

St. Cloud Technical & Community College Sonography Program – Information Packet

Welcome!

Health programs have specific requirements for students to complete.

This material is intended to help guide you through the process from beginning to graduating from your intended health major. Staff and faculty are here to assist with your educational journey and look forward to seeing you on campus!

Sonography Program Description

The Sonography Program is a full-time, 4-semester program.

- Sonography program begins each fall semester.
- 12 students are accepted each fall semester.

It is a competitive program that requires a 2-application process.

With a Sonography degree, graduates have the skills and expertise to perform and analyze ultrasound images through use of high-frequency sound waves for procedures that go beyond obstetrics.

Students will learn scanning procedures in abdominal, superficial structures, gynecological, obstetrical, and vascular ultrasound. Clinical internship experience lets students put their classroom knowledge to the test in the real world and opens doors to career opportunities after graduating.

Sonography grads find work in hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, and mobile scanning services.

Sonography Careers

Potential employers include Hospitals, Clinics, Imaging Services, Ultrasound Companies, Colleges, Vascular Centers, Breast Centers, Obstetric Centers

- The three-year placement rate for the Sonography program is 100%.
- The average Central MN hourly salary range is \$38.00 per hour.

Prospective/Returning Student - Application Process

- Your first step is to apply to SCTCC as a Pre-Sonography student at <https://sctcc.edu/apply>
- Follow instructions received by Admissions and Records & Registration offices.
- Meet with an advisor to begin the *Current SCTCC Student* process.

Current SCTCC Student / Advisor Meetings - Academic Advising Center

- Current SCTCC students are required to meet with an advisor at least once a semester to receive a registration access code and review their academic plan.
- We encourage students to visit more often with any questions or concerns they may have.
- We are here to align you with resources that are available and help guide you through your educational journey at SCTCC!

Sonography Program Requirements

- A minimum grade of “C” or better AND a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in pre-requisite coursework is required to be considered for admission and must be maintained in the program.
- ALL pre-requisites **MUST** be complete before applying to the program.
- When applying to the program, applicants must be in *Good Academic Standing* at SCTCC
 - Not on warning or probation - cumulative GPA 2.0 & cumulative completion rate of 66.67%.
- **Re-take Options:** Pre-requisites may be taken 3 times (effective December 2022).
 - Consult with an advisor about the impact of repeated courses
- Program application dates and periods may vary and/or be extended. Priority is given to those who apply during the first application period. Stay up to date by checking the program page frequently.
- The Sonography program is **highly competitive**, the college may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission standards.

General Education pre-requisites include

BLGY 2310: Human Anatomy/Physiology I

Credits

4 Credits

Semester

- Pre-requisite is BLGY 1351: General Biology

BLGY 2320: Human Anatomy/Physiology II

4 Credits

- Pre-requisite is BLGY 2310: Human Anatomy/Physiology I

MATH 1360: College Algebra

3 Credits

Physics Options

4 Credits

PHYS 2300: General Physics I

- See eServices/advisor for pre-requisite information

OR

PHYS 1305: Conceptual Physics

- See eServices/advisor for pre-requisite information

HLTH 1440: Medical Terminology

1 Credit

Goal Area 1: Communication (7 credits)

Written Communication:

ENGL 1312: Analytical Writing

4 Credits

- ***Recommended course. See advisor for full list of options.**

Oral Communication

CMST 2300: Public Speaking*

3 Credits

- ***Recommended course. See advisor for full list of options.**

CPR requirement: MUST BE American Heart Association - Basic Life Support (BLS)

- Provide a copy of CPR card **AFTER** accepted to the Sonography program
 - During Sonography orientation meeting

Course options at SCTCC: EMSC 1480 (1 credit course) **OR** HBHE 1513 (Hour based course)

NOT required, but highly recommended to improve Sonography program acceptance:

- Complete Nurse Assistant course (Options):
 - HLTH 1402 (3 credits) **OR** HCCC 1415, 1425 and 1480 (6 credits)
 - or provide 75-hour Nurse Assistant certificate
- Earn a health degree, AA, HSBF - AS or Bachelor degree

HESI Exam

- These exams will be given to the qualified applicants **AFTER** the application period closes and the scores will be considered in the acceptance process to the Sonography program.
 - The HESI exam will count as 30% of the admissions acceptance (15% of each exam weighted score).
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to take the HESI

Historical Applicant Data – Sonography Program

Program Start Date	Number of Seats Available	Total Number of Applicants	Total Number of Qualified Applicants *	Average GPA in prerequisite s of Accepted Applicants	Average HESI Weighted Score	Number of Accepted Applicants that earned 12 or more credits earned at SCTCC	Number of Accepted Applicants with an AA, HSBF, Bachelor's Degree OR Health Degree	Number of Accepted Applicants that completed the Nursing Assistant Course
Fall 2017	12	54	43	3.86	NA	12	12	12
Fall 2018	12	67	52	3.96	84.92	12	12	12
Fall 2019	12	61	45	3.95	80.30	12	12	12
Fall 2020	12**	46	40	3.91	87.46	12	13	13
Fall 2021	12	51	45	3.97	86.92	12	12	12
Fall 2022	12	59	45	3.97	88.30	12	12	12
Fall 2023	12	66	47	3.916	85.46	X	12	11

* In Fall 2020 – 13 students were accepted due tie in scoring.

