



Information for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Prospective Students

Visit [How to Apply](#) on the DMS Program homepage for more information, including deadlines.

Thank you for your interest in Merced College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

PROGRAM MISSION

To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for both the Abdominal Sonography-Extended concentration, and the Obstetrical-Gynecology Sonography concentration of the ARDMS boards exams.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Develop writing skills to prepare medical manuscripts and present clinical case study presentations.
- Develop an understanding of medical ethical standards and cultural diversity.
- Analyze the theory of ultrasound physics, anatomy, pathophysiology to differentiate normal sonographic appearances.
- Analyze the theory of ultrasound physics, anatomy, pathophysiology in sonographic disease differential diagnoses.
- Develop scanning competencies in the various modalities of sonography.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

Bachelor's Degree in any subject (or higher education completed)

OR

Associate of Science Professional degree in either Radiologic Technology or Registered Nursing or Nuclear Medicine or Respiratory Therapy or Paramedic Medicine. Only these programs are acceptable. You must be licensed at the time of application.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Please read the following information carefully:

Before applying, complete the entrance requirement & program's prerequisites.

All prerequisites must be completed with a "C" or higher and grades demonstrated on transcripts prior to applying. Combined GPA on prerequisites must be a 2.35 or higher.

- ALLH-67 Medical Terminology
- BIOL-16 General Human Anatomy
- BIOL-18 Principles of Physiology
- ENGL-C1000 – Academic Reading & Writing **or** ENGL-1A - College Composition & Reading **or** COMM-C1000 – Intro to Public Speaking **or** COMM-1 – Fundamentals of Speech
- ENGL-1A College Composition & Reading or COMM-01 Fundamentals of Speech
- MATH-26 **or** MATH-25 **or** MATH-15 **or** STAT-C1000 **or** MATH-10
- PHYS-10 Concepts in Physics or *RADT-13 Radiologic Sciences I (will be accepted for Registered Radiographers)

*This course is ONLY offered to accepted students in the Merced College Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program

NOTE: 300 patient care skills hours are **no** longer required.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY

You are encouraged to view the Grid of Comparable Prerequisites Courses online for program prerequisite information. Please refer to this chart if you plan to take, or have taken, prerequisite courses outside of Merced College. This grid is to be used as a reference only. IF your course is NOT listed on the Grid of Comparable Prerequisite Courses, you must make an appointment with an ALLIED HEALTH Counselor (call 209-381-6478 or email ecounselor@mccd.edu) to verify equivalency.

Students are responsible for ensuring their course work is equivalent to Merced College requirements. If you need your course(s) verified for equivalency, fill out the [Equivalency Verification Form](#).

COUNSELING AND TRANSFERABILITY

It is recommended that prospective applicants meet with an academic counselor to review their college transcripts only if prerequisite courses are not listed on the Grid of Comparable Prerequisites Courses. Any courses needing to be petitioned for equivalency need to be done at that time. Petitions must be completed prior to the application deadline.

TRANSCRIPTS

All applicants are required to upload transcript(s) with their application. Transcripts must include all work shown as completed on the application. An application that is not filled out and/or does not have all transcripts submitted by the application deadline will be considered incomplete.

You can login to your MC Self-Service account to view and print a PDF of your [unofficial transcript](#).

You will need to request **two copies** of your official transcript(s) from all institutions other than Merced College:

1st Copy Required: Official transcript(s) from other colleges/universities must be sent directly to the Merced College Admissions & Records office by the transcript submission deadline.

2nd Copy Required: You also need to request an official transcript(s) sent directly from your institution(s) to you. Plan to submit a copy (PDF) of your official transcript(s) with your application. We understand that once you open the copy, it becomes unofficial. This will be accepted for this application.

If necessary, make an appointment to see an Allied Health Counselor at 209-381-6478, and bring with you the following if applicable:

1. All forms related to the DMS Application
2. Transcripts(s)
3. Other college catalogs, course descriptions, transcripts (credits for program)
4. Foreign transcripts - Formal Evaluation
5. Military Credits

* To ensure that courses are equivalent to those offered by Merced College, a counselor must complete Equivalency Verification Form.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS

Any students who have completed coursework at another university or college from a foreign country must provide [transcripts](#).

