

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Required prior to consideration: Completion or anticipated completion of a health profession related AAS degree (from an accredited program), and current licensure in that health profession.

FALL 2026 ADMISSION

**NOTE: The DMIS Program is undergoing revisions.
Please monitor this packet for updates and/or modifications**



Application Deadline – May 4, 2026 by 5pm

www.cod.edu/sonography

Program Chair: Melissa McKirdie, MS, RDMS, RVT mckirdiem@cod.edu

Note: Please see specific program registration or application packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed and/or the applicant is not accepted into the program.

Students are not accepted into this program until they receive official acceptance letters from the College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division.

DMIS ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Program Description/Introduction

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound) is a clinical discipline involving the use of equipment that produces sound waves that create images of human anatomy for medical interpretation and diagnosis by a radiologist. The Sonography Advanced Certificate Program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in Sonography for the following concentrations: Abdomen-Extended, and Obstetrics/Gynecology Sonography. Admission requirements are outlined in this packet. To be considered for Fall 2026 admission **all prerequisite and general education courses must be completed by the end of the Spring semester that is prior to the program start in the Fall. And all application materials are due by the deadline stated on the front of this packet.**

A majority of the program is full-time on campus and at hospitals/clinics.

1st semester = (2) 12-hour days/evenings on campus

2nd-4th semesters = (2) 8-12-hour days/evenings on campus AND (3) 8.5-hour shifts per week at a hospital/clinic (shifts can be days, nights or weekends per facility discretion)

Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Diagnostic Medical Imaging in Sonography (DMIS) Advanced Certificate Program is to provide students with didactic, laboratory, and clinical education/experience in preparation for a health career as a Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonographer. The graduate will demonstrate competency to meet registry examination requirements, deliver compassionate patient care, and function as an integral member of the health care team with competence and confidence. Program policies and procedures have been designed to meet or exceed those established by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon recommendation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). This program is CAAHEP accredited in Abdominal Sonography-Extended, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Vascular Sonography concentrations. However, Vascular Sonography training is not part of this certificate.

Program Goals

1. To prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the following concentration(s):
Abdominal sonography - Extended
Obstetrics and gynecology sonography
2. Educate competent and compassionate sonographers capable of functioning as an entry level Sonographer within 18 months
3. Provide a comprehensive competency-based curriculum
4. Prepare the student to think and act independently
5. Prepare the student for entry into the ever-changing sonography work environment
6. Prepare the student to achieve a satisfactory result on the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) registry examinations for Principles & Instrumentation (SPI), Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Abdomen.
7. Provide comprehensive student education to aid in student retention, course, and program completion

Standard Skills in Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography

To participate in the clinical education portion of the DMIS programs, the applicant must possess skills relevant to the sonography profession. These technical standards are consistent with the duties of an entry-level sonographer.

- Lift and carry 30 pounds of weight.
- Lift and transfer patients to and from wheelchairs, stretchers, beds, and imaging tables.
- Move, adjust, and manipulate equipment to perform imaging studies.
- Position patients for exams.
- Respond appropriately to sounds such as the patient's voice and movements, at a normal conversational volume.
- Review and evaluate recorded real time images to determine the quality of the image as well as demonstrate visual accuracy in differentiating subtle shades of grays used in sonographic imaging.
- Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and light.

- Speak and write English fluently.
- Manipulate necessary hospital equipment for patient care and patient imaging such as dials, switches, push buttons, and keyboards.
- Stand and perform ultrasound exams for a prolonged period without scheduled breaks in a typical shift of 8-12 hours.
- Manipulate a transducer with the right hand in a back-and-forth manner while maintaining balance as well as operating the machine controls with the left hand.
- Communicate orally and in writing with the patient, doctors, and other personnel clearly and effectively.
- Must be able to follow verbal and written directions.
- Must be able to view computer/ultrasound machine screens for extended periods.
- Must be able to deal with extremely ill patients.
- Must be able to make independent decisions using good judgment skills (as appropriate for level of education).
- Must be able to practice high quality patient care.
- Must be able to function with minimal assistance (as appropriate for level of education).
- Must be able to handle hazardous chemicals, such as for probe and machine cleaning.
- Must be able to anticipate the needs of patients from all age groups and levels of ability.

