

St. Cloud Technical College & Community College Sonography Program Handbook 2026-2027



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SCTCC Mission Statement

We provide the education, training, and support necessary for equitable participation in our society, economy, and democracy.

SCTCC Vision Statement

We are a community of learners rooted in meaningful relationships where everyone belongs and thrives.

Sonography Program Philosophy

Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at the SCTCC learn their profession through didactic and hands-on training. Student success is accomplished by faculty and students working together in a friendly and positive learning environment. Integrating student learning experiences with existing knowledge creates exceptional educational outcomes. Students are encouraged to broaden their profession through lifelong learning.

Core Values

- Student success through collaboration and cooperation
- Student centered from prospect to alumni
- Staff development and success
- A team-oriented environment
- Relationships with industry and the community
- Quality and continuous improvement
- Innovation, creativity, and flexibility
- Contextual and technologically driven driving learning

College Outcomes

- Demonstrate Personal and Social Accountability
- Think Critically
- Communicate Effectively
- Understanding Society and Global Perspectives
- Apply Knowledge

Program Outcomes

- Define the role of the diagnostic medical sonographer as it relates to the sonography field.
- Identify the physical principles and parameters of sound waves in the production and processing of ultrasound imaging.
- Identify normal sonographic anatomy of the human organs, musculoskeletal and vascular systems.
- Recognize normal and pathological ultrasound images of the human organs, musculoskeletal and vascular systems.
- Demonstrate scanning proficiencies in a simulated clinical laboratory setting of the human organs, musculoskeletal and vascular systems.
- Complete clinical internships and be proficient in the scanning of the human body under the guidance of registered sonographers.
- Be prepared to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) specialty examinations in Physics, Abdomen and OB/GYN.
- To prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the abdominal-extended and obstetrics and gynecology sonography concentrations.

St. Cloud Technical & Community College Equal Opportunity Statement

Also found in the SCTCC Student Handbook.

St. Cloud Technical & Community College is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, marital status, sexual orientation/affectional preference, national origin, mental or physical disability, status regarding public assistance or any other group or class against which discrimination is prohibited by State or Federal law. Further, the college will not tolerate acts of sexual harassment/assault within its area of jurisdiction. St. Cloud Technical & Community College will continue to remain in full compliance with: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the 1992 Crime Bill. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances concerning the application of affirmative action, equal opportunity, or Title IX at SCTCC should be referred to SCTCC's Designated Officers:

Student Complaints

Title IX: Carol Brewer, Director of Safety and Security, carol.brewer@sctcc.edu, [320.308.6158](tel:320.308.6158)

Harassment or Discrimination: Alberto Ramos, M.A., Vice President of Community, Culture, and Institutional Climate & Title IX Coordinator, alberto.amos@sctcc.edu, [320.308.5998](tel:320.308.5998)

Program or Academic: Laurie E. Jensen, Ph.D., Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing, laurie.jensen@sctcc.edu, [320.308.5156](tel:320.308.5156)

St. Cloud Technical & Community College Accessibility Services

<https://www.sctcc.edu/faq-students-new-accessibility-services>

SCTCC's Accessibility Services is here to support you in your academic goals.

Avery Cook is the Accessibility Services Coordinator and reached at avery.cook@sctcc.edu; [320.308.5064](tel:320.308.5064)

St. Cloud Technical and Community College Discrimination/Harassment Policy

Also found in the SCTCC Student Handbook.

St. Cloud Technical & Community College and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in, programs, services, and activities regarding race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status regarding public assistance, or sexual orientation. In addition, discrimination in employment based on membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Harassment based on race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, and marital status, status regarding public assistance or sexual orientation is prohibited. Harassment may occur in a variety of relationships, including faculty and student, supervisor and employee, student and student, staff and student, employee and employee, and other relationships with persons having

business at, or visiting the educational or working environment. Harassment may include, but is not limited to, verbal harassment or abuse, implied or overt threats, or physical acts of aggression, etc., which have the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment, education, use of college services or participation in college events or activities.

This policy is directed at verbal or physical conduct that constitutes discrimination/harassment under the state and federal law and is not directed at the content of speech. In cases in which verbal statements and other forms of expression are involved, SCTCC will give due consideration to an individual's constitutionally protected right to free speech and academic freedom. However, discrimination and harassment are not within the protection of academic freedom or free speech. The system office, colleges, and universities shall maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of expression, inquiry, teaching, and research. Academic freedom comes with a responsibility that all members of our education community benefit from it without intimidation, exploitation, or coercion.

This policy applies to all individuals affiliated with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, including but not limited to, its students, employees, applicants, volunteer, agents, and Board of Trustees, and is intended to protect the rights and privacy of both the complainant and respondent and other involved individuals, as well as to prevent retaliation or reprisal. Individuals who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action.

