



AAS DEGREE - CODE #2560

Kathy Young, Program Director
Email address: youngkl@alfredstate.edu

Diagnostic medical sonography is a two-year AAS degree program preparing qualified students to become health care professionals who use high-frequency sound waves to produce anatomical images for diagnostic purposes. The program coordinates on-campus didactic and laboratory classes and clinical experiences at area hospitals, to which students are responsible for their own transportation.

Students must be able to demonstrate technical standards and pass clinical competencies as described by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDEMS), and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), recognized by the United States Department of Education as the national accreditation agency of programs for sonography. Upon graduation, students are prepared to take the ARDMS SPI and Content Specialty Exams.

The diagnostic medical sonography (DMS) program is seeking accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Currently, there are three pathways available to students to achieve sonography certification depending on individual requirements. The certifications are available via the American Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT). Once the DMS program receives accreditation with CAAHEP, students will be required to take two certification exams. Please contact our DMS program for further information.

Clinical education is assigned to provide experiences consistent with the student's level of achievement in different hospital and outpatient environments. Through clinical assignments, students have opportunities to work with the most modern and specialized equipment available and knowledgeable staff with a wealth of experience in imaging. These assignments include a 12-week (40 hours per week) summer session that is required and provides valuable experience in developing clinical competency skills. In addition, nine weeks of full-time clinical will be assigned in both fall and spring semesters of the second year of the program. Students will require housing close enough to their clinical placements to travel there on a daily basis.

The program currently admits 20 students each year, with a fall semester start date only. One student placement is reserved for an on-campus curriculum change, with the remaining 19 placements being filled by admissions.

ADVANTAGES

- Prepares the student for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography registry exams.
- Sonography and simulation laboratory on campus.
- Low student-to-faculty ratio.
- Gaining proficiency in the technical skills necessary for diagnostic medical sonography.
- Extensive clinical experience in hospital setting.
- Availability of on-campus housing and variety of campus activities.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Employment and continuing education rate of 100 percent – 80 percent are employed; 20 percent have continued their education.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants for the diagnostic medical sonography program must possess a recognized high school diploma or its equivalent. A standardized test (SAT or ACT) is not required but recommended. Specific high school course requirements and recommendations are:

Required: Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology, Physics, Interview with the academic department.

Recommended: Chemistry

Applicants with previous college experience must submit an official college transcript and their success at the college level will be an admissions consideration. Due to the technical and science rigor, entrance requirements are higher than those of the institution.

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students who believe they need a reasonable accommodation to properly participate in this program may contact Melanie Ryan in the Office of Accessibility Services. This office may be contacted by email at oas@alfredstate.edu or by phone at 607-587-4506. Please keep in mind that some accommodations may take time to implement, so students seeking accommodations are encouraged to contact OAS as early as possible.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

To participate in the program, the applicant must possess specific non-academic skills. The technical standards described below are consistent with the duties of an entry-level radiographer in a professional position and are required in order to provide adequate patient care and produce a diagnostic image.

The applicant should have the:

- Ability with reasonable accommodation, if necessary, to reach and position the patients on the exam table.
- Ability with reasonable accommodation, if necessary, to move, adjust, and manipulate equipment to perform imaging procedures.
- Ability to review and evaluate recorded images to determine the quality of the image with reasonable accommodation.
- Ability to communicate effectively with patients, doctors, and other personnel so that the patient is not placed in an "at-risk" situation.
- Ability to make proper decisions involving patient and co-worker safety.
- Ability with reasonable accommodation, if necessary, to hear sounds that are necessary to assess patient's health status.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The program allows graduates to transfer to a four-year program in imaging science or healthcare management.

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Hospital Sonography Department Staff Technologist
- Advanced Sonography Modalities- Cardiac, Vascular, and Musculoskeletal
- Sonography Education
- Sonography Department Management
- Industry
- Private Physician Offices

DIRECT ENTRY INTO BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Graduates may enter directly into either the healthcare management BTech, the interdisciplinary studies BTech, or technology management BBA degree program.

Grade of "C+" or better required for all SONO, BIOL and RADT prefix courses.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

A tier 1 laptop computer is required for students entering this degree program. Laptop specifications are available at www.alfredstate.edu/required-laptops.

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY - AAS DEGREE

TYPICAL FOUR-SEMESTER PROGRAM

First			
SONO	1003	Fundamentals Sonography/Pt Care	3
RADT	1003	Radiation Physics	3
COMP	1503	Freshman Composition	3
MATH	xxx3	College Algebra or higher	3
BIOL	1404	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
			16
Second			
SONO	2003	Sectional Anatomy	3
SONO	2013	US Physics and Instrument I	3
SONO	2023	Sonographic Procedures I	3
SONO	2021	Sonographic Procedures I Lab	1
BIOL	2504	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
			14
Summer			
SONO	3023	Sonography Clinical I	3
			3
Third			
SONO	3013	US Physics & Instrument II	3
SONO	3024	Sonography Clinical II	4
SONO	3033	Sonographic Procedures II	3
BIOL	4403	Pathophysiology	3
SONO	3031	Sonographic Procedures II Lab	1
GLST	2113	Global Perspectives:Spcl Topic	3
			17
Fourth			
SONO	4013	Advanced Physics and Prob Solv	3
SONO	4014	Sonographic Clinical III	4
SONO	4043	Sonographic Procedures III	3
SPCH	1083	Effective Speaking	3
SONO	4031	Sonographic Procedures III Lab	1
			14

Be advised that a prior felony conviction may impede a student's ability to participate in a required clinical experience.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The AAS degree in diagnostic medical sonography has finely prescribed courses reflective of accreditation standards for students to be prepared for admission to the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Certification Examination. Specific graduation requirements are:

- 64 total semester credit hours
- Minimum of 20 credit hours of liberal arts and sciences from three of the 10 SUNY General Education categories
- 2.0 cumulative GPA and a grade of "C+" or better in the core science courses (SONO and BIOL prefixes)
- Approval of department faculty