



Introduction

The Sovah School of Health Professions Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is a one-year (three semesters) course of study leading to an Applied Science associate degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, either in **General Diagnostic Medical Sonography** or **Cardiovascular Sonography**. The one-year program is designed to provide a quality entry-level education through a competency-based clinical and didactic online hybrid instructional curriculum in diagnostic sonography.

Diagnostic Medial Sonography is a multi-specialty profession comprised of abdominal sonography, breast sonography, cardiac sonography, musculoskeletal sonography, obstetrics/gynecology sonography, vascular sonography, and other emerging clinical areas. These diverse areas all use ultrasound as a primary technology in their daily work.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is an individual who provides patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Demonstration and maintenance of competency through certification by a nationally recognized sonography credentialing organization is the standard of practice in sonography, and maintenance of certification in all areas of practice is endorsed.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer functions as a delegated agent of the physician and does not practice independently. Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are committed to enhanced patient care and continuous quality improvement that increases knowledge and technical competence.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers use independent, professional, and ethical judgement, and critical thinking to safely perform diagnostic sonographic procedures.

Employment as a sonographer offers a promising future. Wages are competitive with other health-care providers with similar educational backgrounds, and there are jobs available throughout Virginia.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Objectives

The goal of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at SOHP is to prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

Graduates of this program are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Sonography Certification Exam OR The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Boards, SPI, Abdomen, OB/GYN, Vascular and Adult Echocardiography.

Program Cognitive Objective

At the completion of the SOHP Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, graduates will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply and evaluate didactic knowledge and clinical information relative to their role as entry-level abdominal sonographers and obstetric and gynecologic sonographers.

Program Psychomotor Objective

At the completion of the program, the graduate of the SOHP Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will demonstrate technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of entry-level abdominal and obstetric and gynecologic sonographer.

Program Affective Objective

At the completion of the program, the graduate of the SOHP Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer standards and expectations for an entry-level general sonographer.

The following are the program-specific student learning outcomes for the SOHP sonography degree:

1. Graduates will be able to obtain, review and integrate pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results.
2. Graduates will be able to perform ultrasounds and record anatomic, pathologic and/or physiologic data for interpretation by a physician.
3. Graduates will record, analyze and process diagnostic data and other pertinent observations made during the ultrasound examination for presentation to the interpreting physician.
4. Graduates will exercise discretion and judgement in the performance of sonographic and/or other diagnostic services.

5. Graduates will exercise discretion and judgment in the performance of sonographic and/or related diagnostic services.
6. Graduates will demonstrate appropriate communication skills with patients and colleagues.
7. Graduates will act in a professional and ethical manner.
8. Graduates will facilitate communication and education to elicit patient cooperation and understanding of expectations, and responds to questions regarding the sonographic examination.

Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all the following essential standards and functions of a registered diagnostic medical sonographer. Students unable to meet these standards are not eligible for admission to the program.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members and the health-care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing and Comprehension:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, understand, and respond appropriately to verbal directions and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as a medical record, provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment to correctly interpret data and evaluate sonographic quality.
4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead. Lift 50 pounds independently and 125 pounds with assistance.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment.

6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling and fine manipulation. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and manipulation of equipment.
7. **Mentation:** Ability to remain focused on multiple details and tasks for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.

Health Status

All individuals admitted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will be required to submit documentation of a complete health assessment by his/her health-care provider. This will include documentation that specific immunizations and tests have been completed. If a list is needed, please contact Program Faculty.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All Diagnostic Medical Sonography students must complete a Background Check and Drug Screening through our vendor. No other processes may be substituted for this requirement. Forms and information will be provided to students upon conditional acceptance into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. This testing is completed through our vendor, and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor.

The Background Check will search for misdemeanors and felonies of any type. However, only “barrier crimes” will result in failure of the background check. Barrier crimes are those that would prevent a student from obtaining employment in a hospital.

Generally, criminal convictions for offenses involving abuse or neglect disqualify an applicant from employment. A more complete list of barrier crimes can be found on the

Virginia Department of Health website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OLC/Laws/.../barriercrimesguide.pdf>.

