



FAQs

The following are some Frequently Asked Questions about the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program:

1. How long is the program?

After completing the prerequisites courses, the program is 21 months in length—4-16 week semesters and 1-summer semester. During the first year, the student attends classes—fall and spring--prior to beginning clinical rotations. Next, the student attends clinical during summer semester and during the second year attends class and clinical in the fall and spring semesters, prior to graduation in May.

2. Are classes available on weekend or evenings?

Currently, all classes are offered only during the day. The program does not foresee offering weekend or evening courses in the near future, however, hybrid online courses may be available in the future

3. Can the program be completed on a part-time basis?

No. All courses must be taken in sequence and can be taken only in the semester listed

4. How much can I work while enrolled in the program?

It is strongly recommended that the student plan to work only minimally, if at all, while enrolled in the program. There is a great deal of new information to be learned and mastered; therefore a considerable amount of study time is required for all classes and in all semesters. All students are encouraged to have alternate financial plans to support their educational endeavors without planning on fulltime employment during the two years.

5. What is the deadline for applications?

Applications, and all supporting documents, are due postmarked June 1st.

6. Do I have to provide a transcript from St. Philip's College with my application if I have taken all my prerequisites there?

Yes. The applicant is responsible for submitting transcripts that show proof of having completed prerequisite courses. The selection committee only reviews documents that are included in the application packet.

7. How is diagnostic medical sonography different from radiology?

They are both imaging modalities...in other words, both are used by physicians to image patients' problem areas to help them make a decision on patient care options. However, Sonography uses high frequency sound waves to image, while radiology uses radiation to take their images.

8. What is the job market for sonographers?

The job placement rate average for the graduating classes of 2014 - 2018 is 96% within 6 months of graduation. According to the US Dept. of Labor, the occupational demand for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers is projected to increase by 26% by 2024. Texas has the 2nd highest employment level of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in the nation.

9. What is the cost per semester for this program?

Please refer to the college's [tuition and fee schedule](#) page. Please note on the tuition schedule there is a special tuition fee of \$700 per semester for students enrolled in some of the Healthcare Science programs.

10. How do I schedule the ATI TEAS standardized test for admittance?

Click <https://www.alamo.edu/spc/academics/academic-resources/teas/> , here you will find a link to register for the TEAS.



11. Where can I accomplish my mandatory Volunteer hours?

As noted in the program's website admission requirements, all applicants must participate in a minimum of 40 hours volunteer work in a healthcare setting. Each applicant selects his/her own site for their volunteer experience. Recommended settings include a hospital, a nursing home, a hospice organization, an assisted living setting, a respite organization, etc. Health care experience includes any activity in which the applicant assists, transports, aids and/or performs any patient care procedures in a health care setting. Phlebotomy, Pharmacy technician, medical office assistant (front office), and/or other medical office duties do not qualify for this requirement. Completed Volunteer form must be submitted with application. The minimum requirement is 40 hours within the year of application. Additional bonus points will be given for additional hours up to a maximum of 200 hours. See Applicant Ranking Worksheet for the bonus point allocation.

12. Do I need a degree in Radiologic Technology before I can apply to the Sonography Program?

No. DMS is a 2 year Associate of Applied Science Degree program.

13. Will I need transportation?

Yes. Starting the third semester, the student will be assigned to a clinical site in or surrounding San Antonio. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they arrive at the site on time.

14. How can I further my education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography?

There are several colleges and universities that offer relative degrees and courses, including online degree completion programs.