Investigation and Resolution

This procedure is designed to further implement Minnesota State Colleges and Universities policies relating to nondiscrimination by providing a process through which individuals alleging violation of Board Policy 1B.1 Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity may pursue a complaint. This includes allegations of retaliation, or discrimination or harassment based on sex, race, age, disability, color, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, or status regarding public assistance. In addition, discrimination in employment based on membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law is prohibited.

Any individual who believes she or he has been or is subjected to conduct prohibited by Board Policy 1B.1 is encouraged to report the incident to the SCTCC designated officer. The report/complaint should be brought as soon as possible after an incident occurs.

Any student, faculty member or employee who knows of, receives information about or receives a complaint of discrimination/harassment is strongly encouraged to report the information or complaint to the designated officer.

Reasonable Accommodations

To be eligible for a reasonable accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, a student must be qualified to perform the essential functions of the course with or without accommodation and have a qualifying disability that limits a major life function. Essential functions in some required SCCTC Sonography Program courses include heavy lifting, pushing, and pulling weight.

Statement of Accommodations

St. Cloud Technical & Community College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Accommodation is provided on an individualized, as-needed basis, determined through appropriate documentation of need. To develop your Accommodations Plan, please contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator located in Northway Building, Office # 1-452. Office Phone (320) 308-5757. The accommodation authorized in your plan should be discussed with your instructor. All discussions will remain confidential. Accommodation is not provided retroactively so it is essential to discuss your needs at the beginning of the semester.

Faculty Information

Program Director, Sonography Program

Jeff Gunderson, MS, RDMS, RVT, RTR

Phone: [\(320\) 308-0971](tel:3203080971)

Email: jgunderson@sctcc.edu

Clinical Coordinator, Sonography Program

Sarah Waldron, BS, RDMS, RVT

Phone: [\(320\) 308-6173](tel:3203086173)

Email: sarah.waldron@sctcc.edu

Introduction to the Ultrasound Field

Ultrasound for medical diagnosis has been used over the last three decades. A Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, also known as an Ultrasound Technologist, performs diagnostic ultrasound examinations under physician supervision. The sonographer directs non-ionizing ultrasound waves (high frequency sound waves) into the patient body with the use of an ultrasound machine and transducers.

Ultrasound equipment sends and receives reflected echoes to form an image. Abdominal organs, superficial structures (breast, scrotum, thyroid), gynecological, obstetrical, and blood vessels are among the many body structures commonly evaluated with ultrasound.

Sonographers need knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, instrumentation, and physics to obtain ultrasound images. The sonographer interprets the ultrasound images, records, and presents ultrasound findings to a reading physician, most commonly a Radiologist. Sonographers need to use independent judgment during a sonographic exam to accurately differentiate between normal and pathologic findings.

When performing ultrasound procedures patient communication and interaction is of extreme importance. Many patients requiring ultrasound exams are very ill, emotional, and excited about pending results. This presents the sonographer with physical and emotional challenges.

Psychomotor skills required to perform sonographic exams include perceptual, spatial orientation, manual dexterity, and hand-eye coordination. Transducer manipulation requires repetitive motion involving fingers/hand, elbow, and shoulder.

Most sonographers work in Radiology Departments located in hospitals. Other job locations include outpatient clinics and mobile services. After a few years of experience sonographers can branch into management, teaching, research, application specialist, or sales (hired by an ultrasound manufacturer).

Diagnostic Medical Sonography-Abdomen-Extended and Obstetrics/Gynecology Concentrations (70 Credits)

Program Description

The Sonography Program provides students with academic study, laboratory, and clinical experience in diagnostic medical sonography. Students receive comprehensive training and experience performing scanning procedures in abdominal, superficial structures, gynecological, obstetrical, and vascular ultrasound. Students are affiliated with health-care facilities during the clinical

ultrasound internship courses. Diagnostic Medical Sonographers perform and analyze ultrasound images using high frequency sound waves in a variety of medical settings.

After reviewing comparable Minnesota State college programs, this program exceeds 60 credits for one or more of the following reasons: national or international program certification, national or international standards including skill standards, standards recommended by a primary employer or multiple employers, national specialized program accreditation, state licensure requirements, and/or national practices or standards.

Degree Specific Program Requirements: A background check, including fingerprinting, will be completed as a requirement of this program. At the time of the background check submission, students must provide documentation as required by the MN Department of Human Services. If you have been arrested, charged, or convicted of any criminal offense, you should investigate the impact that the arrest, charge, or conviction may have on your chances of employment in the field you intend to study, or on your ability to obtain federal, state, and other higher education financial aid. Students who have earned a grade of “C” or better, in all required classes, as well as an overall GPA of 2.0 or better will have satisfied the program requirements for the AAS degree.

