonstrate competency to meet certification requirements, deliver compassionate patient care, and function as an integral member of the health care team with competence and confidence. Program policies and procedures have been designed to meet or exceed those established by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon recommendation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). This program is CAAHEP accredited in Abdominal Sonography-Extended, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Vascular Sonography concentrations.

Program Goals

1. “To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.”
2. “To prepare competent entry-level vascular technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.”
3. Educate competent and compassionate sonographers capable of functioning as an entry level Sonographer within 24 months
4. Provide a comprehensive competency-based curriculum
5. Prepare the student to think and act independently
6. Prepare the student for entry into the ever-changing sonography work environment
7. Prepare the student to achieve a satisfactory result on the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) board exams for Obstetrics/Gynecology, Abdomen/Superficial Structures, Physics Instrumentation (SPI) & Vascular Technology (RVT)
8. Provide comprehensive student education to aid in student retention, course, and program completion

Standard Skills in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography

To participate in the clinical education portion of the DMIS programs, the applicant must possess skills relevant to a sonography department. These technical standards are consistent with the duties of an entry-level sonographer. The student must have the ability to:

- Lift and carry thirty pounds of weight.
- Lift and transfer patients to and from wheelchairs, stretchers, beds, and imaging tables.
- Move, adjust, and manipulate equipment to perform imaging studies.
- Position patients for exams.
- Respond appropriately to sounds such as the patient’s voice and movements, at a normal conversational volume.
- Review and evaluate recorded real time images to determine the quality of the image as well as demonstrate visual accuracy in differentiating subtle shades of grays used in sonographic imaging.
- Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and light.
- Speak and write English fluently.

- Manipulate necessary hospital equipment for patient care and patient imaging such as dials, switches, push buttons, and keyboards.
- Stand and perform ultrasound exams for a prolonged period without scheduled breaks in a typical shift of 8-12 hours.
- Manipulate a transducer with the right hand in a back-and-forth manner while maintaining balance as well as operating the machine controls with the left hand.
- Communicate orally and in writing with the patient, doctors, and other personnel clearly and effectively.
- Must be able to follow verbal and written directions.

Other Necessary Skills Include:

- Ability to view computer/ultrasound machine screens for extended periods.
- Ability to deal with extremely ill patients.
- Ability to make independent decisions using good judgment skills (as appropriate for level of education).
- Ability to practice high quality patient care.
- Ability to function with minimal assistance (as appropriate for level of education).
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as for probe and machine cleaning.
- Recognition of needs and behaviors of a variety of age groups and abilities of patients treated.

This description indicates the general skills needed. It is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities required.

Policies and Procedures

All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our [Division website](#). It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed, understand, and will be able to abide by all policies and procedures. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Health Requirement Information (essential functions/technical standards for acceptance, drug testing, criminal background check, immunizations, etc.)
- Policy for Professional Conduct
- Statement on Transportation
- Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment
- Student Diversity
- Student Email
- Statement on Medical Care and Health Insurance
- Statement on Medical Malpractice Insurance
- Citizenship/Visa Status

The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

Program Admission Preference

Each program with out-of-district clinical sites (see list of participating programs below) may admit a maximum of 20% of out-of-district applicants to the program, based on merit. The 20% maximum policy would only apply to out-of-district applicants who do **not** have access to this particular program in the **community college district in which they reside**. Students coming from districts with this particular program within their district would only be considered if there were open seats after all qualified candidates from in-district and out-of-district without programs were accepted.

If there are insufficient numbers of qualified in-district applicants, the maximum percentage of out-of-district students accepted can be exceeded until the program achieves full enrollment, with the approval of the Dean of Nursing & Health Sciences.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computed Tomography • Health Information Technology • Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology (MRI) • Mammography • Nuclear Medicine (DMIN) • Nursing (ADN) • Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proton Therapy • Radiation Therapy • Radiography (DMIR) • Respiratory Care • Sonography (Ultrasound) DMIS • Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) • Surgical Technology |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Priority for Admission

- a. In-District applicants
- b. Out-of-District who are part of the [CAREER Consortium Agreement](#) (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
- c. Out-of-District applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
- d. Out-of-District applicants (who are not part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement) including those students with a joint or chargeback agreement and international students.

Estimate of Program Cost

Please visit the [Program Costs webpage](#) for estimated cost.

