



A cardiac sonographer (echocardiographer) is the allied health professional who, after an extensive and comprehensive educational process, is qualified to perform an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart). The primary role of the cardiac sonographer is to obtain diagnostic recordings and measurements from the ultrasound image of the heart, including hemodynamic information. This individual assumes great responsibility for the performance of this exam. The techniques for obtaining the required images and recordings require great skill. A thorough understanding of cardiac anatomy, physiology, hemodynamics, and pathophysiology is required.

Students eligible for the Cardiac Sonography Certificate program must have previously earned ARDMS credentials (RDMS, RVT) or an AAS degree from an accredited program in radiography, nursing, medical assisting, emergency medical services, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, or other patient care related allied health profession. Students that possess a baccalaureate degree may also qualify for the certificate program.

All students that qualify for the Cardiac Sonography Certificate program will be required to meet or show equivalency for all DMS prerequisite course requirements stated below.

The Cardiac Sonography curriculum consists of integrated didactic and clinical coursework with a minimum of 1,136 supervised clinical hours with an approved clinical education affiliate. Prerequisite courses must be completed prior to applying for the program. This program is designed to prepare the student for employment as a cardiac sonographer with positions located in hospitals, medical clinics, and other diagnostic imaging facilities.

Upon successful completion of the Cardiac Sonography program, students are eligible to apply for certification exams through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS).

There are special admissions requirements to the sonography programs, and it is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements and adhere to them. Entry into a program is competitive and based on a "points system." Point values are based on grades earned in prerequisite coursework and the interview process.

Applications are processed according to the following time line:

- Applicants must be received by the Allied Health Office by August 31.
- Questionnaires will be mailed to eligible applicants.
- Completed questionnaires must be returned by the stated due date.
- DMS Admission Committee conducts interviews.
- Applicants notified by mail for Winter semester start.

General education prerequisites and related requirement courses must be completed before admission to the program.

Minimum credits:	52*
(*43 credits with previous Allied Health degree)	
Minimum Cumulative GPA:	2.0
Minimum grade in all courses:	2.0
Minimum grade in BIO 155, HOC 130, and MOA 120:	3.0
Minimum JCC credits:	32
MACRAO agreement:	No

RELATED REQUIREMENTS — (19 credits)

BIO 155 Human Anatomy & Physiology	4-5
DMS 100* Intro to Diagnostic Imaging	3
DMS 104* Intro to Sonographic Instrumentation	3
CIS 101 Introduction to Computer Systems	3
HOC 130* Intro to Health Occupations	3
MOA 120 Medical Terminology	3

**May be waived/substituted through consultation with program coordinator and evidence of current health credential.*

CARDIAC SONOGRAPHY CORE REQUIREMENTS — (33 credits)

DMS 140 Echo Orientation & Technique	3
DMS 141 Adult Echo I	4
DMS 143 Clinical I (240 hrs)	3
DMS 144 Cardiovascular Principles	3
DMS 147 Clinical II (384 hrs)	5
DMS 240 Adult Echo II	4
DMS 242 Clinical III (512 hrs)	7
DMS 206 Sonographic Instrumentation	4

REQUIRED COURSE SEQUENCE

Winter Semester

DMS 140, DMS 141, DMS 143

Spring Semester

DMS 144, DMS 147

Fall Semester

DMS 206, DMS 240, DMS 242