

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) provides a comprehensive curriculum that integrates didactic coursework with laboratory and clinical experiences. The program is designed to prepare students for professional practice as diagnostic medical sonographers.

The curriculum consists of approximately 1½ years of prerequisite general education coursework, followed by 1½ years of General Sonography coursework (including physics, abdominal, and obstetrics/gynecology sonography). Students then complete one additional year in either Vascular Sonography or Adult Cardiac Sonography. Completion of the full curriculum results in the award of a Bachelor of Science degree. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for credentialing examinations administered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS).

The DMS program at USI is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) in the following concentrations: Abdominal-Extended, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vascular, and Adult Cardiac.

- CAAHEP: 9355 113th St. N, #7709, Seminole, FL 33775, Phone: 727-210-2350, Website: www.caahep.org

Admission Criteria

Applicants must be admitted to the University of Southern Indiana before being considered for admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Applicants must have graduated from high school and completed all DMS prerequisite coursework with a minimum grade of “C” and an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Required prerequisite science courses (BIOL 121, BIOL 122, and PHYS 101) must be completed within seven years of program application.

The DMS program admits students once per year. All application materials, required documents, and official transcripts must be received by September 15 for consideration. Incomplete applications or materials received after the deadline will render the applicant ineligible for admission, including participation in the interview process.

Admission is competitive and based on a review of the completed application, prerequisite GPA, and a formal interview. Applicants are notified by email regarding interview scheduling. Interviews are conducted by appointment only and are scored by the DMS admission committee, which includes program faculty and clinical instructors from affiliated clinical sites. Interviews are typically completed by the second week in October and admission decisions are communicated by email no later than two weeks after the completion of all interviews.

Due to clinical placement limitations, enrollment in the DMS program is restricted. In collaboration with clinical affiliates, USI determines annual cohort size. Currently, up to 16 students are admitted each year.

Applicants must be eligible for ARDMS certification and capable of fulfilling the essential functions of a diagnostic medical sonographer.

Beginning Fall 2026, applicants who have healthcare-related experience (direct or indirect patient care), hold a healthcare certification (e.g., CNA, CMA, LPN), or have completed a healthcare-related internship with associated clinical experience spanning at least one semester will receive one additional point in the admissions scoring process.

Observation within a sonography department is not required for admission, but it is strongly recommended. Applicants who have not completed observation hours are encouraged to connect with a practicing sonographer and explore the following:

- Procedures performed in a general sonography department.
- Invasive procedures and the sonographer's role during these examinations.
- Interactions between sonographers and physicians.
- Professional responsibilities beyond scanning.

Program Fees

Newly accepted Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) students are required to submit a \$250 nonrefundable deposit to reserve their place in the program. This deposit will be applied to the student's tuition for the following semester at USI.

All students in the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions (KCNHP) who participate in clinical, fieldwork, and/or internship experiences must provide documentation of required immunizations, a criminal background check, and drug screening.

In addition to university tuition and fees, estimated program-related expenses include:

- Books: \$1,000
- Uniforms: \$200
- Professional society memberships: \$100
- Clinical education management system: \$150
- Student compliance management system: \$150
- CPR certification: \$100
- Certification exam review materials: \$200
- Immunizations and TB testing: \$100

Students should also anticipate additional expenses related to travel to local and distance clinical education sites. All costs are approximate and subject to change. For current tuition and fee information, contact the USI Office of Admissions at 812-464-1765. Financial aid information is available through the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 812-464-1767.

