



MODALITY

Sonography

PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS AND PURPOSE

■ Mission

The mission of Southwest University at El Paso is to provide exceptional career and technical training, promote intellectual growth, critical examination and informed understanding through general education and a commitment to educational excellence strengthened by quality instruction, a positive learning environment, and the integration of emerging technologies to enable students to achieve their potential, participate in new employment opportunities, and continue to be lifelong learners.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program of Southwest University at El Paso is committed to excellence in education demonstrated by providing a comprehensive entry-level education program to students through quality didactic and clinical instruction. The program supports the vision, values, and mission of Southwest University at El Paso by striving to be the premier Diagnostic Medical Sonography training program in our community. In combination, the seven program components ensure the adequacy of a well-rounded program through classes in didactic theory, application and practice of skill sets in the laboratory environment, and integration of didactic theory and acquisition of performance objectives in the clinical setting.

Consistent with the mission of Southwest University, the faculty of the College of Imaging Sciences is committed to prepare competent entry level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

■ Goals

The goals of the Southwest University AAS DMS program are:

- Goal #1:** Graduates will be clinically competent.
- Goal #2:** Graduates will be effective problem solvers.
- Goal #3:** Graduates will communicate effectively.
- Goal #4:** Graduates will be professional.
- Goal #5:** The program will be effective in its instructional efforts.

■ Purpose

The freedom of individuals to gain knowledge and understanding is essential in the maturing of the mind. So that all students may exercise these freedoms a school must have an environment that does not lack order and stability.

■ Outcomes

1. Students will perform Sonographic examinations competently.
2. Students will demonstrate effective problem-solving skills.
3. Students will communicate effectively with patients.
4. Students demonstrate importance of professional behavior and activities.
5. Students will pursue specialized clinical experience.
6. Graduates will be members of a professional society.
7. The program will be effective in its instructional efforts.
8. Program starters will complete the program.
9. Graduates will successfully complete the national certification examination.
10. Graduates, whom have sought employment, will be employed within 12 months of graduation.
11. Graduates will be satisfied with the program.
12. Employers will be satisfied with graduates.

JOB TITLE

- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

JOB DESCRIPTION

- **A Diagnostic Medical Sonographer** is a Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional that is qualified by professional credentialing and academic and clinical experience to provide diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. The scope of practice of the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer includes those procedures, acts and processes permitted by law, for which the individual has received education and clinical experience, has demonstrated competency, and has completed the appropriate certification(s) which is the standard of practice in ultrasound.

JOB SUMMARY

- The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is responsible for the independent operation of sonographic equipment, and for performing and communicating results of diagnostic examinations using sonography.
- The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is responsible for daily operations of the sonographic laboratory, patient schedule, equipment maintenance, the report of equipment failures, and quality assessment (QA). The sonographer maintains a high standard of medical ethics at all times and is self-motivated to increase level of understanding and knowledge of the field, disease, and new procedures as they evolve.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Performs clinical assessment and diagnostic sonography examinations.
- Uses cognitive sonographic skills to identify, record, and adapt procedures as appropriate to anatomical, pathological, diagnostic information and images.
- Uses independent judgment during the sonographic exam to accurately differentiate between normal and pathologic findings.
- Analyses sonograms, synthesizes sonographic information and medical history, and communicates findings to the appropriate physician.
- Coordinates work schedule with Departmental Director and/or scheduling desk to assure workload coverage.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety, mental and physical comfort of patients while they are in the sonographers care.
- Assists with the daily operations of the sonographic laboratory.
- Maintains a daily log of patients seen / completes exam billing forms.
- Maintains ultrasound equipment and work area, and maintains adequate supplies.
- Participates in the maintenance of laboratory accreditation.
- Establishes and maintains ethical working relationships and good rapport with all interrelating hospitals, referral or commercial agencies.
- Performs other work-related duties as assigned.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Performs all requested sonographic examinations as ordered by the attending physician.
- Prepares preliminary reports and contacts referring physicians when required, according to established procedures.
- Coordinates with other staff to assure appropriate patient care is provided.
- Addresses problems of patient care as they arise and makes decisions to appropriately resolve the problems.
- Organizes daily work schedule and performs related clerical duties as required.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety and well-being of all patients in the sonographic area/department.
- Reports equipment failures to the appropriate supervisor or staff member.
- Provides in-service education team on requirements of sonographic procedures as requested by other members of the health care team.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

SONOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGISTS PAY FOR ASSOCIATES DEGREES

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technologists are employed in clinics, physician's offices, profit and non-profit hospitals and outpatient centers. Sonographers can earn a variety of different wages. There are many factors that determine an individual's salary. An individual's salary is dependent upon the skill level, seniority and certifications one obtains. Please consider all those factors when investigating your regions salary.