Applicants with college transcripts outside the U.S. will need to have them evaluated for U.S. equivalency. International transcripts without official translation will not be accepted for credit.

International transcripts must be officially evaluated by the following agency:

[Educational Records Evaluation Service, Inc.](#)

2480 Hilborn Rd., Ste. # 106

Fairfield, CA 94534 (P) 707-759-2866

Email edu@eres.com

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

To apply to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Merced College, a Merced College student ID is required.

If you do not have a student ID, you must [apply](#) for one.

Admission requirements and procedures are subject to change at any time.

ADMISSION POLICY

Admission into the DMS Program is based on criteria approved by Merced College and consistent with State and Federal law, regulations and program accreditation guidelines. Primary admission criteria include completion of the entrance requirement and completion of the prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better and combined GPA on prerequisites must be 2.35 or higher.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Application: New applications are accepted online during the application window upon completion of entrance requirement and all prerequisites. Admission requirements and procedures are subject to change at any time.

Length of Program: Four 16 week semesters and one 9 week summer session.

Selection: There is no waitlist. Qualified applicants will be selected by lottery.

Upon selection into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program students must confirm acceptance to participate in the program and must attend a mandatory program orientation. Information about the orientation will be provided at the time of selection. Failure to attend will result in forfeiture of program placement. If you are accepted or chosen as an alternate for the program, you may be required to take a sonographic aptitude test. Details about the test will be given at the mandatory orientation.

Upon admission to the program, all immunizations, health exams, CPR requirements, etc. must be met prior to beginning the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. More information provided at time of admission to the program. Students must complete all programmatically assigned clinical rotations; some include evening and/or weekend hours.

A new class begins once every 2 years.

August 2024, August 2026, August 2028, etc..

ABOUT THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The major goal of the Merced College Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is to provide education that prepares the student to sit for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography's (ARDMS) Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) board examination during the 4th semester, and the Abdomen-Extended and OB-GYN exams prior to graduation while completing the final semester. The graduate is prepared to use technical sonographic skills while utilizing knowledge of basic health principles to provide care and comfort to generate diagnostic sonographic examinations for physician interpretation.

The Allied Health Center houses a complete Sonographic Scanning Skills Lab, large computer lab. Conference rooms, study rooms and multiple large and small classrooms. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program has state-of-the technology equipment, software, and scanning phantoms that assist students with learning current scanning examinations.

Additional goals are developed according to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to prepare the graduate to set priorities, plan and organize to facilitate safe sonographic patient care and scanning techniques to meet patients' basic human needs in acute hospitals, health maintenance organizations, and physicians' offices. The entry level graduate sonographer is encouraged to complete the aforementioned ARDMS board exams and to function as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer under the direction of a Board Certified Radiologist, Sonologist, or other Medical Physician.

The student will recognize areas of responsibility on the health team and work with other members to facilitate

patient care.

The student will, by word and manner, instill confidence relative to stakeholders of the health team. The student will also display a sense of appropriate conduct in relationships with the college, faculty, patients and facility staff. The integrity of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography student will be absolute in matters concerning the patient, the patient's family and members of the health team.

We believe that the graduate of this program will be competent in utilizing the technical skills of this program and prepared for the ARDMS examinations.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND CURRICULUM

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is a full-time program to which students are admitted every 24 months. The program is sequentially composed of 4 semesters and 1 summer term.

Information on the [program courses and schedule](#) is available in the Merced College Catalog, the searchable class schedule, or the program pathways mapper.

INSTRUCTION

The first semester consists of both theoretical, laboratory components, and 12 clinical hours weekly at an assigned clinical affiliate. The student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and labs which are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The remaining semesters and summer term the students complete theoretical and laboratory courses on Wednesdays on the Merced College campus and 32 clinical hours weekly at an assigned clinical affiliate. The students are also expected to spend appropriate time outside of class time studying, preparing for written and practical exams, practicing skills, and writing papers or projects.

