Westmoreland County Community College
ADMISSIONS

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

FAQ’s

1. How long is WCCC’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?

Once accepted into WCCC’s DMS program, students can complete the program in two years.

2. Do I really need to send my high school transcript?

Yes! The final OFFICIAL high school transcript is a mandatory requirement for the admission procedure. Do not assume for any reason that the college has your transcript…check with Admissions. The high school transcript is still required even if a student has a bachelor’s degree. It is always best to check with the Office of Admissions to confirm that your transcript is on file. You do not want to have this missing and not be eligible to take the NLN examination. To check the status of your high school transcript you can contact Admissions at 724-925-4077.

3. Are the Accuplacer test and the NLN examination the same thing?

No. The Accuplacer test is WCCC’s placement test for math and English. This test will indicate if a student needs developmental work in these two areas. The required developmental courses need to be completed with a letter grade of “C” or above before the student can take the NLN examination.

4. If I am trying to get into the DMS program, can I have my pre-admission requirements and developmental courses and/or program prerequisite in progress during the semester that the test is given and still be eligible to take the NLN test?

No. You must have the developmental courses and/or program prerequisite completed prior to applying to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. All requirements must be completed by the May 15th application deadline.
5. **How long will it take to find out if I am accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program?**

You will not find out if you are accepted into the DMS program until approximate one to two months after the completion of the NLN test. **Please do not call the college to find out if you have been accepted.** We are unable to tell you over the phone. You will be notified in writing by the college if you were accepted into the DMS program. You will also be notified if you were **NOT** accepted into the program.

6. **If I have general education courses completed, is the DMS program still two years?**

Yes. The DMS courses are offered in a sequence; therefore making the program the full two years. However, by completing general education courses that the program requires will lighten a student’s course load.

7. **If I have general education courses completed from another college and they are required for the DMS program, can they be applied to WCCC’s program?**

In most cases, if the student has a Bachelors or Associates Degree from another college **OR** if the courses have been taken less than ten years ago with a grade of “C” or above, the college will transfer the courses in. The student will need to supply WCCC with official transcripts from **ALL** colleges that they wish to have courses transferred from, and submit a completed **Transfer of Credit** form (obtained from the Admissions office) and the Admissions Coordinator must evaluate the transcripts to complete the process.

8. **Do I need to complete all of my physicals, clearances, etc. now?**

No. Once a student has been accepted to the program these requirements will be explained to the accepted students at the orientation meeting held by the Director of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. Students are informed of this meeting in their acceptance letter.

9. **What are the hours of the DMS program?**

The hours will vary from semester to semester depending on the courses. All **DMS** courses including clinical time are offered during the day. The **DMS** courses during the first year will normally run two days a week from 8:00 AM and conclude approximately 3:00 PM. **This does not take into account for non-DMS courses.** During the second year clinical will be three days a week from 8:00 – 4:30 with **DMS** classes running from approximately 8:00 AM – 3:00PM two days a week.
10. What type of certification do I receive upon completion of this program and how do I go about receiving it?

The “National Registry” is offered by The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). Upon completion of the program you may work as a “Graduate Sonographer” until you pass your “Boards”. Most, but not all facilities will give a “Graduate Sonographer” approximately one year to become certified. If during that time you do not become certified most facilities will fire the non-certified employee.

For the “Boards” you must pass the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation and an ARDMS specialty examination (Abdomen or Obstetrics and Gynecology) to become certified. The Program Director will assist you with registration for the National Registry prior to completion of the DMS program.

11. Do I really need to become certified?

Yes. Employers are becoming very stringent on this matter. Facilities are paid for testing by medical reimbursement from the insurance companies. Most if not all insurance companies will only give payment to facilities that are “Accredited”. For a facility to become accredited sonographers must be certified or registered in sonography within a designated amount of time. This is why the facilities are firing the non-certified employees.

12. Do I need to have this certification renewed? If so, what is the process?

Yes. The two requirements for maintaining an active status with the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) are listed below:

1. You must earn a minimum of 30 ARDMS-accepted Continuing Medical Education credits (CMEs) in a three-year period.
2. You must pay your renewal fee each year.

- CMEs are offered at ultrasound seminars in the region and also online at approved websites.