



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Information Session

A black and white ultrasound image of a heart, showing the internal structures and the movement of the heart walls. The image is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a white background.

DMS Program Purpose

- ▶ Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are the health care professionals who use ultrasound equipment that directs sound waves into a patient's body to assess and diagnose various medical conditions.
- ▶ Students in this program are trained for employment as entry-level sonographers in hospitals, outpatient imaging centers, mobile imaging services, and additional medical facilities.

Accreditation

South Texas College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).



DMS Program Information

- ▶ Students must apply to the DMS Program and meet all selective admissions requirements.
- ▶ Due to program size limitations, a number of applicants who meet the program admission requirements may not be admitted to the program.
- ▶ The DMS Program begins in the Spring Semester of each year and ends the following Spring Semester for a total of 17 months.
- ▶ Students are required to pass each semester in the program in order to continue to the next level.
- ▶ Upon completion from the program, students are eligible to sit for their national certification examination.



Clinical Requirements

- ▶ Clinical requirements include a criminal background check, current immunization status, clear tuberculosis screen, a drug and alcohol urine screen, current CPR status, current accident/health insurance, and maintenance of a COMPLIO account throughout the program. Find more information at https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/clinical_affairs.html
- ▶ Clinical Affairs Specialist:
Beatriz Mata
NAH-A Student Success Center 100.A
956-872-3022
clinicalaffairs@southtexascollege.edu
- ▶ Illicit drug use, criminal background checks and immunization status may prevent placement in a practicum site which would prevent acceptance and/or continuation in the program and future employment as a diagnostic medical sonographer.

Requirements for National Certification



The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists®

- ▶ Graduates from the ATC are eligible to sit for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) national examination.
- ▶ Graduates from the AAS are eligible to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Sonography national examination.
- ▶ Once ARRT certification is received, graduates are eligible to sit for the ARDMS national examination.

Application Season and Program Start Date

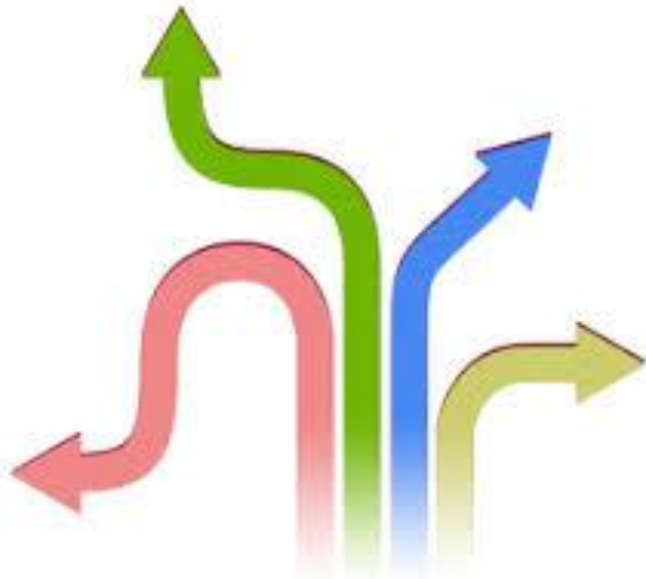
- ▶ Applications become available during the Summer Session in the month of June.
- ▶ Application deadline is the first Friday in September during the Fall Semester of each year.
- ▶ New cohorts begin annually in the Spring Semester.



DMS Program Application Pathways

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

- ▶ No previous degree is required.
- ▶ Students must meet selective admission requirements.



Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC)

- ▶ A minimum of an Associate Degree in a patient care related field required.
- ▶ Higher degrees may be accepted if it meets program requirements and national certification requirements.
- ▶ Students must meet selective admission requirements.



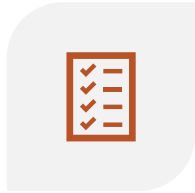
AAS Pathway

Associate of Applied Science

Admission Requirements for Associate of Applied Science



Participate in the required prospective student information session.



Be admitted to college as a high school graduate, or GED equivalent.



Meet TSI college readiness standards or meet TSI exemption standards.



Earn a minimum GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all courses listed in DMS degree plan. This includes courses completed through South Texas College and transfer courses.



Complete all prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of "B" as listed in the diagnostic medical sonography program degree plan. Admission selection criteria is based upon a point system.

