Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Cardiovascular Concentration

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) is a field of allied health that uses high frequency sound waves to create an image. The sonographer gathers related health information and produces images that are used by physicians to render a medical diagnosis. The program includes both didactic and clinical instruction in the specialties of cardiac and vascular sonography. The clinical course includes demonstration of the use of sonographic equipment and the opportunity to participate, under close supervision, in actual sonographic procedures.

The University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College (URG/RGCC) offers two associate’s degrees and a bachelor’s degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. This program will prepare the graduate to sit for the national registry examinations through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS).

The associate degree program involves one year of general coursework and one year of concentrated sonography classes with clinical rotations. Approximately thirty (30) hours are required the first year including AHC 10101, PHY 10404, AHC 10201. The second year involves six (6) hours each of cardiac sonography and vascular sonography, six (6) hours of ultrasound specific physics, and ten (10) hours of clinical rotations. Approximately thirty-five (35) hours total will be needed to complete the second year.

Space in the DMS program is limited due to availability of clinical sites. There will be an interview process after the first year, and the top students will be chosen to move into the second year. For a complete copy of the admission policies and procedures, please contact the DMS program director.

• Admission Requirements •

- Meet all URG/RGCC admission requirements and submit a supplementary application for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

- Students must take the COMPASS Exam once accepted to URG/RGCC.

- All application forms, supplementary application forms, high school transcripts and/or college transcripts, and ACT scores must be received by Stephanie Saunders, Program Director, by April 1 each year, to be considered for admission starting summer term.

- Supplementary applications are good for only one year. You must reapply each year. After students are chosen for the next academic year, all supplementary applications will be discarded.

• For more information contact •

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## Curriculum

### First Year

**Fall**
- AHC 10101 Intro to Allied Health Professions
- AHC 13302 Medical Terminology I
- BIO 10104 Principles of Anatomy & Physiology I
- ENG 11103 Composition I
- LA 10001 Gateway to Success
- MTH 11403 Algebra

**Spring**
- AHC 10202 Standards of Patient Care
- BIO 10204 Principles of Anatomy & Physiology II
- PHY 10404 Physics
- PSY 11103 General Psychology
- PHR 21403 Medical Ethics

**Summer**
- DMS 20103 Principles of Cardiovascular Sonography

### Second Year

**Fall**
- DMS 21003 Physics and Instrumentation I
- DMS 23301 Cardiovascular Seminar I
- DMS 24003 Echocardiography I
- DMS 24503 Cardiovascular Practicum I
- DMS 28803 Vascular Sonography I

**Spring**
- DMS 22003 Physics and Instrumentation II
- DMS 25003 Echocardiography II
- DMS 25503 Cardiovascular Practicum II
- DMS 29003 Vascular Sonography II

**Summer**
- DMS 24301 Cardiovascular Seminar II
- DMS 24601 Cardiovascular Registry Review
- DMS 26001 Pediatric Echocardiography
- DMS 26504 Cardiovascular Practicum III

**Total AAS Program Credits: 65**

The clinical education courses will be conducted at a variety of hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centers within approximately a 75-mile radius of the University. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the various clinical education sites. The clinical education courses will be scheduled for day or evening shifts, 3 to 4 days/wk. This will provide the student an understanding of the diversity of the medical sonography field.

### Academic Requirements

- Completion of first year curriculum with college cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher based on general courses required for degree.
- Recent graduate of high school (in last 5 years or less), you are required to take the ACT test and pass it with a composite score of 20 or higher; math and science scores of 19 preferred, but not required.
- Five years or more out of high school, you have the option of taking the ACT test or receiving “Life Experience” points.
- Completed one unit each of high school biology, algebra, and chemistry or college-level equivalents, all with a minimum grade of C. (A high school physics course may be helpful, but not required.) College physics is required as part of first year curriculum.

A complete list of all entrance requirements, application procedures, and selection process for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is available upon request, in the current college catalog, or at www.rio.edu.