Academic Success in the AAS Sonography Degree Program

All students enrolled in the Sonography program must maintain a minimum of “C” or better in all DMIS courses to continue in the program. Receiving a “D” or “F” in any DMIS course will terminate the student’s continuation in the program. Students requesting readmission will need to reapply and are evaluated based upon the then current application requirements and ranked with all other applicants.

Upon successful completion of the program, the student is awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree from College of DuPage. Sixty days prior to graduation students become eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) examinations in Physics (SPI), Obstetrics/Gynecology, Abdomen/Superficial Structures, and Vascular Technology. Students who successfully pass the Physics (SPI) examination as well as a corresponding specialty examination (Obstetrics/Gynecology, or Abdomen/Superficial Structures) will receive the national credential of Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS). Students who successfully complete the SPI examination and the Vascular Technology examination will earn the national credential Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT).

Please be advised that the AAS Sonography Degree Program follows a rigorous curriculum requiring serious student memorization, practical application of theory, coursework, and transportation to/from class and clinicals. It is a full-time program. Taking personal time off (i.e. vacations) outside of scheduled breaks is not permitted and will affect program continuation.

Statement on Clinical Education

The purpose of clinical education is to provide the student with necessary patient experiences where refinement of the use of theoretical principles learned in the didactic portion of the program can take place. Students will be required to rotate through multiple clinical education sites. Students will not replace members of the affiliated clinical staff; they will have the status of students. Students are not paid for clinical hours.

Experiential Learning

Career Services defines experiential learning as the opportunity to engage with local employers and non-for-profit organizations to learn more about a specific industry or career of interest. Students completing an experiential learning program will provide students with additional information and insights regarding their career goals and career trajectory.

Experiential learning opportunities are provided by Career Services through the following programs:

Academic Internship Program

Earn academic credit for the experience with an internship host site through an [Academic Internship program](#).

Service-Learning Program

Expand your comfort zone and learn the importance of civic engagement through an academic-based, volunteer [Service Learning program](#). https://www.cod.edu/student_life/resources/career-services/students/student-experiential-programs/

Application Materials Checklist

NOTE: Admission Committees for Health Science programs have the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill the essential functions and technical standards, or abide by the policies and procedures as described within the provided links, and in this packet.

***It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application requirements have been completed and received by the designated office, by the application deadline. You may email hsadmissions@cod.edu to confirm receipt of application materials.**

To be considered for admission follow the steps below. It is recommended you follow them **in order**:

- _____ 1. Attend a **Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Advising Session**, or view the recording. Please click on the PDF link below as it contains upcoming dates/times that it will be held via ZOOM, as well as link to a recorded version. You do not need to register to attend/view. Here is a link to the [Advising Session PowerPoint](#).

- _____ 2. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable \$20 College of DuPage General Admissions Application** online. **This application is for general admission to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Career Selective Enrollment AAS Sonography program.**

- _____ 3. To ensure that all eligible credits are evaluated towards the admission requirements, turn in **ALL** official transcripts from institutions that you have attended.
 - a. Submit your official transcript(s) to **College of DuPage, Office of Student Records**. *If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.*
 - b. Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Log into myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', select '**My Profile**'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under '**Transcript Institutions**'.

NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must first be evaluated. Please visit the following website <https://cod.edu/records/international-transcript-evaluation.aspx> for details.

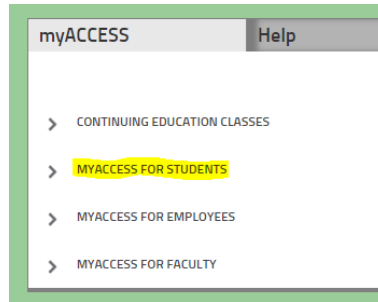
- _____ 4. **Schedule an appointment** with a **Health Program Advisor** by calling 630-942-2259. The Health Program Advisor will develop an Academic Plan to ensure you complete all prerequisites in the correct order. *Please be sure to discuss other application requirements, and an alternative plan (due to the competitive nature of admittance) during this appointment.*

**Please see page 8 for a listing of required prerequisite/general education courses.*

 - **NOTE: All prerequisite and general education courses must be completed by the end of Spring 2025 semester, preceding Fall 2025 admission.**

_____ 5. Once you have completed a majority of the prerequisite courses - complete the **non-refundable \$50 Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application** online by logging into the student portal at <https://inside.cod.edu>

- Click on myACCESS for Students



- Click on the Health Careers Applications link



- Select Health Careers Application



- Select **Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Degree** when asked “What selective enrollment program are you applying to?”

