GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
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GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Thank you for your interest in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program at Gulf Coast State College (GCSC). The faculty and staff are proud of this comprehensive DMS program that includes face-to-face lectures, on-site laboratory sessions using state-of-the-art imaging equipment, and clinical rotations in local and surrounding county medical facilities. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is an intensive 24-month program with an application deadline of **11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on September 15, 2026,** for the January 2027 beginning cohort.

You must first apply to Gulf Coast State College by contacting Enrollment Services at (850) 872-3892 or by visiting www.gulfcoast.edu. After admission to the college is approved, you can apply to this limited-access program. Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the DMS program. Admission to the program is competitive in nature and requires specific prerequisites and academic requirements.

This packet includes information necessary to begin the application process. **Prerequisites must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to the application deadline.** Applicants who wish to transfer from another DMS Program to the GCSC DMS Program must reference the transfer policy in the GCSC Catalog and provide all previous course syllabi. All syllabi and transcripts **must** be received a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the application deadline to allow for transfer evaluation.

Sixteen (16) students are accepted in January each year, utilizing a selective admission process. A selection committee ranks all applications and admission is granted to the most qualified candidates. It is to your advantage to complete as many of the general education courses as possible prior to applying, as previous post-secondary performance and grade point average (GPA) are also considerations. General education courses may be available at more flexible times, including evenings, weekends, online, etc. Once accepted into the DMS program, however, the core sonography courses are only offered during traditional daytime hours.

Please review the information packet for the prerequisite requirements for the program.
If you should have any questions or concerns after reviewing the enclosed material, please contact Connie "Crickett" Pimentel, at HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu or myself at jskippe10@gulfcoast.edu.

We wish you much success with your educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

Janice Skipper, BS, RDMS, RVT
Coordinator of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
850.873.3591
Jskippe10@gulfcoast.edu

Rev. 7.29.2026

Gulf Coast State College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
Information Packet

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a highly specialized area of diagnostic medical imaging. Sonographers use specially designed equipment that produces high-frequency sound waves (like echolocation or sonar) to create images of structures inside the human body. Thus, aiding physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of many medical diseases. The goal of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is to prepare competent, ethical, and capable entry-level sonographers. The program is committed to preparing students to function in a dynamic and ever-changing field of healthcare.

A student interested in this field should possess the following qualities and talents:

- intellectual curiosity
- effective communication skills
- quick, analytical mind
- be in good physical health
- possess hand-to-eye coordination
- perseverance
- dedication
- technical aptitude
- be able to work independently
- flexibility

Sonographers are highly skilled and competent professionals who function as integral members of the health care team. The sonographer records anatomic, pathologic, and/or physiologic data for interpretation by the supervising physician. They are responsible for documentation, reviewing, and acquiring pertinent clinical patient history, as well as providing for the needs and comfort of the patient while performing the sonographic examination. (This is done under the supervision of a licensed physician.)

To gain employment opportunities, it is recommended that all students complete a national certification exam for sonography immediately upon completion of the program. (Most employers require sonography certification either prior to employment or within the first six months of employment.)

After successfully completing all academic and clinical exam competencies required by the DMS program, the student will be eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) general sonography examination immediately post-graduation. At the present time, after a student successfully passes the ARRT certification exam, they qualify to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) certification exam.

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) is available immediately post-graduation with specific requirements. ****** Graduates with Bachelor's Degrees are eligible to take the ARDMS certification exam immediately upon graduation.

For more detailed information, go to ***ARDMS.org*** and ***ARRT.org.***

Both the ARRT and ARDMS registries/certifications are nationally recognized, and Gulf Coast State College is an institutionally accredited state college. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is not programmatically accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) at this time. However, the program functions according to the Joint Review Committee of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDMS) program accreditation requirements and follows the Florida Department of Education Diagnostic Medical Sonography Curriculum Frameworks.

Professional Licensure Disclosure:

**The Gulf Coast State College Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has been designed to meet the educational licensure requirements for the State of Florida. This Disclosure is strictly limited to GCSC's determination of whether the Program, if successfully completed, would be sufficient to meet the educational licensure requirements in a State, as defined as 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. GCSC cannot provide verification of an individual's ability to meet licensure requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

This Disclosure does not provide any guarantee that any particular State licensure entity will approve or deny your application. Furthermore, this Disclosure does not account for changes in state law or regulation that may affect your application for licensure and occur after this disclosure has been made. Enrolled students and prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact their State's licensure entity to review all licensure or certification requirements imposed by their State(s) of choice.

In accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 668.43, GCSC has determined the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program meets the educational licensure requirements for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US protectorates, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2.

