

Sonography Program Admissions: Two-Phase Selection System

Phase I Scoring (65 points, plus up to 10 bonus points)

Weighted GPA Calculation (30 points)

Subject	Applicable course(s)	Weight in GPA Calculation	Weighted GPA Range	Points Awarded
English	ENGL 1110G	1x	4.00	30
Math	MATH 1220G	1x	3.99-3.85	27
Physics*	PHYS 1230G (or PHYS 1112 if completed previously)	2x	3.84-3.70	24
Anatomy & Physiology	BIOL 2210	2x	3.69-3.55	21
Medical Terminology	HLSC 1510 (previously AHS 120 or HIT 150)	2x	3.54-3.40	18
Communication (choose one)	COMM 1115G, COMM 1130G, ENGL 2210G	1x	3.39-3.25	15
Social Science (choose one)	PSYC 1110G, SOCI 1110G or 2310G, PHIL 2110G	1x	3.24-3.10	12
*For equity through the recent prerequisite change, PHYS 1230L and CHEM will not be factored into the scoring system. While not scored, the applicable courses must still be completed according to program eligibility requirements for consideration.			3.09-2.95	9
			Below 2.95	Ineligible

Physics, A&P I, and Medical Terminology are the prerequisites most applicable to the program, so they will be weighted higher in the scoring system.

Prerequisites In-Progress

- Applicants may have no more than two prerequisite courses in progress at the time the application closes on September 1st.
- The Phase I GPA calculation will be based on the weighted average of all prerequisite courses completed as of the application deadline.
- Phase II invitations will be extended based on combined GPA, written assessment, and bonus point scoring.
- Should a student withdraw from or fail a pending prerequisite course, their Phase II participation is invalid, and they will not be considered for admission.

Written Assessment (35 points)

All eligible applicants will complete a written assessment as part of Phase I. This assessment is designed to evaluate your readiness for professional practice in a healthcare setting—specifically your ability to think critically, communicate professionally, and respond with empathy and patient-centered awareness.

What to expect:

- One structured, scenario-based prompt relevant to sonography and patient care
- Responses should be approximately 250–350 words

- Completed individually as part of the Phase I application process, without the use of outside resources or assistance of any kind

Scheduling & Completion:

- The written assessment will be offered on multiple dates and times to accommodate applicant schedules.
- In-person sessions will be held on the DACC campus and administered using Respondus LockDown Browser to ensure academic integrity and consistency across all applicants.
- Applicants who reside outside of the Las Cruces area are responsible for arranging a proctored testing experience at an approved testing center or accredited institution prior to the application deadline. Details on approved proctoring options will be provided upon application submission.
- Failure to complete the written assessment within the allotted timeframe will result in the application being rescinded.
 - Extensions will not be provided unless prior arrangements have been approved due to documented extenuating circumstances.

Scoring:

- The rubric will be shared with eligible applicants before completion of the written assessment.
- Scoring is conducted using AI-assisted rubric evaluation to promote consistency and fairness across all submissions.
- Any response scoring below 60% will receive an additional review by program faculty prior to final Phase I ranking.

A note on our process:

DACC's DMS program is committed to a transparent and equitable admissions experience. AI-assisted scoring is used as a tool for consistency, not to replace human judgment. The system has been calibrated based on faculty grading of past written assessments, to ensure accuracy. Faculty review remains a part of our process, and applicants are encouraged to contact the program directly with any questions about their admissions outcome.

Bonus Points (10 maximum points)

Applicants may receive one bonus point value per category, for a maximum of 10 bonus points overall.

Bonus point category	Point value	Qualifying information
Field experience <i>All field experience bonus points require:</i> <i>Direct, hands-on patient care</i> <i>Minimum 1-year, full-time experience*</i>	6	Current credentials through ARDMS, ARRT(S), or CCI
	4	Current credentials such as an MD, DO, ARRT(R), RN, RT, PT, etc.
	3	Other allied healthcare or first responder experience, such as CNA, phlebotomist, EMT, firefighter, etc.
	2	Veterinary care*, requires a minimum of 2-years, full-time experience
Residency	2	Doña Ana County resident
	1	New Mexico resident, outside of Doña Ana County
Reapplicant (<i>Applications that do not meet the minimum criteria or are otherwise ineligible will not earn bonus points on future submissions</i>)	3	Reapplication bonus points are not cumulative- a student will receive a maximum of 3 reapplication bonus points, regardless of the number of times they have reapplied.

Phase II

Interview (35 Points)

- Structured, rubric-based interview conducted by program faculty.
 - Assesses communication, professionalism, critical thinking, and program fit.
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Final Scoring & Selection

- **Total Possible Points:** 100 base points, plus up to 10 bonus points.
 - **Applicants are ranked by combined scores from:**
 - Weighted Prerequisite GPA: 30 points
 - Written Assessment: 35 points
 - Interview: 35 points
 - Bonus Points: up to 10 points (added to total)
 - **Top-scoring applicants** are offered conditional admission, contingent on completion of any remaining requirements.
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Tie-Breaker Policy

In the event that two or more applicants have identical total scores (including bonus points), the following tie-breaker process will be used to ensure fairness and transparency:

1. **First Tie-Breaker:**
The applicant with the highest score on the **Written Assessment** will be ranked higher.
2. **Second Tie-Breaker:**
If a tie remains, the applicant with the highest score on the **Interview** will be ranked higher.
3. **Third Tie-Breaker:**
If a tie still remains, the applicant with the highest **Weighted Prerequisite GPA** score will be ranked higher.
4. **Final Tie-Breaker:**
If applicants are still tied after all above criteria, the applications will undergo an anonymized review by the director of another DACC health sciences program and/or the Division Dean, who will provide an independent recommendation based on holistic qualities and alignment with program values. The final tie-breaker decision will be final.

This multi-step process ensures that no single metric unfairly advantages or disadvantages any applicant, and that all aspects of the application are considered.