The vendor will report only whether a student clears or does not clear the background check. All reports will be returned to the Program Director. If a student is not cleared, the student must make any clarifications directly with the vendor. The student may elect to involve the Program Director in any clarification procedures. **If no suitable arrangement can be made, the student shall be administratively withdrawn from the program.**

Students who have criminal convictions, but passed the background check for barriers to employment, should be aware that certifying organizations may have additional restrictions.

Students applying to take the ARRT licensing exam will be required to answer questions regarding conviction of any misdemeanor or felony (except juvenile convictions processed in a juvenile court or

traffic citations that did not involve drugs or alcohol.) If student answers yes to any of these questions, they will be required to provide documentation to ARRT. For further information, see the ARRT's website:

<https://www.rrt.org/Ethics/>.

Students who are concerned that past convictions may affect their ability to be certified by ARDMS can complete the Pre-application Determination of Eligibility:

http://www.pdfFiller.com/29653980-Pre-application_Criminalpdf-Pre-application-Determination-ofEligibility-for-ARDMS-Certification--Various-Fillable-Forms. There is a cost for this pre-application.

The Drug Screen tests for Amphetamine (methamphetamine), barbiturates, benzodiazepine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (codeine, morphine), phencyclidine and propoxyphene. Any of these drugs found in the student's drug screen, will result in the student failing the drug screen. In cases of failure, our Vendor will reach out to the student and, if the student failed due to a valid prescription, the student can send the Vendor prescription documentation, which may result in the student passing the drug screen. However, if no prescription covers the failure, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the program.

Some of the clinical facilities utilized by the Sonography program require students to have a drug screen within 30 days of the beginning of their clinical experience. This may require students to do an additional drug screen during the course of the program, with an additional cost.

Program Behavior Expectations

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is considered to be in the best interest of the program. The program will not accept any student who has been dismissed from another college or program due to misconduct or threatening behavior or who has been determined to be a potential threat. Students may be denied admission to the program if there is sufficient reason to believe that they present a danger to themselves, other members of the college community or clients in the clinical setting.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Prerequisites

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to **September 1, 2025** will be eligible for admission. Staff will not be available to assist with submission of application materials after September 1. We strongly recommend you complete the process before September 1.

The following items must be satisfactorily completed to be considered for admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. This is a competitive admissions process with limited enrollment and not all applicants will be granted admission. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum does not guarantee admission.

Admission Criteria:

A. Completed Application form with the non-refundable fee. Please make all checks payable to: Sovah School of Health Professionals

B. 3 letters of Reference

C. Official transcripts which must include:

- College Success skills (or equivalent)
- English College Composition I
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II
- Math 131 or MTH 161
- College Physics Course
- Humanities Elective (Prefer PHI 220)
- Social Science Elective (Prefer PSY 230)

D. Minimum Selective GPA from above courses needs to be at least a 2.0 All information will be kept confidential. Applicants are selected in accordance with nondiscriminatory policies.

E. Computer Literacy with Word or Google Docs, and internet usage.

Factors Considered for Admission Decision:

Admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is competitive and will be based on a ranking system that includes student performance on all the sonography program prerequisites. Each student's past and potential educational achievement is measured against all other students applying.

Applicants must submit all official documentation and demonstrate minimum requirements for consideration by the posted deadline to be considered for acceptance. Coursework in progress at time of deadline will not be considered during the application process. Students meeting all the minimum requirements for admission are not guaranteed acceptance. Priority for admission is given to former students of the Radiologic Technology Program from the School of Health Professionals.

Evaluation Process:

1. Sonography Program applicants complete online Sonography Program application and all required prerequisites prior to September 1 deadline. Applications or documentation received after the deadline will not be considered.
2. The Program Director conducts a preliminary screening of all applications to determine those who have met the minimum prerequisites and thus are eligible for admission.
3. Applicants are ranked according to the following criteria in order of importance:
 - a. The completed prerequisite courses completed by the application deadline.
 - b. The GPA earned in those completed courses
 - c. Interview and essay
4. Interview results

Acceptance into the Sovah School of Health Professions' Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is also contingent upon potential students passing a pre-enrollment drug screening and physical examination. Results of these tests are confidential and are maintained by the institution.

CPR with the American Heart Association for Providers is required at time of acceptance.