This description indicates the general skills needed. It is not meant as a comprehensive listing of activities, duties and/or responsibilities required as a sonographer.

Policies and Procedures

All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our [Division website](#). It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed, understand, and will be able to abide by all policies and procedures. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Health Requirement Information (essential functions/technical standards for acceptance, drug testing, criminal background check, immunizations, etc.)
- Policy for Professional Conduct
- Statement on Transportation
- Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment
- Student Diversity
- Student Email
- Statement on Medical Care and Health Insurance
- Statement on Medical Malpractice Insurance
- Citizenship/Visa Status

The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

Priority for Admission

1. In-District applicants which includes:
 - In-District applicants who reside within Community College District 502
 - Applicants who are part of the [CAREER Consortium Agreement](#) (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
 - Applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
2. Out-of-District applicants (who are NOT part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement)

Estimate of Program Cost

Please visit the [Program Costs webpage](#) for estimated cost.

Academic Success in the DMIS Advanced Certificate Program

All students enrolled in the Sonography program must receive a minimum grade of "C" or higher in all DMIS courses to continue in the program. Receiving a "D" or "F" in any DMIS course will terminate the student's continuation in the program. Students requesting readmission will need to reapply and are evaluated based upon the current application requirements and ranked with all other applicants.

Upon successful completion of the program, the student is awarded a certificate from College of DuPage. Sixty days prior to graduation students become eligible to take the following American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) registry examinations: Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI), Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Abdomen. Students who successfully pass the SPI and a concentration examination (Obstetrics/Gynecology, or Abdomen) will receive the national credential of Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS).

Please be advised that the DMIS Advanced Certificate Program follows a rigorous curriculum requiring serious student memorization, practical application of theory, coursework, and transportation to/from class and clinicals. It is a full-time program (40 hours a week for 3 of 4 semesters). Taking personal time off (i.e. vacations) outside of scheduled breaks is not permitted and will affect program continuation. And it is nearly impossible to work during the full-time semesters.

Statement on Clinical Education

The purpose of clinical education is to provide the student with necessary patient experiences where refinement of the use of theoretical principles learned in the didactic portion of the program can take place. Students will be required to rotate through multiple clinical education sites. Students will not replace members of the affiliated clinical staff; they will have the status of students. Students are not paid for clinical hours.

Experiential Learning

Career Services defines experiential learning as the opportunity to engage with local employers and non-for-profit organizations to learn more about a specific industry or career of interest. Completion of an experiential learning program will provide students with additional information and insights regarding their career goals and career trajectory. Experiential learning opportunities are provided by Career Services through the following programs:

Academic Internship Program

Earn academic credit for the experience with an internship host site through an [Academic Internship program](#).

Service-Learning Program

Expand your comfort zone and learn the importance of civic engagement through an academic-based, volunteer [Service Learning program](#).

Application Materials Checklist

NOTE: Admission Committees for Health Science programs have the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel are unable to fulfill the essential functions and technical standards or abide by the policies and procedures as described within the provided links, and in this packet.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application requirements have been completed and received by the designated office, by the application deadline. You may email hsadmissions@cod.edu to confirm receipt of application materials.*

To be considered for admission follow the steps below. It is recommended you follow them in order:

_____ 1. Attend a highly recommended **Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Information Session**, or view the **Information Session Video**. Please click on the word 'Information Session' above, it will take you to a webpage with upcoming dates/times that it will be held via ZOOM, as well as link to a recorded version. You do not need to register to attend/view.

_____ 2. **Health Insurance proof:**

Students are expected to provide proof of a **Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan** prior to the start of the program. The comprehensive health insurance plan must cover you **throughout the length of your clinical experience**, which in most cases, consists of the entire length of the program. If you are in need of Health Insurance, please see important dates below and visit <https://cod.studentbenefitplans.com/bpg-insurance-individual/>.

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1st – January 15th- Open Enrollment

If you will need health insurance ANYTIME in 2026, you must apply during the current open enrollment period.

December 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start January 1st, 2026.

January 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start February 1st, 2026.

After January 15th – enrollment is closed.

If you miss open enrollment but have a qualifying life event, you can apply during a [Special Enrollment Period](#).

