



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Applicant Information

OVERVIEW

This document contains important information for prospective applicants to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program on the Bakersfield campus of San Joaquin Valley College. Careful review of each section is required to complete the application for admission.

The cohort of students enrolled for the next DMS program start date will be selected from applicants with complete packages submitted by the application deadline. The application checklist identifies all of the documents required for a complete application. Only qualified applicants with complete application materials will be scheduled for the Application Interview.

DMS Program Start Date

Application Deadline

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicants may use the following checklist to monitor progress in completing the application process:

Document / Process	Date submitted / complete
Application for Admission	
Official Postsecondary Transcripts	
Wonderlic BST Assessments	
Employment Letters of Verification	
Application Interview	

PREREQUISITE COURSES

The following courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher at a regionally accredited college or university prior to the application deadline:

- Reading and Composition
- Intermediate Algebra or higher*
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Terminology

*Intermediate Algebra must be equivalent in depth & breadth to SJVC’s Math 121/122.

COHORT SELECTION

Each student cohort is selected from the current group of applicants based on a point system. Following are the points available by category:

- Wonderlic BST Assessments 20 pts
- Postsecondary education
 - Attainment 20 pts
 - GPA 20 pts
- Healthcare work experience 20 pts
- Application Interview 20 pts
- Previous complete application
 - Selected as alternate 10 pts
 - Not selected 5 pts

Applicants with the highest number of points will be selected for available seats with three alternates for each cohort.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS

The following is a list of physical requirements related to the job duties of an ultrasound technologist.

- Possess visual skills necessary to adequately differentiate between subtle shades of gray, and color distinctions.
- Possess auditory skills necessary to distinguish audible sounds of a Doppler signal, communicate with patients, and communicate with other health care professionals.
- Possess sufficient oral and written skills in English to communicate with patients and other health care professionals.
- Stand, walk, and sit for up to 30 minutes at a time.
- Stand and walk for up to 8 hours during an 8-hour shift.
- Lift or move a maximum of a 290-pound patient in a 2 person or 3 person transfer.
- Move loads of up to 50 pounds up to 25 times per hour.
- Push a patient confined to a wheelchair or gurney up to 300 feet or more, depending upon the structural design of the medical facility.
- Bend, crouch, or stoop up to 20 times per hour.
- Reach forward up to 18 inches while holding an object weighing 15 pounds.
- Push ultrasound equipment on wheels weighing up to 300 pounds or more.
- Possess manual dexterity to manipulate and operate all diagnostic medical sonography equipment.

CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP STATEMENT

Upon successful completion of all didactic and laboratory instruction, the clinical externship portion of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program commences. The externship portion of the program starts approximately 12 months after starting the program.

During the externship portion of the program, the student is assigned to a medical facility that regularly performs diagnostic medical ultrasound imaging. You are required to be present at the medical facility 8 hours per day, five days per week, for 24 weeks. The specific start and ending hours depend upon the hours of operation for the specific facility.

During that time no Leave of Absence will be granted. Vacations are not permitted during the externship portion of the program.

You may be required to drive up to 75 miles each way to the externship location.

ARDMS CERTIFYING EXAMINATION STATEMENT

The law does NOT require that a diagnostic medical sonographer be licensed or ARDMS certified in order to work as a sonographer, but some employers do require that potential employees be ARDMS certified, or eligible to sit for the ARDMS certifying examination within one year after hire.

Graduates of the SJVC DMS program who hold a BS or BA degree or higher will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS certifying examination immediately upon completion of the program.

Graduates who have prior education in a two year allied health care field (single subject) that is patient care related will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS certifying examination immediately upon completion of the program. A two year allied health education program is defined as (1) 24 consecutive calendar months OR (2) 60 semester credits OR (3) 84 quarter credits. Examples of such allied health occupations include, but are not limited to radiologic technologist (RT), registered nurse (RN), respiratory therapist, or occupational therapist.

Graduates who hold an active certification with Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI), or American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), or Australian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM), will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS certifying examination immediately upon completion of the program.

Graduates who do not have these prior educational prerequisites must work for one year (1680 hours) as a diagnostic medical sonographer before they are eligible to sit for the ARDMS examination.

To obtain more information about the ARDMS certification examination, you may contact them at The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, 51 Monroe Street, Plaza East One, Rockville, MD 20850. You may also visit their web site at www.ardms.org

ARDMS SPECIALTY CERTIFYING EXAMINATION STATEMENT

The SJVC DMS Program is designed as a general concentration in the performance of diagnostic medical ultrasound. When you graduate from this program, the education received will prepare you to sit for the Abdominal and Small Parts and/or the OB/GYN RDMS specialty examinations.

The program is not designed as a complete preparation to sit for the Registered Vascular Technologist certifying examination upon graduation. The Vascular course is intended as an introduction to vascular ultrasound imaging. At least six months of additional training is required prior to sitting for the RVT credential.

The time frame, in regard to your eligibility to sit for the ARDMS examination is based upon your prior educational background.