

Diagnostic Medical Sonography, AAS

School of Health Professions

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program offers the academic preparation, laboratory and clinical training for a career as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. This curriculum provides students with the entry-level skills needed to use diagnostic ultrasound equipment under the supervision of a physician for the use and interpretation of ultrasound procedures. Sonographers assist in gathering sonographic data necessary to reach diagnostic decisions. Sonographers work in a variety of healthcare settings, including regional medical centers, hospitals, diagnostic centers, clinics and doctors' offices. They perform their duties in diagnostic labs, trauma centers, emergency rooms, operating rooms, interventional suites, labor and delivery facilities, and at the bedside.

Students who successfully complete all requirements of the program are eligible to apply to take the American Registry in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Exam.

Special Admission and Selection Criteria

Admission to the DMS program is highly competitive and enrollment is limited. Specific criteria for admission and selection are as follows:

- Applicants must be graduates of an accredited secondary school program or hold a GED equivalency certificate prior to selection.
- Students must attend a placement assessment and educational planning session and complete any developmental courses that may be required based on the placement assessment by the application deadline.
- Applicants must complete the following required courses with a grade of "C" or better prior to the program's application deadline: SPC 156, BIO 171/172, MTH 157, and PHY 110. Any other DMS general education courses taken prior to program admission must also be completed with a grade of "C" or better.
- Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA in program-required courses as of the application deadline. Applicants may repeat any of the program-required general education courses one time in an attempt to raise course grade and/or GPA as of the application deadline.
- Qualified applications must take the DMS admission examination. Applicants will be notified of testing dates.
- If there are more qualified applicants than available seats, the DMS program uses a selective admission process based on GPA and the DMS admission examination score.
- Applicants to the DMS program should review the following websites for specific information:
 - Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDMS)
 - Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP)
 - American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) in Abdomen and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Application Process for Health Profession Programs

- Complete and submit an Application for Admission to Westmoreland County Community College.
- Complete and submit an application for the specific Health Profession Program (Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Expanded Functions Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Nursing*, Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing* or Radiology).
- Submit all required documents to the Admissions Office by the deadline.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.

Final Admission Criteria

Students accepted into the School of Health Professions including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing are required to have a criminal background check, child abuse history and drug screening at the student's expense.

The Program Director of each Health Profession Program gives the accepted student directions for setting up a password-secure Castle Branch Account.

Castle Branch is the background screening and compliance tracking company, which provides Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs with student background screening services.

Castle Branch background screening and compliance management includes:

- Background Checks (FBI Fingerprint Check, Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearances)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Immunization and Record Tracking
- Houses PPD (TB screening)
- CPR Training Documentation
- Liability Insurance (if applicable for program)
- Houses the results of the Required Health Physical.

Final admission is conditional pending receipt of Urine Drug Screen and receipt and evaluation of Criminal Background Check to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.

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Essential Cognitive, Physical and Behavioral Functions

The Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing require that students meet certain functional abilities essential to each program. A detailed list is available in each program's handbook.

Please be aware that based on ongoing changes occurring in the dental profession, it may be necessary to modify courses listed in this catalog to meet changing practice competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Completely and safely perform the skills of an entry-level diagnostic medical sonographer.
- Demonstrate the role of diagnostic medical sonographer in relationship to the interdisciplinary functions and members of the health care team.
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity and caring.
- Exhibit professional proficiency and currency in skills and patient care.
- Demonstrate the importance of quality patient care in the healthcare setting.
- Apply self-evaluation and life-long learning.
- Achieve a passing grade on the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers' examinations.

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq(s)	Options Available
Prior to Application Deadline	1	PDV 101	First Year Seminar	1	F, Sp, Su		
	2	SPC 156	Interpersonal Communication	3	F, Sp, Su		SPC 155
	3	BIO 171	Anatomy & Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107,155, 264 or HS Chemistry & ENG 095 or Placement	
	4	BIO 172	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171	
	5	MTH 157	College Algebra	3	F, Sp, Su	MTH 100, 100A or Placement	MTH 160
	6	PHY 110	Fundamentals of Physics	3	F, Sp, Su	MTH 052, 052A or Placement	
1st Fall	7	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement	
	8	DMS 103	Cross-Sectional Anatomy for Ultrasound	2	F	Admission to program	
	9	DMS 105	Abdominal I	4	F	Co: DMS 103, 113	
	10	DMS 113	Acoustical Principles & Instrumentation I	4	F	Co: DMS 103, 105	
	11	ALH 122	Medical Terminology	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Spring	12	DMS 114	Acoustical Principles & Instrumentation II	4	Sp	DMS 103, 105, 113	
	13	DMS 204	Gynecology	4	Sp	Co: DMS 114, 201, 205	
	14	DMS 201	Patient Care / Legal / Ethical Issues	2	Sp	Co: DMS 114, 204, 205	
	15	DMS 205	Abdominal II	4	Sp	Co: DMS 114, 204, 201	
	16	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Summer	17	DMS 210	Clinical I	3	Su	DMS 201, 204, 205, 114	
2nd Fall	18	DMS 106	Obstetrics I	3	F	DMS 210	
	19	DMS 208	Introduction to Vascular	3	F	Co: DMS 106, 211	
	20	DMS 211	Clinical II	3	F	Co: DMS 106, 208	
	21	ENG 162	Technical Communication	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
2nd Spring	22	DMS 212	Clinical III	3	Sp	DMS 205, 208, 211	
	23	DMS 206	Obstetrics II	3	Sp	Co: DMS 207, 212	
	24	HUM 156	Critical Thinking	3	F, Sp, Su		
	25	DMS 207	Small Parts, Breast & Neuro	3	Sp	Co: DMS 206, 212	

Total Program Credits

78