It is strongly encouraged that students, applicants, and prospective students determine any additional requirements for licensure in the State in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding State licensure can be found at: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/online/professional-licensure-disclosure.html

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. C.S.T. on September 15, 2026

Prerequisite Courses: Must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to acceptance into the program.

BSC 2085 Anatomy and Physiology I	*3 credits*
BSC 2085L Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	*1 credit*
ENC 1101 English Composition I	*3 credits*
PHY 1020 Basic Concepts of Physics, or higher Physics **(only offered in Fall and Spring semesters)**	*3 credits*

General Education Requirements: Must be completed with a grade of "C" or better *prior* to graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete as many of these courses as possible *prior* to entering the DMS Program. Early completion of general education courses may benefit the student during the selective admission process.

POS 2041 American National Government **or** *AMH 2010 United States History I **or** AMH 2020 United States History II **and** Civic Literacy Competency exam ***AMH 2010 does not meet the course requirement if taken prior to Fall 2024*.	*3 credits*
BSC 2086 Anatomy and Physiology II	*3 credits*
BSC 2086L Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	*1 credit*
*Core Math Prefix of MAC, MGF, **or** STA	*3 credits*
Approved (Core) Humanities I, II, **or** III (designated by a • College catalog)	*3 credits*

Sonography Core Course Requirements:

Spring - 1st year *(TU & TH approx.4 hrs in a.m.)*			***Spring - 2nd year*** *(M & W approx.7 hrs; TH & F approx.8 hrs / day)*		
SON 1000	Introduction to Sonography	*1 cr*	SON 1112	Abdominal Sonography II	*3 cr*
SON 1211	Medical Sonography Physics	*3 cr*	SON 1122	OB/GYN Sonography II	*3 cr*
SON 1214	Practical Aspects of Sonography	*1 cr*	SON 1824	Clinical Education III	*4 cr*
SON 2113	Cross-Sectional Anatomy	*3 cr*	SON 2175	Vascular Sonography	*3 cr*
		8 credits			**13 credits**
Summer - 1st year *(TU & W approx.7 hrs / day)*			***Summer - 2nd year*** *(M approx.3 hrs; TU - F approx.8 hrs / day)*		
SON 1100	Principles/Protocols Sono Imaging	*2 cr*	SON 1144	Superficial Structures	*1 cr*
SON 1170	Sono Circulatory System	*2 cr*	SON 2834	Clinical Education IV	*4 cr*
SON 1804	Clinical Education I	1 *cr*			
		5 credits			**5 credits**
Fall - 1st year *(M - TH approx.7 – 8 hrs / day)*			***Fall - 2nd year*** *(M approx.6 hrs in a.m.; TU – F approx. 8 hrs / day)*		
SON 1111	Abdominal Sonography I	*3 cr*	SON 1052	Sonography Pathology	*4 cr*
SON 1121	OB/GYN Sonography I	*3 cr*	SON 2061	Sonography Review	*2 cr*
SON 1814	Clinical Education II	*3 cr*	SON 2844	Clinical Education V	*5 cr*
SON 2171	Intro to Vascular Sonography	*3 cr*			
		12 credits			**11 credits**
		Total Program Credits			**77 credits**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Fee Schedule

Registration will not be officially completed until all fees are paid in full by the dates identified in the college calendar.
Students are responsible for all fees for courses not dropped *by the student* during the refund period.

MISCELLANEOUS FEES:

	TUITION FEES
ENROLLMENT FEES (fees are subject to change)	
PERT (Postsecondary Education Readiness Test) Examination	$9.00
GCSC - non-refundable application fee (new students) ($40.00 for International students)	$10.00
Level II Background Check / Fingerprinting	$85.00
PreCheck Drug Test & SentryMD (Immunization tracker) (fees are subject to change)	$75.00
(myCE) myClinicalExchange (HCA only)	$40.00
TEXTBOOK FEES (fees are subject to change)	
Textbooks (approximate)	$1,000.00
INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE TRAINING (IHT) (fees are subject to change)	
HIPAA, Domestic Violence, Infection Control, 2-hour HIV-AIDS, Prevention of Medical Errors, Interprofessional Collaboration, Hospital Orientation, Human Trafficking, Airborne Precautions w/Mask Fit	$119.00
LAB FEES (fees are subject to change)	
Total lab fees for all semesters (includes student liability / accident insurance)	$495.00
SCRUBS / GCSC PATCH (approximate)	$200.00
Badge Fee TMH	$5.00
TOTAL:	**$2,038.00**

TUITION FEES: (see current catalog) (fees are subject to change)

