

## DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY - FAQ

**1 Is there a website with information?**

<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/diagnostic-medical-sonography/index.html>

**2 Who can I talk to about the program?**

Stephanie Nuñez, Program Director, DAHL 190/(575) 528-7015/snunez@dacc.nmsu.edu

**3 In a nutshell, what does a student need in order to apply?**

Prerequisite GPA of 3.0 or higher to apply, though competitive applications are usually 3.5 or above. Students must attend orientation to get the application, and can have no more than 2 prerequisites in progress at the time of application. All prerequisites must be completed prior to starting the program. Transfer students must be admitted to DACC and have all transcripts officially evaluated prior to program application.

**a. If a student earns a grade of C or lower in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the C? What if the student repeats the course a second time?**

Only one attempt is allowed to replace a grade of C or lower. The second grade is considered as a replacement when considering the prerequisite GPA. Note: there are restrictions on repeating courses with a grade of C or lower. See program director for details.

**b. Is there a cap on the number of times a student can repeat a course before the student will no longer be considered?**

Students may reattempt one prerequisite course not more than one attempt.

**c. Do any prerequisites or other courses have a time expiration? (Example: BIOL 225/2210 must be repeated if taken more than 7 years prior to admission into the program.) If so, what are these courses and how do the new grade(s) work into the selection process?**

None at this time but applicants should be aware that this could significantly impact their ability to handle the rigors of the program.

**d. How is transfer credit treated? Do you use the grade from the transcript where they previously attended and consider those grades or just take into consideration the CR, CD, or GR?**

The original letter grade from the transcript is used.

**e. Are students selected based on their prerequisite GPA alone, or a combination of their prerequisite and cumulative GPA?**

In Phase I, students earn points based on prerequisite GPA, bonus points, and a written assessment. Top scoring candidates will be invited to Phase II, where points are awarded for an interview. Combined scores determine who is

**f. What if I've exceeded repeat course limitations, or my GPA is below 3.0?**

Please contact the program director to discuss your situation. With approval from the director and the division dean, students who demonstrate significant academic improvement may be eligible to apply.

**4 How does exercising the Adjusted Credit Option (ACO), affect student's application?**

Some selective admission programs add or deduct points for exercising the ACO. This program does not. Students and advisors should, however, be aware of the overall consequences of exercising the ACO. The policy is outlined under the Academic Regulations section of the current DACC catalog.

**5 What kind of a salary do graduates earn?**

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2024 the median salary for sonographers was \$82,570/yr or \$39.70/hr. This varies by location and cost of

**6 What grades are needed in order to graduate?**

Students must earn a C (74%) or better in all DMS coursework to progress in the program and graduate. Additional minimum performance is expected on final examinations which is detailed in the course syllabus.

**7 Are there any special exams that may be taken upon completion of the program?**

National Registry Examination by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) is the gold standard credentialing for the field.

**8 Does having a felony/misdemeanor prevent students from applying?**

This program is potentially closed to those with a criminal record. Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program are required to complete and pass a variety of background/screening measures that include a security background check, FBI fingerprinting, drug screening, and a predetermination process for ARDMS in order to participate in the clinical education portion of the program. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the program and gaining employment in the field. See program director for details.

**9 Is there an application deadline?**

September 1

**10 How many students apply? How many are admitted?**

Average number of students applying 60-65

Admitted: 10-14

**11 What is the average GPA of students accepted?**

3.62 Overall Average GPA

2025 Cohort Range: 3.0 - 4.0 GPA

**12 Is the program accredited?**

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
(CAAHEP)

**13 Are there additional program costs?**

See tuition costs in current DACC schedule.

Books and Supplies:

Used: \$1,108                      New: \$1,538

The program recommends purchasing all books, or participating in the Boods4Less program, as texts are used across multiple courses in the program.

**14 Are there any special proficiencies students need to have?**

Please visit the DMS program website to see the technical standards and essential functions.

<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/diagnostic-medical-sonography/DMSTechnicalAndEssentialFunctions.pdf>