CERTIFICATE

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography curriculum comprised of four semesters and one summer term of combined theoretical, laboratory, and clinical experience on campus and at affiliated health care facilities. Upon satisfactory completion of the prerequisites and the sonography courses, a Certificate of Achievement is awarded.

Merced College offers the following certificate in Diagnostic Medical Sonography: Diagnostic Medical Sonography (12800.CT)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, you will require significant financial support.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students are routinely assigned clinical activities at hospitals and clinics away from campus and/or outside of their hometown. You will need to provide transportation for such assignments. The number of hours you will spend in classes and clinical experience make it difficult for a student to work while enrolled in the program. In addition, working while enrolled in the program is going to put a strain on your ability to study for your course work. We strongly recommend you plan ahead financially for the next 22 months of the program.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

An estimate of the cost of the program is provided. Tuition fees are subject to change. Non-residents of California pay tuition by the College.

[Financial Aid Assistance](#) and services are available to prospective students at Merced College.

The first semester is the costliest semester for textbooks. Most of the textbooks purchased in the first semester will be utilized throughout the duration of the program.

Legal residents of California are required to pay nominal fees. In addition, students may expect to incur other unforeseen expenses throughout the duration of the program.

Students must adhere to clearance requirements in order to be accepted into, and continue enrollment in, Allied Health Programs' clinical courses. Requirements include background checks, drug screenings, CPR certification, vaccinations and boosters (for example, COVID-19). Merced College follows the requirements put in place by our

clinical partners

Positive results on background checks and drug testing or failure to comply with clinical requirements could impact a student's ability to attend clinic, complete program requirements, or gain a license to practice upon graduation. The student will pay for the costs related to required physical examinations, immunizations, background screenings and drug testing. Students are required to have health insurance while in the program.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROGRAM

Legal residents of the State of California are required to pay nominal fees. In addition, students may expect other miscellaneous fees and expenses during the length of the program.

A. Fees - (estimates only)	
Enrollment Fee (entire program \$46/unit x 55.5 units) <i>Contact Admissions and Records for details. Fees subject to change as per the State Legislature</i>	2,553.00
Transportation Fee (\$9.95 per semester if enrolled in 12 units or more; \$6.95 if enrolled in less than 12 units)	43.75
Student Body Fee (Fall/Spring semesters \$10 x 4)	40.00
Health Fee (Fall/Spring semester \$21 x 4; summer \$18 x 1)	102.00
Parking (Fall/Spring \$30 x 4; summer \$15 x 1)	135.00

B. Additional Expenses – (estimates only)	
Lab Supplies	100.00
Books (entire program) - may include enrollment in the Follet Program	1,800.00
CPR Certification - BLS (American Heart Association)	60.00
Physical & Immunizations	400.00
Uniforms (entire program)	180.00
Background Clearance (criminal/financial/social security trace), Drug Screening & Immunization Tracker	200.00
Online Record Keeping (Trajecsys)	200.00

C. Licensing – (estimates only)	
ARDMS (SPI)	250.00
ARDMS (Obstetrics/Gynecology)	250.00
ARDMS (Abdomen)	250.00
Grand Total	\$5,724.85

Fees are subject to change. Non-resident students are required by state law to pay non-resident tuition. Consult the Merced College catalog for current fees or Merced College Admissions and Records.

RECORD OF CONVICTION

Eligibility for the ARDMS examination requires the candidate to be of good moral character. If a prospective student has a prior conviction this will be identified in the DOJ background check. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony may indicate a lack of good moral character for eligibility purposes and will require a thorough review. Prospective students should aim to expunge any potential problematic records. If the conviction is serious enough a clinical facility may deny entry of the student to their facility. If the student is denied entry to multiple facilities, they will not be able to complete the objectives of the DMS program.

Review the [Compliance Policies and Review](#) Process from the ARDMS website.

Please check out the DMS program's website for all the latest information, including deadlines.

For more information or additional questions that are not addressed in this document, please contact Merced College's [Counseling & Guidance Department](#) or visit the DMS program's website.