While we **cannot** guarantee your official acceptance into the program, you need to be aware that there is short timeframe of when you are able to purchase a Health Insurance plan. The purpose of this step is to make you aware and that the time to research and purchase is **NOW**. Purchasing health insurance outside of this timeframe will take months and may prohibit your admittance into the Program. **NOTE:** Obtaining Health Insurance is NOT an application requirement but it is a requirement to be in the program.

_____ 3. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable \$20 College of DuPage General Admissions Application** online. **This application is for general admission to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Career Selective Enrollment Advanced Certificate Sonography program (you will complete that later, discussed below).**

_____ 4. To ensure that all your eligible credits are evaluated towards the admission requirements, turn in **ALL** official Transcripts from institutions that you have attended. Immediately:

- a. Submit your official transcript(s) to **College of DuPage, Office of Student Records**. *If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.*
- b. Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Log into myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', select 'My Profile'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under 'Transcript Institutions'.

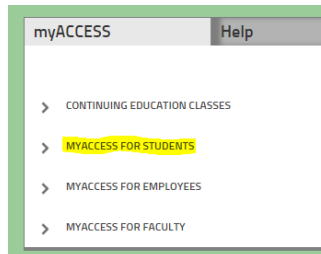
NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must first be evaluated. Please visit the following website <https://cod.edu/records/international-transcript-evaluation.aspx> for details.

5. **Schedule an appointment** with a **Health Program Advisor** by calling 630-942-2259. The Health Program Advisor will develop an Academic Plan to ensure you complete all prerequisites in the correct order. *Please be sure to discuss other application requirements, and an alternative plan (due to the competitive nature of admittance) during this appointment. *Please see page 8 for a list of required prerequisite/general education courses.*

NOTE: All prerequisite and general education courses must be completed by the end of Spring 2026 semester, preceding Fall 2026 admission.

6. Complete the **non-refundable \$50** [Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application](https://inside.cod.edu) online by logging into the student portal at <https://inside.cod.edu>

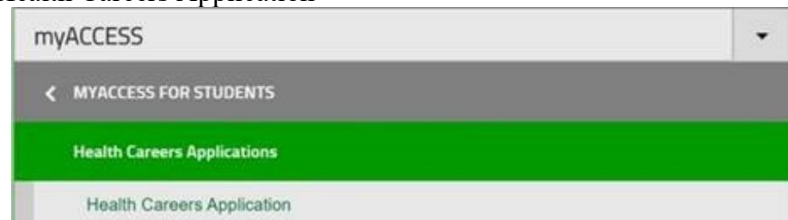
- Click on myACCESS for Students



- Click on the Health Careers Applications link



- Select Health Careers Application



- Select **Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Certificate** when asked “What selective enrollment program are you applying to?”

Once the application is submitted, you may not change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer

- _____ 7. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the Office of Student Registration Services by emailing to registration@cod.edu by the program application deadline date.

Note: If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.

The proof must demonstrate that the student lived at an in-district address for at least 30 days prior to the program application deadline date.

Please note: Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.

- _____ 8. Completion of or anticipated completion (prior to program start) of a minimum AAS degree in an accredited health education program. Proof of AAS Degree completion needs to be provided to hsadmissions@cod.edu or prior to program start by sending to mckirdiem@cod.edu. Examples of health professions include but are not limited to the following:
- Radiographers
 - Nursing
 - Nuclear Medicine Technologists
- _____ 9. Hold current licensure and/or certification in respective health profession. **Copy of current card** MUST be submitted at least 1 month prior to program start. Email to hsadmissions@cod.edu if submitted prior to application deadline, or after the deadline (at least 1 month prior to program start) to mckirdiem@cod.edu.
- _____ 10. Provide documentation of experience working directly with patients in a healthcare setting (as a clinical student or employee). The letter provided must be on the company letterhead, created by a supervisor at the facility, stating that a minimum of 450 hours were completed, within the last 3 years. This can be emailed from either the student or supervisor to hsadmissions@cod.edu.
- _____ 11. **Submit two (2) Recommendation Forms (pages 11-12)** from individuals who can attest to the applicant's work and/or academic ability. Forms completed by friends or relatives of the applicant are unacceptable. The enclosed form must be used according to the instructions on the form. **All recommendation forms need to be submitted after you have completed & submitted the \$50 health Career application.** Recommendation Forms must be submitted emailed to hsadmissions@cod.edu.

