Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Official Program Checksheet

Why Choose Diagnostic Medical Sonography?

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers use high frequency sound waves to produce images and data that assist health care professionals diagnose various diseases and disease processes. Sonographers are taught to work independently and to operate highly technical ultrasound equipment to acquire sonographic images. Physicians depend on the sonographer's assistance with interpretation of the images to evaluate many body parts and structures, especially of the abdomen and pelvis.

Students enter the professional sequence of the program in the fall semester and spend the first three semesters on the Big Rapids campus. Studies during this period include general education and technical courses. Laboratory periods provide an opportunity to apply the theory and principles learned in the lecture sessions. During the final three semesters students work with patients in an off-campus clinical center. These sites are located throughout the state in hospitals affiliated with the University to provide clinical experience and continued academic instruction.

Graduates of the program are eligible to write the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) Sonography Principles and Instrumentation Examination as well as the Abdomen, and Obstetrics and Gynecology specialty exams.

Career Opportunities

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a newly designated occupational category by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics within the imaging sciences field as of 2001. According to the US Department of Labor, almost 53 percent of sonographers are between the ages of 41 and 65, which means that they are at or near retirement. According to the US Bureau of labor statistics in May 2012, the median annual wage for diagnostic medical sonographers was $65,860. Employment of diagnostic medical sonographers and cardiovascular technologists and technicians, including vascular technologists is projected to grow 39% from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Sonography, an ever-evolving profession, offers its practitioners many opportunities to enhance and advance careers. Sonographers can specialize in such diverse areas as the abdomen, obstetrics and gynecology, echocardiography, vascular technology, neurosonology and ophthalmology. They can work in clinics, hospitals, private practice, public health facilities, labs and other medical settings or branch out into education, administration, research or sales.

Admission Requirements
Students must first be admitted to the university as a Pre-DMS student. To be qualified to enter the professional sequence of the program a student must have earned a minimum grade of "B-" in the following courses or their equivalent: BIOL 109, MATH 115 (or Math ACT subscore of 24) and PHYS 130, a "C" or better in COHP 100 and a "C-" or better in ENGL 150 within two attempts including W grades.

To assure students of a quality technical education in classroom/lab and clinical practice, enrollment is limited. Students who meet or will have met the program's qualification criteria by the end of Fall semester are required to apply to the program's professional sequence between January 15 and January 30 of the year prior to the August professional sequence entry. Admission will be based upon date of qualification.

**General Education Requirements**

All University General Education requirements can be found here: [http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/requirements/AAS.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/requirements/AAS.htm)

Please consult this link for a complete listing of General Education Electives: [http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/courses/index.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/general-education/courses/index.htm)

Consult the official checksheet or program advisor for program specific General Education requirements.

**Graduation Requirements**

The six-semester sequential course of study at Ferris leads to an associate in applied science degree. Ferris provides you an internship in the last three semesters of the program, although due to limited space, specific clinical site locations cannot be guaranteed. If a student elects to interrupt progression in the professional sequence of the program, re-entry cannot be guaranteed due to space limitations in laboratory and clinical placement sites. Graduation requires a minimum 2.0 GPA overall and students must earn a "C" or better in major and core courses and meet all general education requirements as outlined on the General Education website.

**More Information**

College of Health Professions
Ferris State University
200 Ferris Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2270
231-591-2270 or 800.462.8553 ext. 2261
chp@ferris.edu

For Career information, enclose a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope with your request to:

ARDMS
1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600
Rockville, MD 20852-1402
The Ferris State University Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
25400 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158
Clearwater, FL 33763
727-210-2350
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