Courses	Credits	In-State Tuition	Out of State Tuition
		$98.75 per cr hr	$359.71 per cr hr
Pre-requisites / General Education courses	23	$2,271.25	$8,273.33
Spring - Year 1	8	$790.00	$2,877.68
Summer - Year 1	5	$493.75	$1,798.55
Fall - Year 1	12	$1,185.00	$4,316.52
Spring - Year 2	13	$1,283.75	$4,676.23
Summer - Year 2	5	$493.75	$1,798.55
Fall - Year 2	11	$1,086.25	$3,956.81
Tuition Fees total:	77	**$7,603.75**	**$27,697.67**
Miscellaneous Fees total:		**$2,038.00**	**$2,038.00**
Totals for Sonography program (approximate)		**$9,641.75**	**$29,735.67**

*** Fee schedule includes *approximate* fees for the entire program based on the 2026-2027 academic year. Fees are subject to change without notice. See current information available in Enrollment Services.**

**** Anyone requiring financial aid must initiate arrangements with the Financial Aid Office.**

***** Refund policy is outlined in the current Gulf Coast State College catalog.**

****** National licensure / Registry fees are not included. For more detailed info, go to https://www.ardms.org/ and https://www.arrt.org/.**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Applicant Checklist

Items 1 through 6 must be completed by 11:59 p.m. C.S.T., on September 15, 2026.

1. **New students should apply for General Admission to GCSC.** Applications are available online at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html. There is a $10 non-refundable *college* application fee, which can be paid online, in the GCSC Bookstore, or at the GCSC Business Office (in person or by phone). Students who have previously attended GCSC but have not been enrolled for the last year must reapply (no fee).

   Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the HLSC – AA, Health Sciences, General Education as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited-access program.

   To request a major change, visit https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html and click on Program Major Change Form.

   Students declaring an unintended major for the sole purpose of receiving financial aid may be subject to penalties, including repayment of any financial aid received.

2. **Submit official High School or GED and all official College transcripts to GCSC Enrollment Services.** Applicant must request **official** transcripts from high school, or GED with scores, and **all** colleges attended. All official transcripts must arrive from institution to institution. To send your transcripts to GCSC, visit: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/transcripts.html

   ***Please allow adequate time for transcripts to be received and evaluated prior to the published application deadline.**

3. **New students must complete a free *College Orientation.* This orientation may be completed online.** The online instructions can be found at: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/new-student-orientation/index.html. Orientation must be completed to register for courses.

4. **Complete the following courses *prior* to entering the DMS Program. Students are eligible to apply while enrolled in these courses, but to be accepted into the program these prerequisites must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.**

   - BSC 2085 Anatomy & Physiology I
   - BSC 2085L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab
   - ENC 1101 English Composition I
   - PHY 1020 Basic Concepts of Physics **or** higher Physics course ***(Only offered in Fall and Spring semesters).***

5. **Demonstrate a minimum overall college 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0-point scale).**

6. **Submit a completed DMS Program application (including the Technical Standards form)** online at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/sonography/index.html **by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on September 15, 2026**. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their folder is **complete prior to the published application deadline**. This includes Optional Enhancement Points paperwork (see below).

Optional Enhancement Points *

__ **1. Submit a current copy of a Healthcare Degree/License/Certificate, if applicable** (i.e., RT, RN, LPN, EMT, Respiratory Therapist, Surgical Technologist, or other allied health professional credential.)

__ **2**. **Completion of HSC 1531 Medical Terminology course with a "C" or better** (this is not a program requirement)**.**

__ **3**. **Completion of HSC 1004 Overview of Health Professions with a "C" or better** (this is not a program requirement).

__ **4. Earned a previous degree, i.e., MS / MA, BS / BA, AS / AA** (must be evident on official transcript).

*As applicable, please submit items 1 through 3 directly to the Academic Programs Specialist at HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu. Items 2 – 4 should be reflected on official transcripts.

Program applicants with the highest composite scores will be offered *Conditional Acceptance* into the program, pending receipt of satisfactory results for all physical/vaccination records, drug screening results, and Level II criminal background check (all at the student's expense). **Information and instructions on how to complete the Level II background check and drug screening will be sent by the Senior Administrative Assistant.** If you have any questions, please contact Janice Skipper at jskippe10@gulfcoast.edu or Crystal Tharp, Senior Administrative Assistant, at ctharp1@gulfcoast.edu.

Conditionally accepted applicants will be notified ONLY through GCSC email. It is the **student's responsibility** to make sure that Health Sciences has the candidate's updated contact information. To update your contact information after you have submitted your application, please contact Enrollment Services at enrollmentservices@gulfcoast.edu. Please inform Connie "Cricket" Pimentel at HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu of the change also as soon as possible.

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies, or procedures based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to the Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; (850) 872-3866.

