

Ivy Tech Community College
Muncie
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Program Information

Thank you for your interest in the Sonography Program. Sonography is a rewarding and challenging profession. Our goal at Ivy Tech is to help each of our students become a knowledgeable, competent, and important part of a health care diagnostic team.

My name is Linda Emerson, and I am the Program Chair and the General and Vascular instructor with the Muncie program. I have a history of approximately 34 years in the clinical side of the profession, working in hospitals and patient care. I love what I did then, and I love what I do now. The following information includes a brief description of the profession, Ivy Tech's admission and application procedures, and basic information about the program.

Please read the information carefully, as it will likely answer some of your questions. If you have other questions or would like to contact me for further information, please don't hesitate to email or call me. I would love to speak to you and help you start your journey into sonography. My contact information is:

Linda Emerson
765-289-2291 ext 1642
lemerson8@ivytech.edu

Please note that the following information is specific to the program at the Muncie campus. Ivy Tech offers the sonography program at both the Muncie and the Terre Haute campuses. Although the programs have many commonalities, each instructor and program is also unique in some ways.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Sonography, also referred to as ultrasonography, is a diagnostic medical procedure that uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of organs, tissues, and blood flow within the body.

Sonographers operate special equipment to direct high frequency sound waves into specific areas of the patient's body. Those sound waves then interact with the body and the reflected echoes are returned to produce our images. Those images are then interpreted by physicians with specialized training to help diagnose the patient.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers can specialize in multiple areas such as abdominal, obstetrics, gynecology, vascular and cardiac, as well as others. They work in large medical centers, smaller hospital settings, clinics and physician offices.

Each concentration of our program (General, Cardiac, Vascular) consists of a curriculum that includes patient care, sonographic technique, anatomy, pathology, physics, and ethics. Our students also spend many hours in various clinical sites working with registered sonographers and scanning patients.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program is a highly competitive, limited enrollment program. It is a 17 month, full time program in which the students must be present on the Muncie campus each week. The number of days spent on campus will vary somewhat. Students will also spend days each week in clinical sites. Please note, there is **no online option** for this program once you are accepted. You must be able to be on the Muncie Campus each week.

Accreditation

Ivy Tech Community College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges.

Philosophy & Mission

The faculty in the DMS program strive to provide a positive, challenging, and supportive environment in which students can develop the skills necessary to succeed as diagnostic medical sonographers. The sonography faculty believes that the learning process is a shared responsibility between faculty and student. The faculty lays the foundation for learning and the student exhibits the study habits and attitude conducive to learning.

We are committed to providing each student with a broad base of knowledge utilizing the most current technology and facilities available. In keeping with this philosophy, faculty members continually seek opportunities for professional development, certifications, and internships. In

addition to providing students with the necessary clinical and administrative skills, emphasis is placed on the importance of treating all patients with compassion, empathy, and tolerance.

The mission of the DMS Program at our campus is to provide a competency-based educational experience that reflects the accepted standards of the profession and provides students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to succeed as sonographers in today's health care system.

Program Goals

To prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for Abdominal sonography, Extended Adult cardiac sonography, Obstetrics and gynecology sonography and Vascular sonography.

Are you right for this program and profession?

This profession is the most operator dependent of all imaging professions and of many health care professions in general. A sonographer is responsible for acquiring images that will allow physicians to make an accurate diagnosis of patient conditions. If a sonographer doesn't accurately image anatomy and find pathology, the doctor will not be able to see or know about that pathology, which in turn could have devastating consequences for the patient. If we don't see it and image it, the physician doesn't know it's there!

Sonographers are often the first person to see a life-threatening condition and must take the responsibility to handle the information correctly and swiftly in order for the patient to be treated in a timely manner. Your patient's health and possibly life, can depend on your actions.

Sonography is not an easy profession in many ways. Physically, we put a lot of stress on our bodies by long periods of standing, stretching, bending and pushing. Many sonographers do damage to our bodies over time in the field. We also deal with a great deal of blood and bodily

fluids, wounds, traumas, invasive procedures such as biopsies and drainages, and very ill patients who are in need of help. Mentally, we must have a great deal of knowledge about anatomy and pathology over a wide range of organs and conditions. We must constantly be vigilant in searching out any abnormality in the patient's anatomy. We must be able to communicate with patients, coworkers, and physicians accurately and professionally. Emotionally, we deal with and experience a lot of emotions and heartache with our jobs. We must be able to show compassion, empathy, and understanding to those that we care for, and care about, in many difficult situations. We must also be able to do all of the above while handling stressful workloads, which often includes on-call duties that can leave you with little sleep at times.

With these many difficulties and responsibilities contained within this profession, why do some of us love what we do and spend years in the profession? It is because we love being able to help others. We want to make a difference in people's lives. We are independent, detail-oriented and enjoy a challenge. We like being an important and integral part of the diagnostic team. We find satisfaction in continual, life-long learning. If that sounds like you, then sonography is a wonderful profession you will be glad you joined. Now let's find out how Ivy Tech can help you start that journey.