NOTE: When emailing forms to hsadmissions@cod.edu, the form MUST be submitted by the recommender. Submissions by the applicant will not be accepted.

1. One copy of the form **must** be completed and mailed in by one of the applicants' college-level instructors
2. One copy of the form **must** be completed and mailed in by a healthcare related employer or Clinical Instructor

- _____ 12. You will be contacted via COD email by the Sonography Admissions Committee for an interview in April/May after most of your application materials have been submitted. Interviews are not handled by the Nursing & Health Sciences Division. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor their COD email for communications from the college.

"All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to the applicant. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports."

****Applicants interested in reapplying will need to start over and resubmit all application items during the new application period. COD does not save application materials.***

****Application materials can be turned in anytime during the application period.***

Admissions Process

The Sonography Advanced Certificate Program can admit only a limited number of students. The number of students is determined by the current availability of clinical sites and may vary from year to year. An Admissions Committee, consisting of DMIS faculty, will oversee the selection process using a Merit Evaluation based upon admission requirements. **Students are admitted to the program according to Merit Evaluation scores and residency. Admission to the program is not a guarantee of completion of the program nor does it guarantee employment upon graduation.**

Letters of decision (accept, decline, alternate) are emailed to each applicant approximately 4 weeks after the application deadline. Accepted applicants must confirm their desire to accept via email within a two-week period. If no response is received, the next qualified student on the alternate list, according to Merit Evaluation rank order, will be offered acceptance into the program. Students who are re-applying are advised to contact the Sonography Program Chair to discuss ways to improve their score.

Requests for admission do **not** carry over to the following cycle. Applicants who were not accepted for the cycle in which they originally applied will need to pay the \$50 non-refundable Health Career application fee and submit any/all supporting documents again as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the most current Application Packet requirements (if applicable).

PREREQUISITES:

The following courses need to be completed by the end of spring semester preceding fall admission. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 out of 4.00 for these certificate-related courses:

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	GRADE REQUIRED
SPEECH 1100 or 1120	Fund. Speech or Small-Group Communication (or equiv.)	'B' or higher
ANAT 1500, 1552, or 1572	Anatomy and Physiology (or equiv.)	'B' or higher
HLTHS 1110	Biomedical Terminology (or equiv.)	'B' or higher
MATH	College-Level Algebra, Statistics, or Higher	'B' or higher
PHYSICS	General or Introductory Physics	'B' or higher

***Completion of additional prerequisite courses may be necessary to meet accreditation requirements (if not met with prior healthcare-related education).**

Transfer of Credits

Once your high school transcripts, college transcripts or international transcript evaluations are sent to College of DuPage for review they become the property of COD and will not be returned. Information can be found here

- <https://www.cod.edu/records/index.html> If you have questions email recordsoffice@cod.edu for assistance.

Transfer of credits from COD to another institution information can be found here

- <https://www.cod.edu/academics/transfer/index.html>

Suggested Course Sequence for the Advanced Certificate DMIS Program (Subject to Change)

Course Number	Course Description	Credit Hours
<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>		
DMIS 1100	Introduction to Diagnostic Medical Sonography	3
DMIS 1101	Sonographic Physics & Instrumentation I	3
DMIS 1120	Cross-Sectional Anatomy	3
DMIS 1121	Fundamentals of OB/GYN I	3
DMIS 1151	Hands-On Scanning Lab 1	1
DMIS 1152	Hands-On Scanning Lab 2	1
<u>SPRING SEMESTER</u>		
DMIS 1102	Sonographic Physics & Instrumentation II	3
DMIS 1122	Fundamentals of OB/GYN II	3
DMIS 1131	Fundamentals of Abdomen/Small Parts I	3
DMIS 1153	Hands-On Scanning Lab 3	1
DMIS 1141	Case Study Critique I	1
DMIS 1112	Clinical Education II	3
<u>SUMMER SEMESTER</u>		
DMIS 1132	Fundamentals of Abdomen/Small Parts II	2
DMIS 1154	Hands-On Scanning Lab 1	1
DMIS 1113	Clinical Education III	2
<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>		
DMIS 1160	Legal Aspects of Health Care in Sonography	1
DMIS 1140	Fundamentals of Breast Sonography	2
DMIS 1142	Case Study Critique II	1
DMIS 1114	Clinical Education IV	3

Total: 40 Semester Hours

NOTE: * The DMIS Program may be undergoing a curriculum revision. Admission requirements and the program of study are subject to change. Please monitor the program web-site for program updates, curriculum modifications or changes in admission packet.