Once the application is submitted, you may not change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer

_____ 6. Provide documentation of experience working with patients in a healthcare setting (if you have relevant experience) **or** provide proof of experience working **directly** with others. Letter provided must be on company letterhead, created by a supervisor at the facility, stating that a minimum of 20 hours were completed, within the last 3 years. (The Service Learning Placement project in DMIS 1110 does not count for this requirement). This can be e-mailed from either the student or supervisor to hsadmissions@cod.edu.

- _____ 7. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the Office of Student Registration Services by e-mailing it to registration@cod.edu - by the program application deadline date. **Note: If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.**

The proof must demonstrate that the student lived at an in-district address for at least 30 days prior to the program application deadline date.

Please note: Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.

- _____ 8. **Take the HESI Admission Assessment exam** at the Glen Ellyn Testing Center **prior to the application deadline**. Visit the [Testing Center webpage](#) register for upcoming test dates. The test will take approximately 4 hours to complete. Please plan accordingly.

Your first step towards taking the HP-HESI exam is to email the Testing Center at academictesting@cod.edu for payment information. The Testing Office will then send you information on how to pay for the test. You will actually pay for the Evolve test. Within 2 business days, you will receive an email from the Testing Office on how to register for the test. For more information about the exam and how to prepare visit [Admission Assessment Exam Review book](#)

You will be tested in the following areas: *Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, Math, and Anatomy & Physiology*. You will also complete the Learning Style section, but this section will not be awarded any merit points. **A score of 75% or higher must be obtained on the Vocabulary & General Knowledge, and Anatomy & Physiology portions of the exam** to be considered eligible for admission. For more information about how merit points are awarded, please refer to the merit score evaluation sheet on page 10.

When applying to the Sonography program at College of DuPage, the HESI A2 exam can be taken up to a total of 2 times with at least a 30-day interval between the two exams. Any additional repeat exams are not accepted for a period of at least 3 calendar years. Students should register early due to limited seats per session. HESI A2 testing must be completed within two years of applying to the program in order for it to be valid for application purposes. **The most current exam scores will be used on the merit evaluation.** Applicants are able to sign into their HESI account to review their results at any time.

- _____ 9. **Submit three (3) Recommendation Forms (pages 11-12)**, from individuals who can attest to the applicant's work and/or academic ability. Forms completed by friends or relatives of the applicant are unacceptable. The enclosed form must be used according to the instructions on the form. **All recommendation forms need to be submitted after you have completed & submitted the \$50 health Career application.** Recommendation Forms must be e-mailed to hsadmissions@cod.edu.

NOTE: When e-mailing forms to hsadmissions@cod.edu, the form MUST be submitted by the evaluator. Submissions by the applicant will not be accepted.

1. One copy of the form **must** be completed and e-mailed by one of the applicant's college-level instructors
2. One copy of the form **must** be completed and e-mailed in by an employer or Clinical Instructor
3. A third copy of the form needs to be completed and e-mailed in by an additional college-level instructor or an employer/manager/supervisor of the applicant.

- _____ 10. You will be contacted via COD email by the Sonography Admissions Committee for an interview after most of your application materials have been submitted. Interviews are not handled by the Nursing & Health Sciences Division. Interviews start in April/May. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor their COD email for communications from the college during the application period.

“All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to the applicant. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports.”

****Applicants interested in re-applying will need to start over and resubmit all application items during the new application cycle. COD does not save application materials.***

Admissions Process

The AAS Sonography Degree Program can admit only a limited number of students. The number of students is determined by the current availability of clinical sites and may vary from year to year. An Admissions Committee, consisting of DMIS faculty will oversee the selection process using a Merit Evaluation based upon admission requirements. **Students are admitted to the program according to Merit Evaluation scores and residency. Admission to the program is not a guarantee of completion of the program nor does it guarantee employment upon graduation.**

Letters of decision (accept, decline, alternate) are emailed to each applicant approximately 4 weeks after the application deadline. Accepted applicants must confirm their desire to accept on a provided form - within a two-week period. If no response is received, the next qualified student on the alternate list, according to Merit Evaluation rank order, will be offered acceptance into the program. Students re-applying are advised to contact the Sonography Program Chair to discuss ways to improve their score.

Requests for admission do **not** carry over to the following cycle. Applicants who were not accepted for the cycle in which they originally applied will need to pay the \$50 non-refundable Health Career application fee and submit any/all supporting documents again as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable).