Application Process

If you are currently an Ivy Tech student, credits you have earned will apply to any Ivy Tech campus. If you are not an Ivy Tech student, applying is easy and free. You simply need to apply online. Once you do that, you will be assigned a student number, or C number. If you have college credits from another educational institution, those may transfer to Ivy Tech. To determine that, you will need to have an official transcript sent to Ivy Tech for evaluation. The transcript that you are submitting must be an official one sent from the other institution electronically. It cannot be a document that you have personally handled or copied. Program faculty cannot determine what credits may or may not transfer.

Currently, applications for the DMS Program open on March 15 and close May 15 for a Fall semester start of the program. You can be taking prerequisite classes during the spring semester when you apply. The grades from those classes will be submitted prior to the application deadline.

Prerequisite Classes

There are 5 courses that you are required to take prior to your application being submitted. Those classes are:

APHY 101 Anatomy & Physiology 1

APHY 102 Anatomy & Physiology 2

MATH 123 or higher (some exclusions apply – students typically take MATH 123 or MATH 136)

ENGL 111 English Composition

DMSI 121 Basic Radiation Physics (offered online only)

You must have taken or be taking the required Math course at the same time as the physics

course. It may also be necessary for the Sonography Program Chair or Health Sciences Department Chair to approve your enrollment in this class. Your academic advisor can start that process, if needed.

To graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS Degree), you must also take:

COMM 101 Public Speaking OR COMM 102 Interpersonal Communication

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology OR SOCI 111 Introduction to Sociology

IVYT 112 Student Success

Due to the fact that the program is very intense and fast moving, it is not recommended that you take the additional AAS classes listed above during the program. You should consider taking them prior to the program courses.

Before applying for the DMS Program, you must also take the USA (Ultrasound Student Assessment) exam given by an online site, Pegasus Lectures. Information about the USA exam and how to register for it can be found on the Ivy Tech website. Midway down the page is a green box that you can select the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer Program. Near the bottom of the DMS page, there is a link "Nursing and Limited Enrollment Health Sciences Programs Information Page". Following this link, you will come to the link "Health Sciences and Nursing Application User Guide". Once you are on the user guide page, select Pre-Admission Entrance Exams". The information about scheduling the USA exam is on that page. To have your scores available to the Muncie campus, please register for the USA with this link: [Pegasus Lectures Products & Seminars](#)

This exam is testing for innate skills that you may or may not possess, but skills that are necessary for a sonographer. This exam is not like the TEAS or HESI exams that other health care programs may require. There is nothing to study for with the USA exam and it can only be taken one time. There are no retakes. This exam is not an intelligence test, and the scores can range from a positive 50 to a negative 60 points. When registering for the USA exam, you will be asked to choose a campus, Muncie or Terre Haute. This is only to determine which campus Pegasus Lectures will release your scores to. If you choose the Muncie campus, you can contact me, Linda Emerson (lemerson8@ivytech.edu or 765-289-2291 ext 1642) a day or two after taking the exam, and I will get your scores and get back with you to discuss them. To register for the USA exam, you will need your Ivy Tech C# and the fee for that is \$50 to Pegasus Lectures.

Program Offers Process

The Diagnostic medical Sonography program is a Limited Enrollment Program. That means only a limited number of students are accepted into the program. This is due to the fact that clinical rotation sites must be in place for each student, and there is limited room and equipment in the campus lab to teach students with. This program is very competitive and only a small percentage of those that apply are accepted. Due to this, it is extremely important that you have high grades in all of the prerequisite courses and have a positive score on the USA exam.

The offers are based solely on a point system. The prerequisite classes mentioned above are point classes and the higher your grade, the higher the points given for each class. The USA points weigh heavily on the application. Since the application pool of students will vary each year, we are unable to give a specific point level that will be required, but the higher your total points, the better your chances are of getting accepted into the program.

If you do apply and get an offer, it is very important to remember that the program offers come only through your Ivy Tech email and you have only 48 hours to accept that offer. You **MUST** check your email at least twice per day near the application deadline time. If you miss the response date/time, the system will move onto the next highest point applicant. You will **NOT** get a second chance to accept that offer!

Starting the Program

Once accepted into the program, you will be required to complete a series of tests to participate in the clinical rotations. You must complete a CPR class given by the American Heart Association. Vaccines must be up to date, as well as physical and eye exams done. You are also required to complete a background check and drug screen. Please note that although personal information will be kept confidential, names and positive results of background checks must be disclosed to the clinical sites to determine clinical eligibility. Some clinical sites may require that your background check results be shared with them. Clinical sites have the right to deny taking a student at any time. As per Ivy Tech policy, the clinical instructor of the program will be required to attempt a student's placement at 3 clinical sites. If clinical placement cannot be secured due to the background check results, the student will be notified that he/she may not enroll in the clinical courses and in most cases, this means the student will not be able to progress in the program and will therefore not be able to complete the courses required for graduation.