Application Checklist

- Apply to the University of Southern Indiana and complete the university admissions process, including submission of official transcripts from all institutions attended (excluding USI).
- Declare the Pre-Diagnostic Medical Sonography major with the Registrar's Office.
- Enroll in and complete all prerequisite coursework required for admission to the DMS program.
- Submit a completed online DMS program application by September 15.
- Submit verification of sonography observation experience (if applicable).
 - Observation in abdominal, OB/GYN, vascular, and cardiac sonography is strongly recommended.
 - Applicants are encouraged to complete a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 60 hours prior to the application deadline.
 - Observation may be completed at any facility performing general, vascular, or cardiac sonography examinations.
 - All observation hours must be documented in the observation log and verified by the supervising sonographer.
- Submit verification of healthcare experience (if applicable). Documentation must be on official institutional letterhead, signed by the supervising professional, and include the duration of the experience.
- Submit all required admission materials no later than September 15 to:
Diagnostic Medical Sonography, HP 3062
Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions
University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, IN 47712

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Essential Functions

Essential functions are those physical, mental, and psychosocial characteristics that are necessary to meet the clinical/practice/fieldwork expectations for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program. Becoming a healthcare professional requires the completion of an education program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. The purpose of this statement is to articulate the essential function requirements of the DMS program in a way that allows students to compare their own capabilities against these demands.

A student with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation in order to meet academic requirements and to fulfill the essential functions of the KCNHP programs. Reasonable accommodation does not mean that students with disabilities will be exempt from certain tasks; it does mean that we will work with students with disabilities to determine whether there are ways that we can assist the student toward completion of the task(s) at issue without fundamentally altering the nature of the program or task and without incurring undue financial and administrative burden.

Motor Skills

- Ability to independently manipulate and guide weights up to 50 pounds
- Ability to move about freely and maneuver in small spaces
- Tolerate regular changes of physical position, both stationary and mobile, for extended (8-12 hour shift) periods of time
- Possess skills to independently handle and operate a range of items, devices or equipment
- Maintain a stable physical position
- Agility to respond in an emergency situation
- Manipulate equipment by pushing buttons, operating keyboards, and turning dials
- Simultaneously manipulate controls with one hand and manipulate the transducer with the other hand

Communication Skills

- Process, comprehend, and communicate information effectively, clearly, in a timely manner, in the English language, and with individuals from various social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds including the ability to perceive nonverbal communication

Cognitive/Critical Thinking Skills

- Collect, measure, calculate, analyze, interpret, and apply information
- Exercise good judgment in a variety of settings
- Ability to set priorities and manage time effectively

Interpersonal and Behavioral Skills

- Establish and maintain professional working relationships
- Apply conflict management and problem-solving strategies
- Demonstrate professional, ethical, and legal behavior
- Demonstrate appropriate maturity, stability, and empathy to establish effective and harmonious relationships in diverse settings
- Demonstrate flexibility and ability to adapt to change
- Maintain self-control in potentially stressful environments
- Comply with professional standards regardless of circumstance

Sensory Skills

- Uses all available senses to collect data regarding patient status and provide patient care
- Monitor the patient and machine controls from a distance of 20 inches in a darkened room
- View and evaluate images displayed on a computer screen distinguishing between white, grey, black, red and blue colors for up to eight hours each day

