

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL IMAGING

VASCULAR SONOGRAPHY

Certificate Program

***Vascular Certificate applicants must be current
ARDMS or CCI credentialed Sonographers***

NOTE: This DMIS Program is undergoing program revision. Admission and/or graduation requirements are subject to change. Please monitor the program website for program updates, curriculum modifications, and/or changes in the admission packet.



**Spring 2027
Registration Deadline:
December 1, 2026 or until program fills
Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis**

Note: Please see specific program registration or admission 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.

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

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 Diagnostic Medical Imaging Vascular Certificate Program is designed to offer education in Vascular Sonography to Sonographers already working in the field that are ARDMS or CCI registered in Abdomen/Superficial Structures, Obstetrics/Gynecology and/or Echocardiography that graduated from a CAAHEP accredited sonography program.

It is a 6-month (two-semester) certificate program. Classes and clinicals are conducted on weekdays, weeknights, and/or weekends. Admission requirements are outlined in this packet. To be considered for Spring 2027 admission **all application materials must be received by the application deadline.**

Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Diagnostic Medical Imaging Vascular Sonography Certificate Program is to provide vascular sonography education to registered and practicing general (abdomen/superficial structure, obstetrics/gynecology), or echocardiography sonographers. The certificate includes didactic and clinical experience in vascular sonography. The graduate will demonstrate competency to meet certification requirements for the SPI Physics Instrumentation, and Vascular Technology registry exams, deliver compassionate patient care, and function as an integral member of the healthcare team with competence and confidence. Program policies and procedures have been designed to meet or exceed those established by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS).

Accreditation

The Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Programs at College of DuPage are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). The Standards can be found on the CAAHEP and JRC-DMS websites.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

25400 US Highway 19 North

Suite 158

Clearwater, Florida 33763

727-210-2350

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) it offers:
Vascular sonography
2. Educate competent and compassionate sonographers capable of functioning as an entry level Vascular Sonographer within 6 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 Sonography (ARDMS) for SPI Physics Instrumentation
7. Prepare the student to achieve a satisfactory result on the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) for Vascular Technology
8. 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 a sonography department. These technical standards are consistent with the duties of an entry-level sonographer. The student must have the ability to:

- Lift and carry thirty 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.
- Ability to view computer/ultrasound machine screens for extended periods.
- Ability to deal with extremely ill patients.
- Ability to make independent decisions using good judgment skills (as appropriate for level of education).
- Ability to practice high quality patient care.
- Ability to function with minimal assistance (as appropriate for level of education).
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as for probe and machine cleaning.
- Recognition of needs and behaviors of a variety of age groups and abilities of patients treated.

This description indicates the general skills needed. It is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities required.

Eligibility Requirements

Sonographers that have graduated from a CAAHEP accredited sonography program with registration by ARDMS or CCI in Abdomen & Superficial Structures, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and/or Echocardiography are eligible to apply for admission into the College of DuPage Diagnostic Medical Imaging Vascular Sonography certificate program. All applicants will need to provide documentation of successful completion of accreditation required coursework through official college transcripts, and current ARDMS/CCI registration.

***For those that do not meet certificate program eligibility requirements.** The didactic courses offered can be taken by currently practicing sonographers interested in learning about and/or improving their vascular sonography skills.

NOTE: Without clinical experience & certificate completion, students will not qualify to take the SPI Physics Instrumentation or vascular technology registry exams, nor will they receive a certificate from COD.

Please go to www.ardms.org for more information about vascular technology exam prerequisites.

Academic Success in the Vascular Sonography Certificate Program

All students enrolled in the Vascular Sonography certificate program must maintain a minimum of “C” or better in all courses to continue in the program. Receiving a “D” in any course will terminate the student’s continuation in the program. Students can reapply the following year to be considered for admission. Students requesting readmission are evaluated based upon the application guidelines for the cycle they are applying. An “F” in any vascular sonography course will negate the possibility of readmission to the vascular sonography program at College of DuPage in the future.

Prior to completion of the certificate program, the student becomes eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers examinations titled SPI Physics Instrumentation, and Vascular Technology. Upon successful completion of all didactic and clinical requirements the student is awarded a certificate of completion from College of DuPage.

*Reminder: If you do not meet eligibility requirements but are a currently practicing sonographer - you may take the didactic portions of the certificate (classes/labs only, no clinicals) BUT will not receive a certificate nor be eligible to sit for the SPI Physics Instrumentation or Vascular Technology registry exams.

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 may be required to rotate through multiple clinical education centers. Students will not replace members of the affiliated clinical staff; they will have the status of students. Students are not paid for clinical hours.

Please be advised that the Vascular Sonography Certificate Program follows a rigorous curriculum requiring serious student memorization, practical application of theory, coursework, and transportation to/from class and clinicals. Taking personal time off (i.e. vacations) outside scheduled breaks is not permitted and will affect program continuation.

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. Students completing 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](#). <https://www.cod.edu/student-life/resources/career-services/students/student-experiential-programs/>

Registration Checklist

The following are **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS** for the Vascular Sonography program. These Registration requirements are a part of your **PACKET**. Your packet must be complete to be considered for **REGISTRATION** and be allowed to **REGISTER** for the courses. There is a **Registration Deadline** of **December 1, 2026 or until seats fill** for this program.

***Please email the DMIS Program Chair Melissa McKirdie with any questions regarding application to this program – mckirdiem@cod.edu**

NOTE: Admission Committees for all Health Science programs has the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill these essential functions as described.

_____ 1. Attend a mandatory individual **Vascular Sonography [Information Session](#)**. Please e-mail program chair, Melissa McKirdie, at mckirdiem@cod.edu to schedule.

_____ 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.

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

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 admissions to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Sciences Limited Enrollment Vascular Sonography program.**

_____ 4. To ensure that all of 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. Submit a copy via e-mail **prior to program start** to hsadmissions@cod.edu of current ARDMS/CCI card in one or more of the following categories below.
 - Abdominal & Superficial Structures
 - Obstetrics & Gynecology
 - Echocardiography
- _____ 6. Once all above steps are completed, please e-mail hsadmissions@cod.edu to notify them of your interest in registering for the program. You will then receive instructions to register.
 - * If you are accepted into the program, prior to the start of classes/clinicals you must:
 - ◆ Provide confirmation that all health requirements are completed and uploaded into the document manager (instructions will be sent to you)
 - ◆ Be registered for all required courses

COURSE SEQUENCE

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL IMAGING VASCULAR SONOGRAPHY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Course Number	Course Description	Credit Hours
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<u>Spring Semester</u>		
*DMIS 2200	Vascular Hemodynamics & Physics	2 hours
DMIS 2201	Abdominal & Peripheral Arterial 1	3 hours
DMIS 2221	Abdominal & Per Art – Hands-on Lab	1 hour
DMIS 2204	Abdominal & Peripheral Venous	2 hours
DMIS 2224	Abdominal & Per Venous – Hands-on Lab	1 hour
DMIS 2212	Clinical Education 1	3 hours
DMIS 2203	Cerebrovascular	2 hours
DMIS 2223	Cerebrovascular – Hands-on Lab	1 hour
<u>Summer Semester</u>		
DMIS 2213	Clinical Education 2	2 hours

<u>Total</u>		15-17 hours

DMIS 2200 or equivalent required if SPI Physics has not been previously passed

Tuition

For current tuition rates visit our [Tuition & Aid webpage](#).

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>