Transfer of Credits

Once your high school transcripts, college transcripts or international transcript evaluations are sent to College of DuPage for review they become the property of COD and will not be returned. Information can be found here - <https://www.cod.edu/records/index.html>

If you have questions email recordsoffice@cod.edu for assistance.

Transfer of credits from COD to another institution information can be found here - <https://www.cod.edu/academics/transfer/index.html>

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE

PREREQUISITES:

The following courses need to be completed by the end of the spring semester preceding fall admission. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.72 out of 4.00 for these degree related courses:

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	GRADE REQUIRED
ENGLISH 1101	English Composition I	“C” or higher
SPEECH 1100 or 1120 (or equivalent)	Fund. Speech Communication Small-Group Communication	“C” or higher
Starting Fall 2026 a grade of “B” or higher is required for SPEECH 1100 or 1120		
A&P 1552 or 1572*	Human Anatomy & Physiology II or Human A&P with Cadaver II	‘B’ or higher
*Prerequisite: A&P 1551 or 1571 with a grade of ‘B’ or higher		
HUMANITIES	Any Humanities Course (SURGT 1000 recommended)	‘C’ or higher
PSYCH 1100 (or equivalent)	General Psychology	‘C’ or higher
HLTHS 1110	Biomedical Terminology	‘B’ or higher
MATH 1120	Mathematical Foundations for DMIS	‘B’ or higher
<u>OR</u>		
*Algebra/Statistics/or higher <u>AND</u> Gen. Physics or Radiographic Physics		‘B’ or higher
DMIS 1110	Basic Patient Care Skills for Sonographers	‘B’ or higher
DMIS 1105	Intro to Pathophysiology for Sonographers	‘B’ or higher

Please note - DMIS 1105, DMIS 1110 and MATH 1120 are only offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.

For those utilizing Financial Aid -

*Please note that financial aid will not cover Algebra/Statistics/or higher AND Gen. Physics or Radiographic Physics when taken instead of MATH 1120.

If you wish to take ANAT 1552 or 1572 AND DMIS 1105 Pathophysiology for Sonographers concurrently (at the same time), a permit is required to register so please follow below registration directions:

1. Request a permit in Inside COD MyAccess
2. Go to inside.cod.edu - log in and select ‘Registration’ and then 'Request a Permit'
3. Identify which semester (fall or spring) and which section of DMIS 1105 Pathophysiology for Sonographers you wish to register. See the COD Class Schedule in MyAccess for specific course information.

NOTE: The DMIS Program is undergoing revisions. Please monitor this program admission packet for updates and/or modifications.

CATALOG INFORMATION FOR AAS:

<https://catalog.cod.edu/programs-study/diagnostic-medical-imaging-sonography/diagnostic-medical-imaging-sonography-aas/>

Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Associate Degree

Merit Evaluation

(Subject to Change)

For your reference only; admissions committee completes this form. Do not fill out and submit

NAME: _____ **Student ID:** _____ **DATE:** _____

HESI Exam	Yes or No (circle)
Experience Letter	Yes or No (circle)
3 Recommendation Forms	Yes or No (circle)
Residency Verification Form	Yes or No (circle)

Anatomy and Physiology 1552 or 1572 (Scale A) _____

DMIS 1105 Pathophysiology (Scale A) _____

DMIS 1110 Basic Patient Care (Scale A) _____

HLTHS 1110 (Scale A) _____

Recommendation Form 1 (academic) (Scale B) _____

Recommendation Form 2 (employer) (Scale B) _____

Recommendation Form 3 (Scale B) _____

HESI A2 Score – 4 Total Points Possible (Scale C) _____

Areas Tested: Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, Math, and Anatomy & Physiology
 ($\geq 75\%$ must be obtained on the Vocabulary & General Knowledge, and Anatomy & Physiology portions to apply).

***Scores will be taken from the most current exam only**

 Reading Comprehension _____

 Math _____

Interview – (up to 7 points possible) _____

Total Points _____

<u>Scale A</u>	<u>Scale B</u>	<u>Scale C</u>
A: = 4 points	Outstanding = 5 points	75% or above = 2 points
B: = 3 points	Very Highly = 4 points	$\geq 50-74\%$ = 1 point
C: = 0 points	Recommend = 0 points	$< 50\%$ = 0 points
D: = 0 points	With Reservations = 0 points	
	Do not recommend = 0 points	