Diagnostic Medical Imaging Advanced Certificate

Merit Evaluation

(Subject to Change)

For your reference only, admissions committee completes this form. Do not fill out and submit

NAME: _____ **Student ID:** _____ **DATE:** _____

Current Licensure and/or Certification in Health Profession	Yes or No (circle)
AAS Degree in Accredited Health Profession	Yes or No (circle)
Experience Letter	Yes or No (circle)
3 Recommendation Forms	Yes or No (circle)
Residency Verification Form	Yes or No (circle)
Post-secondary/college-level education courses in:	
Communication	Yes or No (circle)
Mathematics	Yes or No (circle)
Physics	Yes or No (circle)

Courses = Scale A

Anatomy and Physiology 1552 **or** 1572 **or** Equivalent (*Grade of 'B' or higher*) _____

OR

Anatomy and Physiology 1500 **or** Equivalent (*Grade of 'B' or higher*) _____

DMIS 1105 Pathophysiology **OR** DMIR 2225 **OR** Equivalent (*Grade of 'B' or higher*) _____

HLTHS 1110 Biomedical Terminology **or** Equivalent (*Grade of 'B' or higher*) _____

Forms = Scale B

Recommendation Form 1 (academic) _____

Recommendation Form 2 (healthcare employer/clinical instructor) _____

Interview – up to 15 points possible _____

Total Points _____

<u>Scale A</u>	<u>Scale B</u>	
A: = 4 points	Outstanding	= 5 points
B: = 3 points	Very Highly	= 4 points
C: = 0 points	Recommend	= 0 points
D: = 0 points	With Reservations	= 0 points
	Do not recommend	= 0 points

College of DuPage Sonography Advanced Certificate Program
Student Recommendation Form
(Must be received by the Nursing & Health Sciences Division prior to May 4, 2026 at 5pm)

Section A: Must Be Completed By Applicant

Applicant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Applicant's E-mail Address: _____

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (PL 93-380) allows a candidate to waive his/her rights of access to recommendations written on his/her behalf if the recommendation is used solely for the purpose of admission. You are not required to waive access. Under the legislation, you have the option of signing a waiver.

Check one and sign: _____ I waive my right of access to this recommendation

_____ I do not waive my right of access to this recommendation

Applicant's Signature: _____

***Note to Applicant:** The evaluator needs to e-mail the form directly to hsadmissions@cod.edu.

Section B: Must be completed by applicant's instructor or employer. Please proceed only if Section A has been completed and signed by the applicant.

The above individual is applying for admission to the Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Advanced Certificate Program. The DMIS program requires the completion of **two (2) recommendation forms**. One (1) must be completed by a college-level instructor of the applicant and one (1) must be completed by an employer/manager/supervisor. **Recommendation forms completed by friends or relatives of the applicant are unacceptable.** Please rate the applicant on the following characteristics by checking the appropriate boxes.

	5	4	3	0	0	0
	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Assess
Academic Ability						
Clinical Ability						
Written Language Skills						
Oral Language Skills						
Maturity						
Respect for Others						
Motivation						
Dependability						
Punctuality						
Critical Thinking						
Kinesthetic Awareness						
Leadership						

How long have you known the applicant? _____

What is your relationship to the applicant? (i.e. instructor, clinical supervisor) _____

How well do you know the applicant? (Please check one): ___very well ___fairly well ___not very well

What do you feel are the applicant's strengths?

What do you feel are the applicant's weaknesses?

Summary of Recommendation (please check one)

- ____ Recommend as outstanding
- ____ Recommend very highly
- ____ Recommend
- ____ Recommend with reservation
- ____ Do not recommend

Name of person completing this form: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Institution or Facility: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please e-mail the form to hsadmissions@cod.edu.

The e-mail MUST come from the evaluator filling out the form on behalf of the student.