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Curriculum

Course	Course Title	Credits	CORE 39
<u>Fall Semester-First Year</u>			
ENG 101	Rhetoric and Composition I	3	F
CMST 101/107	Communication	3	F
MATH 111/114/ 215/230	Mathematics	3	F
BIOL 121	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	BS- NS Lab
USI 101	Soar to Success	1	F
HP 115	Medical Terminology for the Health Professions	<u>2</u>	
		16	
<u>Spring Semester-First Year</u>			
ENG 201	Rhetoric and Composition II	3	F
BIOL 122	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BS-NS Lab
PHYS 101	Introduction to Physical Sciences	3	WOK-S & MI
RADT 196	Orientation to Radiologic and Imaging Sciences	2	
WOK-SIQ	Choose course from Ways of Knowing-Social Inquiry	<u>3</u>	WOK-SI
		15	
<i>Applicants must complete the 11 prerequisite courses listed above with at least a “C” and a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale). All grades must be available to be eligible to apply to DMS program.</i>			
<u>Fall Semester-Second Year</u>			
KIN 192/281	Physical activity/wellness	1	F
BS-SS	Choose course from BS-Social Science	3	BS-SS
BS-World L/C	Choose course from BS-World Languages and Cultures	3	BS-World L/C
IPH 356	Ethics and Healthcare in a Pluralistic Society	3	WOK-M/E, EE- Diversity
HP 211	The Healthcare Delivery System and Healthcare Policy	<u>3</u>	
		13	
<u>Spring Semester-Second Year</u>			
DMS 301*	Patient Care for Imaging Sciences Professionals	2	
DMS 312*	Introduction to DMS Principles and Procedures	2	
DMS 313*	Sonographic Sectional Anatomy	2	
IPH 401	Interpersonal Perspectives on Global Health	3	EE-Global
WOK elective	Choose course from CAE, HI, or World L/C	<u>3</u>	WOK
		12	
<u>Summer Semester-Second Year</u>			
DMS 315*	Abdominal Procedures	3	
DMS 316*	Sonographic Lab Practice I	<u>3</u>	
		6	
<u>Fall Semester-Third Year</u>			
DMS 321*	Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation I	3	
DMS 323*	Obstetric Sonography	3	
DMS 324*	Gynecologic Sonography	3	
DMS 326*	Sonographic Lab Practice II	2	
DMS 327*	Clinical Practice I-General (24 hours per week)	<u>3</u>	
		14	
<u>Spring Semester-Third Year</u>			
DMS 331*	Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation II	3	
DMS 332*	Small parts, Pediatric and Specialty Sonographic Exams	2	
DMS 333*	Critique, Clinical Correlation and Case Analysis	3	EE-Writing
DMS 336*	Sonographic Lab Practice III	2	
DMS 337*	Clinical Practice II-General (24 hours per week)	<u>3</u>	
		13	

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students will complete one of the following concentrations during the final year:

Diagnostic Medical Sonography, General Sonography and Vascular Specialty, B.S.

Course	Course Title	Credits	CORE 39
<u>Summer Semester-Third Year</u>			
DMS 347*	Advanced Clinical Practice (32 hours per week)	4	
DVT 398*	Vascular Sonography Lab I	2	
DVT 401*	Vascular Sonography I	<u>2</u>	
		8	
<u>Fall Semester-Fourth Year</u>			
DVT 402*	Vascular Sonography II	3	
DVT 423*	Vascular Sonography Lab II	2	
DVT 426*	Clinical Practice I-Vascular (32 hours per week)	4	
Writing (EE)	Choose EE-Writing Course	<u>3</u>	EE-Writing
		12	
<u>Spring Semester-Fourth Year</u>			
DVT 421*	Vascular Sonography III	2	
DMS 436*	Sonographic Professional Advancement Seminar	3	
DVT 437*	Clinical Practice II-Vascular (24 hours per week)	3	
HI 301 OR HA 431	Choose ONE - HI 301 Health Informatics OR HA 431 Healthcare Quality	<u>3</u>	
		11	

— OR —

Diagnostic Medical Sonography, General Sonography and Echocardiography Specialty, B.S.

Course	Course Title	Credits	CORE 39
<u>Summer Semester-Third Year</u>			
DMS 347*	Advanced Clinical Practice (32 hours per week)	4	
ECHO 398*	Echocardiography Lab I	2	
ECHO 401*	Echocardiography I	<u>2</u>	
		8	
<u>Fall Semester-Fourth Year</u>			
ECHO 402*	Echocardiography II	3	
ECHO 423*	Echocardiography Lab II	2	
ECHO 426*	Clinical Practice I-Cardiac (32 hours per week)	4	
Writing (EE)	Choose EE-Writing course	<u>3</u>	EE-Writing
		12	
<u>Spring Semester-Fourth Year</u>			
ECHO 421*	Intro to Congenital Heart Defects	2	
DMS 436*	Sonographic Professional Advancement Seminar	3	
ECHO 437*	Clinical Practice II-Cardiac (24 hours per week)	3	
HI 301 OR HA 431	Choose ONE - HI 301 Health Informatics OR HA 431 Healthcare Quality	<u>3</u>	
		11	

*ALL DMS, DVT and ECHO courses must be completed with a “C” or better to progress in the DMS program.

