



**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Program**  
**Additional Program Information**  
(revised May 2007)

The admissions process is competitive, with at least 100 applicants for the ten places available every fall. Applications are accepted beginning in the fall for the next fall. There is no waiting list that carries over from year to year. If a student is not accepted for a given fall, they must reapply to be considered for the following year. The application deadline is March 31 for the following fall. All prerequisites must be completed by the deadline date or be in progress, with mid-term grades available in your application folder in the Admissions Office.

This is a two-year (including summer semesters), full-time, day program that must be completed in a sequential manner. There is no availability of part-time, evening, or weekend components. There are clinical internships at area hospitals that may require driving as far as Hartford or Willimantic to the south and Northampton to the north, so reliable transportation is a must. Clinical rotations are assigned and not chosen by the student.

The program is currently accredited for general ultrasound, which means that upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to set for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) exams in ultrasound physics and instrumentation as well as the specialty exams in both abdominal and OB/GYN ultrasound. In order to obtain an ARDMS credential, you must pass **both** the physics and instrumentation exam **and** a specialty exam. There is no vascular or echocardiography concentration at this time.

Please feel free to e-mail ([djsloan@stcc.edu](mailto:djsloan@stcc.edu)) or call (413.755.4915) with any additional questions. The College website, <http://www.stcc.edu>, is a resource for additional admissions-specific information. Online applications are available there as well.



## Diagnostic Medical Sonography Application Deadline March 31

### Minimum Prerequisites:

- High School-level Chemistry with Lab, with a grade of “C” or better
- College-level Math (100 level or higher) with a grade of “C” or better
- College-level Biology with Lab, with a grade of “C” or better
- College-level English (100-level or higher) with a grade of “C” or better
- College-level Physics with Lab, with a grade of “C” or better
- College-level Medical Terminology with a grade of “C” or better
- Minimum of four hours documented observation in a hospital ultrasound department
- A short (one-page) essay stating why you want to be a sonographer

If a student has not taken the above courses or has earned less than a “C,” the following STCC courses will meet the academic prerequisites and are recommended:

Math:	MATH-122	Physics:	PHYS-130
Chemistry:	CHEM-101	English:	ENGL-100
Biology:	BIOL-132	Medical Terminology:	MAST-101

### Notes about prerequisites:

- Prerequisites must be **completed** or **in progress** by application deadline of March 31
- In-progress prerequisites must have mid-term grades attached to application by March 31
- SAT scores are optional

### Technical Standards:

**Although these standards are not used in the admissions process, a sonography student should know that they must be able to meet the following minimum technical standards to work in the field.**

- Helping to lift patients who may be comatose, paralyzed, or otherwise disabled from wheelchairs or beds to the examination table and vice versa, repeatedly.
- Fine motor skills and manual dexterity in patient positioning.
- Fine motor skills and manual dexterity in manipulating a wide range of sonographic and medical equipment and peripherals.
- It is common for a sonographer to hold the transducer in one hand, adjust equipment settings with the other, and, while standing on one leg, use the other foot to freeze and store selected images.
- In some scanning situations, it may be necessary to use either hand for scanning and equipment manipulation.
- Discriminate between subtle shades of black, white, and gray, both on a CRT and on hard copy.
- Discriminate between subtle hues of the entire color spectrum, both on a CRT and on hard copy.
- Discriminate between subtle tones in stereo produced by various types of Doppler instrumentation.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, to patients, other health care personnel, and physicians.
- Relate in a caring manner to patients in varying stages of illness.
- Relate in a caring manner to patients and their families in varying stages of grief.
- Relate to concerns of family members.
- Relate to other health care personnel and physicians in a professional manner.

**Note:** Students with certain pre-existing musculo-skeletal conditions or repetitive motion disorders (carpal tunnel syndrome, arm/shoulder tendonitis or bursitis, rotator cuff disease, etc.) may find that a career in ultrasound scanning will exacerbate these conditions. Consult your physician with any questions.