Admission Requirements for Associate Applied Science Continued



Complete the HESI A2 and achieve a score of 75% or higher in English, Science and Math sections. Scores must be current within the last 2 years.



Submit a completed program application.



Pass a criminal background check, drug screen through approved providers and complete all required immunizations including hepatitis B series. Students with criminal histories must provide proof of certification eligibility from ARDMS and/or ARRT prior to application.



Satisfy healthcare requirements prior to clinical practice.

AAS General Education Courses

General education requirements for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree include pre-requisite courses and co-requisite courses.

Pre-requisite courses must be completed prior to submitting application.

DMSO 1210:
Introduction to Sonography

BIOL 2401:
Anatomy & Physiology I

BIOL 2402:
Anatomy & Physiology II

ENGL 1301:
Composition

Co-requisite courses are not required for entry into the program, but will be an advantage in accumulating higher application points.

Social/Behavioral Science Elective

Humanities Elective

AAS General Education Course Expiration Dates

▶ Pre-requisite Requirements

- ▶ DMSO 1210: Introduction to Sonography must be within **2 years current**
- ▶ BIOL 2401: Anatomy & Physiology I must be within **5 years current**
- ▶ BIOL 2402: Anatomy & Physiology II must be within **5 years current**
- ▶ ENGL 1301: English Composition does NOT have an expiration date
- ▶ Note: ENGL 1302 may be substituted for ENGL 1301 only. All other pre-requisites must be the course number and title listed on the degree plan.

▶ Co-requisite Course Requirements

- ▶ There are no expiration dates for the co-requisite courses

AAS Additional Courses Not Listed in Degree Plan

- ▶ There are two additional courses that students may take in addition to the pre-requisite and co-requisite courses that are not determined in the applicant's GPA, but will be an advantage in accumulating additional points on the application point system.
- ▶ Each of these courses must be completed with a grade of an A or B in order to receive additional points.
- ▶ There is no expiration date for these courses:
 - ▶ CSFH 0101: College Success for Healthcare
 - ▶ HITT 1305: Medical Terminology I

HESI Scores

Program Requirements

- ▶ English Language: 75%
- ▶ Science: 75%
- ▶ Math: 75%
- ▶ Composite Score: 75%
- ▶ **HESI scores must be within 2 years current.**

HESI
A2

"What If?"

- ▶ The HESI can be repeated if you scored under 75% on a required section and repeat that section within the same "eligibility period" as the first exam. The passing grade will replace the failing grade if the initial and the retake is within the same eligibility period.
- ▶ If student decides or wishes to improve scores (on either version 1 or version 2), the highest score of 75% or better will be taken into consideration within the same eligibility period.

AAS Point System Legend

| Final Grade/Point Legend for Pre-requisite Courses: | A=4 | B=3 | C=0 | D=0 |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Final Grade/Point Legend for Co-requisite Courses: | A=4 | B=3 | C=2 | D=1 |
| HESI A2 Average Score: | 100%-90%=4 | 89%-83%=3 | 82%-75%=2 | |
| CSFH 0101 College Success for Healthcare | A=2 | B=1 | C=0 | D=0 |
| HITT 1305 Medical Terminology I | A=2 | B=1 | C=0 | D=0 |

Point Calculation Example

- ▶ Credit Hours for each course is the second number of course code, multiply credit hours by letter grade received:

DMSO 1210: Introduction to Sonography



$$2 \times 4 (A) = 8$$

If course was repeated one point will be deducted for each repeated DEGREE PLAN COURSE.



$$2 \times 4 (A) = 8 - 1 = 7$$

- ▶ Re-taking a course to satisfy the 5-year/2-year requirement will NOT result in a point deduction.



AAS Point Calculation

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------|
| Total Points Earned: ____ ÷ | By your Total # of Credit Hours: ____ | = GPA/Credit: | ____ |
| GPA/Credit: ____ × | Your Total # of Courses Taken: ____ | = GPA/ Application: | ____ |
| | | HESI A2 Average Points: | ____ |
| | | College Success Points: | ____ |
| | | Medical Terminology Points: | ____ |
| | | Total Application Points : | ____ |

▶ Complete each of the following calculations to determine total application points.

▶ Calculations of GPA must be expressed using two decimal places (e.g., 4.00, 3.25).

▶ The maximum number of application points is 36.

