

LACKAWANNA COLLEGE

Sonography Program Application and Information Packet

The ultrasound profession is subdivided into nine specialties. The specialties offered at Lackawanna College are General Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiac Ultrasound and Vascular Ultrasound. Students will select one specialty field of study in which to major. (please select one of the following)

- Cardiac Sonography
- Vascular Technology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Enrollment is limited by availability of clinical sites and other factors. Applicants must have a successful record of achievement in high school science courses, algebra and physics or develop these skills prior to program admission. Applications will be reviewed by the Program Director and applicants will be notified by mail of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the specialty Pre-Semester Program. All qualified and accepted applicants will need to attend an information session. Information session will provide detailed information about the field of ultrasound, our program requirements and expectations, credentialing examinations and the current job market. This session will also give the student the opportunity to meet with the Program Director and asked questions regarding the program and field of ultrasound.

Lackawanna College Sonography Programs Technical Standards

A career-entry diagnostic medical sonographer must be able to (1) interact with and interview patients to assess clinical history of present illness; (2) lift and/or move patients and machines; (3) operate sophisticated imaging and physiologic testing instrumentation; (4) accurately perform diagnostic medical sonography procedures and review images utilizing independent judgment; (5) create accurate and precise records of studies performed; (6) perform quality assurance activities related to procedures and instrument performance

Students must possess the following basic competencies to meet the requirements of the curriculum;

1. Ability to learn and utilize the body of knowledge necessary to attain career-entry status in the profession. This includes, but is not limited to :
 - a. Integrating and correlating data obtained from patient records, lab tests, etc.
 - b. Creating and analyzing sonographic images of normal patient anatomy
 - c. Creating and assessing sonographic images of abnormalities and correlating sonographic findings with patient's signs and symptoms
 - d. Communicating sonographic findings to supervising physicians
2. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS

Physical coordination and stamina so that procedures relative to the profession can be performed. Examples are:

- a. Hand-eye coordination for the performance of sonographic and physiologic testing procedures.
- b. Communication skills in order to interview patients, gather patient history and give patients instruction during sonographic or physiologic testing procedures.
- c. Visual acuity to be able to read patient charts, generate diagnostic studies and assess sonographic images on a CRT terminal, hardcopy film or paper, digital device or other display device.
- d. Hearing acuity in order to hear and recognize normal and abnormal audio displays as used in diagnostic ultrasound procedures.
- e. Coordination of interpersonal skills in order to be able to work with patients
- f. Physical strength to be able to lift and/or move patients and/or equipment as necessary for the performance of sonographic procedures both in the imaging lab as well as portable at the patient's bedside as necessary.
- g. Stamina to be able to perform a series of diagnostic tests in a tightly paced clinical setting.
- h. Possess visual skills necessary to adequately differentiate between subtle shades of gray, and color distinctions.
- i. Possess auditory skills necessary to distinguish audible sounds of a Doppler signal, communicate with patients, and communicate with other health care professionals.
- j. Possess sufficient oral and written skills in English to communicate with patients and other health care professionals
- k. Stand, walk, and sit for up to 30 minutes at a time.
- l. Stand and walk for up to 8 hours during an 8-hour shift.
- m. Lift or move a maximum of a 290-pound patient in a 2 or 3 person transfer.
- n. Move loads of up to 50 pounds up to 25 times per hour.
- o. Push a patient confined to a wheelchair or gurney up to 300 feet or more, depending upon the structural design of the medical facility.
- p. Bend, crouch, or stoop up to 20 times per hour
- q. Reach forward up to 18 inches while holding an object weighing 15 pounds.
- r. Push ultrasound equipment on wheels weighing up to 300 pounds or more.
- s. Possess manual dexterity to manipulate and operate all diagnostic medical sonography equipment.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I have read and understood the Technical Standards of the Lackawanna College Sonography Program, and believe that I can meet these standards.

Printed name of applicant

Signature of applicant

Date

Please return signed form to the Sonography Program

Overview

This document contains important information for prospective applicants to the Sonography program at the Scranton Campus of Lackawanna College. Careful review of each section is required to complete the application for admission.

The cohort of students enrolled for the next DMS/Cardiac/Vascular program start date will be selected from applicants with complete packages submitted by the application deadline. The application checklist identifies all of the documents required for a complete application. Only qualified applicants with complete application materials will be considered for an interview.