Criminal Background Checks

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students who are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. The applicable program coordinator will send information and instructions on how to complete the background check.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at https://www.floridahealth.gov/ for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

For further information about DMS registry specific ethical eligibility requirements for each credentialing organization, please refer to the following web links:

ARDMS at: *https://www.ardms.org/compliance-predetermination-application/*
ARRT at: *https://www.arrt.org/pages/resources/ethics-information*

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html.

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.

(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare profession is prohibited.

(2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the candidate or applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a pretrial diversion or drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that
felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

The following disqualifying offenses under current Florida law for healthcare licensure. The individual must not be awaiting final disposition of charges related to disqualifying offenses. The individual must not have been found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, nor have entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or guilty to any disqualifying offense. If the individual was adjudicated delinquent for a disqualifying offense, the record must have been sealed or expunged; otherwise, it remains a disqualifying factor.
The disqualifications apply to applicable offenses under:
Relevant provisions of Florida State law **or** Similar laws in other jurisdictions (laws from other states or countries the applicant originates from).
Specifically, the following pending charges or convictions per statutes: 393.135, 394.4593, 794.011, 825.1025, 826.04, 916.1075, 985.701, 415.111, 825.102, 827.03, 825.103, 827.05, 827.04, 782.04. 782.07, 787.01, 787.02, 784.011, 784.03, 827.071, ch. 796, ch. 800, 798.02, 825.103, 787.025, 874.05, ch. 812, 817.563, ch. 893, 944.47, 985.711, 806.01, 810.02, 810.14, 796, 843.01, 843.025, 847, 944.35(3), 775.21, 775.261 and 943.0435.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

A physical examination, criminal background check (Level II), and drug screening <u>WILL</u> be required prior to the official program acceptance.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is "shadowing"?** Shadowing is observing a hospital or clinic sonography lab during an actual workday to get a better idea of how a career in sonography suits you**.** It is highly encouraged to seek observation (shadowing) opportunities at a healthcare facility in your area for practical, real-world experiences.

2. **What are some typical tasks in this career?** Education and preparation of the patient for diagnostic ultrasound exam; perform sonograms and record anatomy and pathologic data for interpretation by the physician; analyze and present diagnostic data for use in interpretation and diagnosis by the physician. Works in hospitals, physicians' offices, diagnostic imaging centers, ambulatory care facilities, and mobile units as well as other settings.

3. **What is available beyond graduation?** Entry-level employment, advanced certification in other areas of ultrasound, and advanced degrees (i.e., B.S. degree).

4. **What is the career outlook for this profession?** Overall employment of diagnostic medical sonographers and cardiovascular technologists, and technicians is projected to grow 10 percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations. (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm)

5. **How many students are selected for the program?** Each class will consist of 16 students.

6. **What is the cost of the Program?** For the 2025-2026 academic year, in-state tuition is approximately **$9,641.75**, and out-of-state tuition is approximately **$29,735.67**. Tuition costs are subject to change with each academic year. Please refer to the DMS Program Fee Schedule.

7. **What should I do if I am not accepted into the program**? Applications are not held over for next year's selection process. It is the student's responsibility to submit a **new** DMS application by 11:59 p.m. C.S.T. of the published deadline of September 15th each year.

8. **What are the hours of the program?** Program hours require attendance in courses and/or clinics, approximately 7 hours/day, 4-5 days per week (up to 40 hours). It is a very intensive academic and clinical schedule to complete the program successfully. Obtaining general education requirements would be difficult after the first two semesters of the program, but not impossible.

9. **Where are clinical assignments?** Clinical assignments are at hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices in Panama City, along with several out-of-town facilities (Chipley, Fort Walton/Destin, Marianna, Port St. Joe and Tallahassee). Students must have reliable transportation. Travel will be expected to fulfill your assignments at clinical rotations at the student's expense. This will also include occasional weekends and evening rotations as necessary. Additional sites may be added, as needed.

10. **Can I complete this program on a part-time basis?** No. Due to the progressive building of the educational and clinical aspects of the program, all courses must be completed in a certain sequence because they are only offered once a year.

11. **Can I work while I am a student in the program?** Employment is not encouraged, but you might be able to work minimally. Students must earn a minimum final course grade of 70% or higher and adhere to syllabi requirements to continue in the program. Again, this is a very intensive program. Your commitment and dedication are of high importance and expected to successfully complete this program and gain future employment as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

12. **Do you assist with job placement after graduation?** GCSC has a job placement assistance program available; however, willingness to relocate may increase your employment opportunities.

13. **Do I need to take a test after graduation?** The students are academically prepared to take the registry exams from the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Sonography General Exam. Requirements for each credentialing organization may be found online.

14. **How much is the annual salary for graduates of this program in this area?** Annual salaries in this area could be expected to be as high as $64,540 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292032.htm); however, it would be unlikely for entry-level graduates to start at that salary. Benefits and overtime are determined by the individual employer.