CAREER OPPORTUNITES

- Sonography is a dynamic profession that has grown significantly over the past 20 years. With rapidly developing new technologies and increased use of diagnostic ultrasound procedures, growth is projected to continue in the future with employment opportunities for qualified sonographers in both urban and rural areas nationwide. Sonographers and vascular technologists can choose to work in clinics, hospitals, private practice physician offices, public health facilities, laboratories, and other medical settings performing examinations in their areas of specialization. Career advancement opportunities exist in education, administration, research, and in commercial companies as education/application specialists, sales representatives, technical advisors, etc.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATION

- The DMS program complies with the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program set forth by ABHES. A copy of this document and other accreditation resources are available on the web site: www.ABHES.org.
- **Currently the program is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)**
 - **ABHES:** 7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314 N. Falls Church, VA 22043
Phone: (703)917-9503

Fax: (703) 917-4109

Link: <https://www.abhes.org/>

- A sonographer can get certification by graduating from an accredited program and passing a National Certification exam. A few states require diagnostic medical sonographers to be licensed. Texas does not require licensure to be a sonographer; other requirements may vary by state. Most employers prefer to hire sonographers who have professional certification; also, sonographers must take continuing education to keep their certification current.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

WHAT ARE THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS?

Admissions requirements:

An admissions representative conducts a personal interview with each applicant before any decision is made regarding enrollment. The representative and student will meet to discuss the school's programs and the student's career goals. The representative assists the student in the completion of the application packet. The application is reviewed for evidence of a high school diploma, a GED certificate, or a transcript from an accredited post-secondary educational institution for acceptance. If the applicant is not accepted to the desired program, an alternative program may be suggested. Any applicant rejected for admission will be notified within seven working days.

Southwest University at El Paso has established the following requirements and procedures for admissions:

- Visit School
- A complete interview with an admissions representative
- Complete admissions packet
- Sign the enrollment agreement
- Sign a statement of general health
- Complete necessary school documentation
- Complete necessary programmatic documentation

Admission Requirements for the following programs:

Medical Assistant Certificate, AAS Medical Assistant, AAS Medical Coding & Billing, AAS Health Administration, AAS Business Management and Accounting Systems, AAS Medical Laboratory Technician, AAS Automotive Technology, AAS Diesel Technology

1. A high school diploma or its equivalency.
2. For homeschooled students: a certificate from the state in which the students resided during their homeschooling.
3. Successful interview with an admissions representative; and
4. Minimum age of at least 17 years (applicants under the age of 18 require written permission from a parent or legal guardian in order to enroll.)
5. Proof of citizenship

The following programs have the following additional requirements:

AAS Radiological Sciences, AAS MRI Technology, AAS Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Prospective students must submit an AAS Imaging Admissions Application
- Applicants must be at least 17 years of age (applicants under the age of 18 require written permission from a parent or legal guardian in order to enroll.)
- Applicants must take and pass an institutional HESI entrance exam with a minimum of 70%.
- Applicants must satisfy minimum criteria in order to be eligible for consideration for ranking.
- Non-Refundable exam fee is \$40.00dollars
- There is a schedule ranking date for this program. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to submit all required documentation to allow for normal processing.
- **The following is required for Graduates of a SU Allied Health Program wishing to enroll in the program**
 - Minimum SU Cumulative GPA of 3.5, an attendance rate of 90% is required.
 - Must have no write-ups
 - Two letters of recommendation (1 Personal, 1 Professional)

- Essay and interview
- **The following is required for all outside candidates with a degree in science wishing to enroll in the program:**
 - Associates or Baccalaureate in Science. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (Transcript is required for an academic review).
 - Two letters of recommendation (1 Personal, 1 Professional)
 - Essay and interview

- **The following is required for all outside candidates with a Medical Allied Health Certification wishing to enroll in the program:**
 - Two-year experience in an allied medical field
 - Active certification in Medical Assistant, Certified Nursing Assistant, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician, and other certifications with proper approval of the program director.
 - Two letters of recommendation (1 Personal, 1 Professional)
 - Essay and interview

- Students must register to take the HESI Entrance Exam. Students are allowed to take the entrance exam up to three times in a time period of six months until they achieve a satisfactory passing grade. Students who fail will be allowed to retake the exam in the next testing period with the same stipulations.
- Students must complete the application package and submit it before the application deadline. Only complete application packages will be accepted and move forward for ranking purposes.