Interviews will be scheduled for qualified Sonography program applicants who meet minimum requirements and submit a fully completed application with all materials received by the Sonography department.

- a. The top 25 applicants for Vascular and Cardiac
- b. The top 20 applicants for DMS

Application Checklist

Applicants may use the following checklist to monitor progress in completing the application process:

Document / Process	Date submitted / completed
Application for Admission	
Official High School Transcripts	
Official Postsecondary Transcripts	
Employment Letters of Verification	
Application Interview	
Acknowledgement Forms	
Essay	

Prerequisite Courses

The following course must be completed with a grade of “B” or higher at a regionally accredited college or university prior to the application deadline:

- Biological Science (3 years or less)

Clinical Externship Statement

During the externship portion of the program, the student is assigned to a medical facility that regularly performs diagnostic medical ultrasound imaging. You are required to be present at the medical facility. The specific start and ending hours depend upon the hours of operation for the specific facility.

Vacations are not permitted during the externship portion of the program.

The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator are responsible for placing students at clinical education centers. Students may be asked for their preferences, but the decision of the faculty is final. Students may not make their own arrangements for clinical training. Students must be prepared to travel to the clinical education centers and are responsible for having reliable transportation. Lackawanna College will attempt to assign sites that are within a 120-mile radius of Lackawanna College and that are convenient for the students. However, this may not always be possible. ***You may be required to drive up to 120 miles or more each way to the externship location.*** Students may be assigned to more than one clinical education center during the duration of the program in order to participate in an appropriate number of cases.

In addition, student placement is based on their current skill level. Students that are more advanced will be scheduled at a lab that has higher volume and the availability for the student to keep up training at the lab's pace. Students that need more one on one training will be placed at a lab in which the volume and pace is more suitable for that student's current skill level and offers the ability to help students grow and progress in their training.

Because clinical sites have strict requirements that apply both to employees and to students or externs assigned to the site, students must annually supply updated PA State Clearances, PA Child Abuse Clearances and FBI Clearances to the Sonography Program by the dates outlined above. Students' ability to be placed in a clinical site or to continue their clinical placement is contingent upon the submission of these clearances and students' maintenance of a clean record. If student records indicate a misdemeanor or felony conviction during enrollment in the program, the student will not be permitted to continue his or her clinical placement and will be removed from the program.

Required Documentation (this will be required upon acceptance into the Program):

CPR Certification (2 year American Red Cross or American Heart Association only)

*FBI Background check (pa.cogentid.com) choose Department of Public Welfare

*PA State Police Background Check (epatch.state.pa.us)

*Child Abuse Clearance (dpw.state.pa.us)

*Full Physical Exam

2 Step PPD (1 step must be done annually after initial 2 step)

Copy of Childhood Immunizations

Proof of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox illness

Hepatitis B vaccination or signed waiver refusing

Urine Drug Testing

** Must be done every 12 months in order to be considered up-to-date.*

CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I have read and understood the Clinical Externship Standards of the Lackawanna College Sonography Program, and believe that I can meet these standards.

Printed name of applicant

Signature of applicant

Date

Please return and signed form to the Sonography Program

ARDMS Certifying Examination Statement

Currently the following two states require licensure of sonography professionals

- Oregon: All qualified medical imaging technicians and physicians practicing in Oregon must have a valid license issued by the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging before performing ultrasound exams.
- North Dakota: On March 19, 2015, a new law passed that makes North Dakota the third state in the United States to require licensure for sonographers.

ALSO NOTE

- New Mexico, as of December 2014, was in the process of setting the rules for the sonography licensure program.

The remaining states do not require that a diagnostic medical sonographer be licensed or ARDMS or CCI certified in order to work as a sonographer, however many employers do require that potential employees be ARDMS and/or CCI certified, or be eligible to sit for the ARDMS and/or CCI certifying examination within one year or less after hire.

Each of Lackawanna College's Sonography programs are accredited through The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Students that successfully graduate from the DMS, Vascular and/or Cardiac Program will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS or CCI examination(s).

Required Essay for Application

To complete the application process, students will be required to submit a 250 word essay on what are the benefits of choosing Sonography as a career choice. This may include what research the applicant did and/or what observations were made to choose this specific modality.