** All pre-requisites complete with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

*** Fall 2018 semester, the HESI exam score used for program acceptance,

Fall 2023: HESI exam scores were used for acceptance. USA exam may be used for future acceptance

**** Students accepted to the Sonography program earned /completed areas

Please note additional exam: Applicants for Fall 2024 Sonography acceptance may be required to register and take the HESI Exam and/or the USA Exam. Full details will be shared mid-October 2023.

Sonography Program Check List for new & returning (out for over a year) students:

- ☐ Apply to SCTCC: <https://sctcc.edu/apply>
- ☐ Complete eOrientation & Meet with an Academic Advisor
- ☐ Apply for Scholarships and/or FAFSA

Sonography Program Check List for current SCTCC students:

- ☐ Follow an *Academic Plan* developed by you and an advisor
- ☐ Complete Pre-Requisites (MUST be complete by the close of application date)
- ☐ Apply to the Program: <http://www.sctcc.edu/sonography-apply-online>
 - The Sonography application is open December 1st through January 15th

Application Timeline for the Sonography Program at SCTCC

- Must be a current SCTCC student to apply to the program
- The Sonography application is open December 1st through January 15th
 - Dates are estimated and subject to change. Review Sonography page for updates.
- Application is found at <http://www.sctcc.edu/sonography-apply-online>
- Qualified applicants will be invited and take the HESI exam and/or USA Exam
 - Qualified applicants will be notified to register for the exam(s) OR provide previous scores to the college (taken with the past 2 years).
 - Exam(s) is offered mid-March (effective for Fall 2024 acceptance)
- 10 weeks after application period closes:
 - **Accepted** applicants will have letters sent
 - Top 12 ranking students
 - **Alternate List** applicants will be notified of their status
 - **Non-accepted** applicants are notified & encouraged to meet with an advisor to discuss:
 - ways to improve your application before reapplying to the program
 - your educational options / course selection for next semester
 - other programs and opportunities at SCTCC

Students *admitted* to the Sonography program

- Applicants will be notified of the date and time for the mandatory Sonography student orientation, usually held in May.
- Applicants **MUST** provide documentation of Basic Life Support (BLS) American Heart Association
- Applicants will be required to take and pass a MN Criminal Background study, electronic fingerprinting, AND drug testing (paid for by the student).

Applicants placed on the *Alternate List* for the Sonography program

- Applicants who meet the requirements but were not admitted because the program was full will be placed on a ranked alternate list.
- Applicants placed on this list will be eligible for admission to the program if spaces open prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

ALL applicants who wish to gain admission to the Sonography Program in the future must reapply, including those who were on the previous year's alternate list.

FAQs – Sonography Program

Can I apply to the program without all of the pre-requisites complete?

All pre-requisite courses MUST be complete prior to applying to the program.

Can I re-take a pre-requisite course to improve my GPA?

Pre-requisites may be taken 3 times. **Consult with an advisor about the impact of repeated courses**

Beside my Pre-Requisite GPA and HESI and/or USA Exam score, what can I do to improve program acceptance? (Listed below are NOT required, but highly recommended).

- Complete Nurse Assistant course (HLTH 1402) or (HCCC 1415, 1425 & 1480)
- Earn a health degree, AA, HSBF - AS or Bachelor degree

When does the Sonography program start?

The Sonography program is a 4-semester program that begins each Fall Semester.

How many students are accepted?

12 students are accepted each fall semester.

Can I attend Part-Time?

The Sonography program is a *full-time* and *in-person* program only.

Are any of the Sonography courses offered online?

Once accepted to the program, classes are all held on-campus or at Clinical sites.

When can I apply to the Sonography program?

The Sonography application window is open December 1st through January 15th

Application found at <http://www.sctcc.edu/sonography-apply-online>

Once accepted to the program, what is the schedule like?

First year students:

First semester will be on campus approximately 4-5 hours per day, Monday-Friday.

Second semester will be on campus 6.5-7 hours per day, Monday-Friday. Students will also be doing a clinic observation rotation on Thursdays and Fridays for a total of 6 hours per week during the Spring Semester.

Second year students:

Third semester will be completing clinic internship at a clinic site for 40 hours per week. Required clinic hours is 660.

Fourth semester will be completing clinic internship at a clinic site for 40 hours per week. Required clinic hours is 240. Student completion will be in February-March of the second year. Instructors will provide an end date yearly.

Is the Sonography Program accredited?

The St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) Sonography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org).

St. Cloud Technical & Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

FAQs – Sonography Program and HESI Admission Assessment Exam (A²)

What does HESI stand for?

Health Education Systems, Inc., and A2 stands for Admission Assessment.

Why is the HESI admission exam being used?

The HESI exam is being used by the Sonography Program to help evaluate students' academic readiness as part of the selection process. Students will also be completing a learning style and personality profile assessment. The learning style and personality profile assessment will not be scored.