ATC Pathway

Advanced Technical Certificate

Admission Requirements for Advanced Technical Certificate



Hold a minimum of an associate degree in a nursing or allied health profession in a patient care related field. If an associate degree is not held, bachelor's degrees and higher may be accepted provided they are in a nursing, allied health, or the health science profession. All degrees will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the Diagnostic Imaging Department Chair.



Admission selection criteria requires that applicants complete the following courses prior to application to the program. (Anatomy & Physiology I or equivalent, ENGL-1301 or equivalent, & DMSO 1210-Introduction to Sonography).



Applicants are ranked on a point system score that includes the required course listed in prior bullet, the last 10 courses that appear on the submitted transcript, and corresponding level of education.



Complete the HESI A2 (admissions assessment) exam as follows: achieve an English language composite score of 75% or higher, a science (Anatomy & Physiology) score of 75% or higher, and a math score of 75% or higher. Scores must be current within the last 2 years. HESI A2 exemptions are not permitted.



Students who earn an associate degree from STC in a nursing or allied health profession that meet admission requirements will earn additional points on the point system score evaluation. Students will also earn points according to their level of education of the submitted degree (e.g., Associate, bachelors, master, or doctorate degree).

ATC Pre-requisite and General Education Courses

Pre-requisite/general education requirements for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree include:

Pre-requisite: DMSO 1210-Introduction to Sonography (B or Better)

BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I or Equivalent

English 1301 or Equivalent



Students must complete these courses before they apply to the program.

ATC General Education Course Expiration Dates

▶ Pre-requisite Requirements

- ▶ DMSO 1210: Introduction to Sonography must be within **2 years current**

▶ General Education Course Requirements

- ▶ BIOL 2401: Anatomy & Physiology I or equivalent must be within **5 years current**
- ▶ ENGL 1301: English Composition or equivalent does NOT have an expiration date

ATC Submitted Degree Requirements

- ▶ Applicants must hold a minimum of an associate degree in a nursing or allied health profession that is patient care related. A bachelor degree and higher in a related field may be accepted if the degree meets the requirements of the program.
- ▶ All degrees must be evaluated by the Department Chair/DMS faculty for approval.
- ▶ Students are to list the LAST 10 courses that pertain to the MAJOR of the degree on the submitted transcript used in evaluation of the application. It is not permissible to use more than one transcript and/or list additional courses other than the last 10 courses of the major that are listed on the degree submitted for evaluation.
- ▶ E.g., if a student submits a transcript for an AAS with a major in Radiologic Technology (RADT), the last 10 RADT courses only will be documented on the application point system.

ATC Additional Courses Not Listed in Curriculum

- ▶ There are two additional courses that students may take in addition to the general education courses and courses pertaining to the major of the submitted degree that are not determined in the applicant's GPA, but will be an advantage in accumulating additional points on the application point system.
- ▶ Each of these courses must be completed with a grade of an A or B in order to receive additional points.
- ▶ There is no expiration date for these courses:
 - ▶ BIOL 2402: Anatomy & Physiology II or Equivalent
 - ▶ HITT 1305: Medical Terminology I

HESI Scores

Program Requirements

- ▶ English Language: 75%
- ▶ Science: 75%
- ▶ Math: 75%
- ▶ Composite Score: 75%
- ▶ **HESI scores must be within 2 years current.**

HESI
A2

"What If?"

- ▶ The HESI can be repeated if you scored under 75% on a required section and repeat that section within the same "eligibility period" as the first exam. The passing grade will replace the failing grade if the initial and the retake is within the same eligibility period.
- ▶ If student decides or wishes to improve scores (on either version 1 or version 2), the highest score of 75% or better will be taken into consideration within the same eligibility period.

ATC Level of Degree and STC Graduate Points

Level of Degree Points

- ▶ Associate's degree = 1
- ▶ Bachelor's degree = 2
- ▶ Master's degree = 3 D
- ▶ Doctorate degree = 4

STC Graduate Points

- ▶ Radiologic Technology Program = 4
- ▶ Occupational Therapy Assistant Program = 2
- ▶ Respiratory Therapy Program = 2
- ▶ Medical Assistant Technology Program = 2
- ▶ Physical Therapist Assistant Program = 2
- ▶ Associate Degree Nursing Program = 2
- ▶ Emergency Medical Technology = 2