Also make note that completion of the DMS program does not ensure eligibility for licensure, credentialing, or future employment. Should you have a criminal matter in your past, you should contact the following credentialing bodies for eligibility that may pertain to you:

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers 1-800-541-9754

Cardiovascular Credentialing International 1-919-861-4539

Clinical affiliates may conduct additional and/or random drug screenings during clinical times. These tests may be at the expense of the student.

Additional criminal background checks, drug screens, and updates on vaccines will be required in programs that students are enrolled in lasting more than 12 months. The DMS program is a 17 month program.

Program Costs

As of the Fall semester 2022, In-State tuition at Ivy Tech is \$149.55 per credit hour. The DMSI AAS program is 64 credits, therefore, the cost of the program is \$9571.20. Please visit www.ivytech.edu/tuition for the most current tuition information.

As of Fall 2022, the IvyPlus program pays for students' books that are required. Without that program, the books would be approximately \$1,000 - \$1,200. There is a \$75.00 technology fee per semester.

Students are responsible for the cost of the background check and drug screen through a site called CastleBranch. The cost of those is approximately \$120 for the initial ones and \$89 for the annual recheck that is required due to the length of the program.

Students are responsible for any charges for the physical exam, eye exam, and vaccines needed. Cost for those will vary.

You will be required to wear black scrubs and either athletic or health professional shoes to clinical rotations. Specifics on that are given at orientation, but those can be purchased through several sites/stores. The cost of those will vary but would be approximately \$200-300.

****These items and costs are estimates and are subject to change****

Program Courses

The courses the you take will depend on the Program Specialty that you enter:

General

DMSI 111	Sonographer Orientation/Patient Care/Cross Sectional Anatomy
DMSI 102	Abdominal Sonography I & Clinical Orientation
DMSI 105	General Sonography Clinical I
DMSI 101	Ultrasound Physics I
DMSI 202	Abdominal Sonography II & Lab
DMSI 103	OB/GYN Sonography I & Lab
DMSI 113	General Sonography Clinical II
DMSI 208	Ultrasound Physics II
DMSI 203	OB/GYN Sonography II & Lab
DMSI 205	General Sonography Clinical III

DMSI 295	Sonography Exam Review
DMSI 206	General Sonography Clinical IV

Cardiac

DMSI 111	Sonographer Orientation/Patient Care/Cross Sectional Anatomy
DMSI 107	Cardiac I & Lab
DMSI 117	Cardiac Clinical I
DMSI 101	Ultrasound Physics 1
DMSI 190	Hemodynamics & EKG
DMSI 160	Cardiac II & Lab
DMSI 119	Cardiac Clinical II
DMSI 208	Ultrasound Physics II
DMSI 220	Cardiac III & Lab
DMSI 217	Cardiac Clinical III
DMSI 295	Sonography Exam Review
DMSI 219	Clinical IV

Vascular

DMSI 111	Sonographer Orientation/Patient Care/Cross Sectional Anatomy
DMSI 110	Vascular Sonography I & Lab
DMSI 114	Vascular Sonography Clinical I
DMSI 150	Vascular Sonography II & Lab
DMSI 101	Ultrasound Physics I
DMSI 190	Hemodynamics & EKG
DMSI 116	Vascular Sonography Clinical II
DMSI 201	Ultrasound Physics II
DMSI 214	Vascular Sonography III & Lab
DMSI 216	Vascular Sonography Clinical III
DMSI 295	Sonography Exam Review
DMSI 210	Vascular Sonography Clinical IV

Muncie DMS Instructors

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Linda or Alex. We would love to speak to you about the program and/or the profession. We look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Emerson, BS, RDMS, RVT, RT(R) lemerson8@ivytech.edu 765-289-2291 ext 1642

Linda is the Program Chair, General and Vascular instructor and clinical coordination for the program. Prior to joining Ivy Tech, she worked in the clinical side of the profession as a general/vascular sonographer in hospital settings for 34 years. She holds ARDMS registries in

Abdomen, OB/GYN, Neonatal/Neuro, and Breast, is a Registered Vascular Technologist through the ARDMS, and a Registered Radiologic Technologist.

R. Alex Armentrout, RCS rarmentrout@ivytech.edu 765-289-2291 ext 1796

Alex is the Cardiac instructor and clinical coordinator for the program. He has spent 15 years working in hospital and clinic settings as an echocardiographer. He also has experience in performing vascular studies, endovenous ablations, pacemaker interrogations, and exercise stress tests for Nuclear Medicine imaging. He holds his cardiac certification through CCI.