When can I take the HESI exam?

Students MUST be invited to take the HESI exam at SCTCC. Students are invited to take the HESI exam after the Sonography Program applications have been reviewed. Students that have completed all program requirements and scored a minimum required GPA of 3.0 for the required prerequisites will be eligible to take the HESI examination. Directions are included in the invitation that is sent via email & mailed letter.

What is covered of the HESI exam?

Eligible students will take the following components of the HESI exam for application to the Sonography program:

English:

- Reading Comprehension (60 minutes)
- Vocabulary and General Knowledge (50 minutes)
- Critical Thinking (25 minutes)

Math:

- Basic Math Skills (50 minutes)

Science:

- Anatomy and Physiology (25 minutes)
- Physics (50)

Learner Profile:

- Learning Style (14 items)
- Personality Profile (15 items)

These items are not scored for program

How long will the HESI exam take?

Students will be permitted short breaks between components if needed. Registering for the test will take about 30 minutes, so students should allow about 5 hours to complete the exam.

What is the cost of the HESI examination?

The test will cost approximately \$50 - \$60.

What are the student accommodations?

Students will be permitted the use of scratch paper which will be collected by the Testing Center staff and immediately shredded after the test.

In general, students are not allowed to use a calculator when testing. However, students with documented disabilities may request the college's Accommodation Committee to approve the use of a basic 4 or 6 function calculator. Students will need to make arrangements in advance for this and any other possible accommodation.

How many times can I take the HESI exam?

Qualified Sonography applicants are allowed to take the HESI once during the application period. If the student re-applies to the Sonography program, another HESI exam can be taken for a total of 2 exams only. The HESI exam must be taken at St. Cloud Technical & Community College and will only be offered once each year in March.

Is there an expiration date of my HESI exam?

The HESI exam has to be taken within two years of applying to the program for the score to be eligible for consideration in the selection process.

When will the HESI exam be administered?

Eligible students will receive an email with detailed information.

The testing window for the Sonography HESI exam will usually be scheduled mid-March.

What is the minimum score accepted for the HESI exam?

There will not be a minimum score needed to achieve for admission to the Sonography program. Students will receive points based off their comprehensive score based on a percent set forth by program faculty.

When will I know the results of the HESI exam?

Within 48 hours, students will receive a detailed email regarding their score.

How can I study for the HESI exam?

A study guide is available: HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review, 5th edition ISBN: 9780323582261

FAQs – Sonography Program and USA Exam Overview

(This test is pending, may be used for Fall 2024 acceptance)

The Description

The Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) Program is a true aptitude test. An aptitude test is defined as a tool to assess if a person has the specific skills necessary to perform in a particular field. The USA program resulted from a more than ten-year longitudinal study to solve the high attrition rates that often exist in ultrasound programs. The purpose of the USA program is to help determine if a candidate is more or less likely to be successful in ultrasound. In essence, accepting candidates for ultrasound programs who are not well suited is costly both for the school and for the student. Of course, no test is or can be perfect, so the test results are intended not to provide a pure cut point, but rather information that, taken together with other student data, helps an ultrasound program make a more informed decision.

Number of Items:

The exam consists of between 65 and 70 questions. The number of the question and the remaining number of questions is indicated in the upper right-hand corner of the test window.

Time Allotted:

This exam is not intended to be time intensive. There is no time limit for the exam. Most students complete the exam in approximately 2.5 hours – but some complete the exam more quickly, and some utilize more time. Remember that question types will vary through the exam, and that not all questions will require the same amount of time to complete.

Information Section before Exam Starts:

A series of informational questions is asked before the actual exam begins. These questions are intended to gather information about you as a student, but more importantly, to make sure that the test is configured appropriately for you (such as which hand you prefer to use to control your mouse). Additionally, you will be asked for your high school (and college if applicable) Grade Point Average (GPA) and class rank. You should look this up before the exam date. If your school did not publish a GPA or a rank, you can enter Not Applicable (NA).

Cost of exam:

Cost of exam is \$65 and is taken at the college on set dates. An additional fee of \$20 is added if an outside proctor is needed.

The Difference

Most students are familiar with achievement-based tests, for which studying improves performance. Studying for a true aptitude test is not possible. Why is it not possible to study for this exam? This program primarily assesses topics that are not “taught” such as your hand-eye coordination, your ability to remain focused, your ability to see patterns in data, and reasoning. Unlike tests on mathematical formulas or mathematical conversions, you simply cannot study for the content of this test.

The Decision

So relax and do the best you can. Try not to think of this test only from the perspective of you “getting into a program” but rather from the perspective of whether it makes sense for you to commit your future to the field of ultrasound

Visit SCTCC! – Sonography

Thank you for your interest in the Sonography program at SCTCC!

We invite you to sign up for a tour or open house event at <https://sctcc.edu/visit>

After reviewing this information, if you need further assistance, please contact:

Admissions Office 320-308-5089 enroll@sctcc.edu

Academic Advising Center 320-308-5741 advising@sctcc.edu