

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certificate

PROGRAM AND ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW



Program Overview

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certificate Program prepares students for entry-level positions as ultrasound technologists. The program is designed in accordance with the curriculum established by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) and consists of a hybrid structure utilizing: online, classroom and laboratory instruction integrated with hands-on experience in a clinical setting.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program may be completed as a one-year certificate for students who already hold an associate degree in an approved healthcare-related field.

- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Paramedic
- Respiratory Therapist
- and more...

The Program is a full-time commitment requiring active participation in both didactic and clinical education. In alignment with American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) requirements, the program consists of a minimum of 1680 total hours completed over a period of at least 12 months, encompassing classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction. Consistent attendance and participation in all scheduled learning activities are essential for student success. While students must complete a minimum of 1500 clinical hours to graduate, completion of required hours alone does not satisfy program requirements. Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled coursework and clinical assignments for the full duration of each semester. Most students will exceed the minimum clinical hour requirement as part of the complete program experience.

A special application is required. Please see the website for more information.

Accreditation Overview

Yavapai College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. The program HLC approved.

Program Mission

The mission of the Yavapai College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is to provide a comprehensive educational experience that prepares competent entry-level sonographers with the knowledge, technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical competence necessary to deliver safe, effective, and ethical patient care while adapting to the evolving healthcare environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate clinical competency in performing diagnostic sonographic examinations and procedures across diverse patient populations and clinical settings.
- Integrate and apply patient history, clinical data, and sonographic findings to support accurate diagnostic interpretation and comprehensive patient care.
- Apply ultrasound physics and instrumentation principles to optimize image quality and ensure safe and effective use of sonographic technology.
- Communicate effectively with patients, physicians, and members of the healthcare team while maintaining patient comfort, confidentiality, and understanding.
- Utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills to adapt protocols, troubleshoot imaging challenges, and respond to dynamic clinical situations.
- Exhibit professional behavior consistent with legal, ethical, and regulatory standards of practice, including accountability, respect, and constructive responsiveness to feedback.

Program Goal

To prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the following concentration(s) offered:

- Abdominal (AB) sonography - Extended
- Vascular (VT) sonography

Graduates will be eligible:

To challenge the ARDMS SPI examination, ARDMS specialty credential exam, and/or the ARRT sonography credentialing examination.