ATC Point System Legend

| Final Grade/Point Legend for Pre-requisite Course: | A=4 | B=3 | C=0 | D=0 |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Final Grade/Point Legend for General Education Courses: | A=4 | B=3 | C=2 | D=1 |
| Final Grade/Point Legend for Last 10 Courses of the Major on the Submitted Degree: | A=4 | B=3 | C=2 | D=1 |
| HESI A2 Average Score: | 100%-90%=4 | 89%-83%=3 | 82%-75%=2 | |
| BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II or Equivalent | A=2 | B=1 | C=0 | D=0 |
| HITT 1305 Medical Terminology I | A=2 | B=1 | C=0 | D=0 |

ATC Point Calculation

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| Total Points Earned: ____ ÷ | By your Total # of Credit Hours: ____ | = GPA/Credit: | ____ |
| GPA/Credit: ____ × | Your Total # of Courses Taken: ____ | = GPA/ Application: | ____ |
| | | HESI A2 Average Points: | ____ |
| | | Anatomy & Physiology II Points: | ____ |
| | | Medical Terminology Points: | ____ |
| | | Total Application Points : | ____ |

▶ Complete each of the following calculations to determine total application points.

▶ Calculations of GPA must be expressed using two decimal places (e.g., 4.00, 3.25).

▶ There is no maximum or minimum number of points for the ATC due to the uniqueness of each student's application.

DMS Program Estimated Cost

- ▶ Associate of Applied Science (AAS): \$17,000.00
- ▶ Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC): \$12,000.00
- ▶ Financial Aid may be available. Learn more at <http://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/> or meet with a Financial Aid Specialist on any South Texas College campus.



FINANCIAL AID



Admissions

Paying for Your Degree

- ▶ Financial Aid applications become available yearly on October 1st.
- ▶ Department of Education Ending Award Year Deadline for current year is June 30th.
- ▶ Scholarships available for Nursing and Allied Health Students
 - ▶ Maudie Mary Finney Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 - ▶ College Success for Healthcare Scholarship
 - ▶ South Texas Health System Nursing & Allied Health Scholarship
 - ▶ Community Health Outreach Committee Scholarship
- ▶ Financial Aid Website: <https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/>



Paying For Your Degree



Providing Academic Support to Students (P.A.S.S.) Program assist eligible students.

Career/academic advising
Case management
Childcare assistance (enrolled full-time)
Referral services
Registration
Lending Library (textbook assistance)
<https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/pass/index.html>



Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA) is a workforce development program designed to respond to the job training needs of the Rio Grande Valley's Empowerment Zones.

Books
Transportation
Childcare
Tools
Uniforms



Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is to provide workforce investment activities that increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants.

Tuition
Books
Fees
Certain Approved Supplies
https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/financial/other_assistance.html

Nursing and Allied Health Campus Resources



- ▶ Computer Labs
- ▶ Skills Labs
- ▶ Student Services
- ▶ Library
- ▶ NAH Simulation Hospital



Center for Learning Excellence

- ▶ "The Center for Learning Excellence (CLE) helps South Texas College students succeed by creating positive learning environments with knowledgeable staff."
 - ▶ Tutoring
 - ▶ Workshops
 - ▶ Note-taking skills
 - ▶ Test-taking skills
 - ▶ Time Management
 - ▶ Academic Coaching
 - ▶ Exam prep
 - ▶ Short-Term and Long-Term goals
 - ▶ Writing Center
 - ▶ Study Areas
 - ▶ Open Labs

NAH Campus Life

- ▶ Student Organizations on NAH campus:
 - ▶ Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
- ▶ Student Government Association
 - ▶ Provides a forum for free and open discussion of matters affecting students at South Texas College.
- ▶ Student Leadership Academy
 - ▶ Offers many opportunities for South Texas College students to invest in their development as a leader. Each graduate will receive a certificate and pin for completing the Academy.
- ▶ Student Activities Specialist
Alberto R. Coria
NAH-A Office: A-1602
(956)872-3149
arcoria@southtexascollege.edu



Prospects For Employment & Salary Expectations



- ▶ Nationally Occupation Outlook 2018-2028: 14% (faster than average job growth).
 - ▶ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians, Including Vascular Technologists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm>.
- ▶ McAllen, Edinburg, Mission Metropolitan Area mean wage; \$34.59/hour; \$71,590/year.
 - ▶ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians, Including Vascular Technologists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm>.



DMS Program Contact Information

- ▶ Department Chair:
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- ▶ Diagnostic Medical Sonography Faculty:

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