Important

In order to be in compliance with our Clinical sites, students are required to present a background check, a negative drug test, a two-step TB test, Community-Wide Orientation (CWO) certificate, CPR certified, proof of vaccines and titers, and proper hospital orientations.

SU requires that DMS program applicants be free of criminal convictions, if this is not the case, Southwest University and the DMS program will not be responsible if the student is denied admission to clinical sites and/or is not allowed to sit for the certification exam.

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

Associate of Applied Science in
Diagnostic Medical Sonography is 104 weeks.

WHO DO I CONTACT, AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

Admissions Department/Imaging Department
Southwest University
1414 Geronimo Drive
El Paso TX, 79925
(915) 778-4001
Fax: (915) 778-1575

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Please inquire about important dates related to the imaging sciences program with our admission representatives.

POLICIES ON ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

Please refer to the University Catalog

TUITION FEES /REFUND POLICY

For Further information concerning Southwest University radiologic technologist and other programs, Tuition Fees/Refunds please refer to the SU Catalog

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND SCHOOL POLICIES

Please refer to the University Catalog

METHOD OF GRADING

The student will be graded in the following areas:

- Learning Activities 30%
- Assignments 25%
- Exams 45%

A grade of 75% is needed in order to pass this class.

A	91 – 100%
B	81 – 90%
C	75 – 80%
F	Below 75%

NOTE: The Learning Activities portion of the grade may include but not limited to: discussion questions, reading assignments, in-class assignments, daily quizzes and/or case studies. For lab classes: lab competencies and relevant assignments)

This is a tentative schedule, for any additional information or course changes please refer to the syllabus addendum.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Please refer to the University Catalog

GRIEVANCE POLICY

- **Procedures for initiating Grievance Complaints:** This procedure has been established to provide a method to resolve student grievances at the lowest administrative level in a fair and expeditious manner. For the purpose of this procedure, grievances are limited to alleged violations of Southwest University at El Paso policy or procedures by Southwest University at El Paso or its employees, disputes with faculty and/or alleged unfair treatment. This method is usually used to appeal a grade the student feels was not justified. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student has allegedly violated the code of conduct. Any student who believes that he/she has been unjustly treated within the academic process may proceed as far as necessary in the steps detailed below.
 - A. Appeal to the faculty member: The student is to submit a written appeal to the faculty member within 30 days after the start of the six-week period following the six-week period in which the alleged grievance occurred. The faculty member and the student are to discuss the problem. The faculty member will submit a written report outlining his or her decision to the student and director within ten working days of receipt of the student's written appeal.
 - B. Appeals to the Director: If a decision satisfactory to the student cannot be reached, the student may submit a written appeal to the Director. This is to be done within ten working days after the receipt of the written decision by the Assistant Director or the Director may meet with the student, faculty member, or Assistant Director to review the merits of the appeal. The Director will submit a written response outlining his or her decision to the student, faculty member, and Assistant Director within ten days of the last meeting.
 - C. If a resolution is not reached the student may submit a written complain to TWC.
- **Arbitration & Mediation**

If any dispute should arise out of the Student's enrollment and attendance at the University, no matter what issues it involves or how either the Student or the University might describe, plead or style the dispute, both the Student and the University agree that they shall first make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute by participating in mediation with a neutral mediator and then, if the dispute is not resolved, it shall be submitted to binding arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act, all as specified below:

 - a. The mediator shall be selected from a list of approved mediators maintained by a court or bar association situated in the same community (the "Local Community") as the campus of the University which the Student is attending.
 - b. If arbitration occurs, it shall be conducted at a convenient location within the Local Community, pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) by a single arbitrator selected from an AAA list in accordance with AAA selection rules.

- c. All allegations, claims and defenses, as well as any supporting information (including statements, testimony and documents), presented in mediation or asserted in arbitration shall be kept confidential by the parties and no disclosed outside of the mediation and arbitration proceedings except for disclosure to a party's counsel and consultants.
- d. All determinations as to the scope and enforceability of this arbitration provision shall be made by the arbitrator and not by a court.
- e. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding on both parties, and may be filed for enforcement by either the Student or the University in any court having jurisdiction.

The University and the Student acknowledge that they are voluntarily and irrevocably electing individualized arbitration (that is, between University and Student and not as part of any class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims) as the remedy for any unresolved dispute they may have, and the arbitrator in such proceeding shall not have authority to hear any class or mass arbitration or to award punitive damages, consequential damages or noneconomic damages. University and Student voluntarily and irrevocably waive any rights they may have to bring a lawsuit in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction and to try their dispute before a judge or jury, including by means of a class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page

5 YEAR STATISTICS

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page

PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page