Accreditation Information:

The St. Cloud Technical & Community College (SCTCC) Sonography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

9355-113th St. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

Phone: [727-210-2350](tel:727-210-2350)

Fax: [727-210-2354](tel:727-210-2354)

www.caahep.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phone: [443-973-3251](tel:443-973-3251)

Fax: [866-738-3444](tel:866-738-3444)

<https://www.jrcdms.org>

Sonography students can complete national registries through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) during the program and after graduation.

Acceptance Requirements

HLTH1440	Medical Terminology	1 Credits
MNTC Goal Area 1		
Communications - Written	MNTC Goal Area 1	4 Credits
ENGL1302: Analytical Writing RECOMMENDED	Communications - Written	
MNTC Goal Area 1		
Communications - Oral	MNTC Goal Area 1	3 Credits
CMST2300: Public Speaking RECOMMENDED	Communications - Oral	
MNTC Goal Area 1		
BLGY2310	Human Anatomy/Physiology I	4 Credits
BLGY2320	Human Anatomy/Physiology II	4 Credits
PHYS1305	Conceptual Physics	4 Credits
Choose the above course OR the below course		
PHYS2300	General Physics I	3 Credits
MATH1360	College Algebra	3 Credits

Applicants may only apply to the Sonography program after successful completion of the acceptance requirements with a 3.0 minimum GPA.

Current Healthcare Provider certificate, CPR/AED required before beginning the Sonography program. Students are required to maintain this certificate throughout the program.

Suggested Technical
Studies Semester I

DMSG1400	Introduction to the Sonography & Echocardiography Profession	2 Credits
DMSG1402	Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy I	3 Credits
DMSG1404	Diagnostic Medical Sonography I	3 Credits
DMSG1405	Ultrasound Physics	3 Credits
DMSG1406	Clinical Ultrasound Lab I	3 Credits

Suggested Technical
Studies Semester II

DMSG1410	Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy II	3 Credits
DMSG1411	Diagnostic Medical Sonography II	3 Credits
DMSG1412	Clinical Ultrasound Lab II	5 Credits
DMSG1415	Professional Development and Growth in Sonography	2 Credits

Suggested Technical Studies Semester III

DMSG2403	Introduction to Vascular Sonography	4 Credits
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DMSG2425	Clinical Ultrasound Internship I	5 Credits
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Suggested Technical Studies Semester IV

DMSG2407	Sonography Board Reviews	1 Credits
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DMSG2430	Clinical Ultrasound Internship II	11 Credits
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Estimated cost for books and supplies: \$6440.

PLEASE NOTE: All program plans are preliminary, and curriculum may change without notice.

Career Choices

Types of Careers

- Hospital Setting
- Clinic Setting
- Mobile Setting
- Specialization in Obstetrics, Vascular, Pediatrics, Musculoskeletal & Breast
- Sales & Marketing
- Application Specialist
- Management
- Education
- Research

Potential Employers

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Imaging Services
- Ultrasound Companies
- Temporary Services
- Colleges
- Vascular Centers

- Breast Centers
- Obstetric Centers

Sonography Course Descriptions

1. **DMSG 1400: Introduction to the Sonography & Echocardiography Profession**

This course will introduce students to the sonography field, covering the origins and evolution of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The students will learn the sonographer profile, sonographer safety; legal, ethical, and legislative issues; current sonographic examinations; and basic patient care skills.

2. **DMSG 1402: Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy I**

This course focuses on a detailed study of the normal anatomy and physiology of the abdomen, neck, musculoskeletal, neonatal brain, and non-cardiac chest using ultrasound. Emphasis will focus on structure orientation and its significance in cross-sections of anatomy. Students will be able determine normal sonographic appearances and recognize variances and sizes of organs and vessels. This course will introduce the hemodynamics patterns and spectral waveforms found in the abdominal vasculature.

3. **DMSG 1404: Diagnostic Medical Sonography I**

Students will be exposed to different pathologies of the abdomen organs, blood vessels, thyroid, and neonatal head. This course will focus on ultrasound findings, scanning techniques, patient history, laboratory data, and other imaging modalities to help better understand how to interpret pathology. Emphasis will focus on descriptive and anatomical terminology, clinical data, grayscale imaging and Doppler characteristics as seen with various pathologies. Students will be determining what needs to be included on a sonographer worksheet.

4. **DMSG 1405: Ultrasound Physics**

This course will include the study of the basic principles and concepts of acoustical physics, which include the parameters of sound, and pulsed and continuous waves; the interaction of sound and media; the components of the ultrasound machine; the application of resolution and acoustic artifacts; ultrasound image optimization with consideration of patient exposure to acoustic energy; and emerging technologies and their use.

5. **DMSG 1406: Clinical Ultrasound Lab I**

Introduction to the aspects of ultrasound scanning of abdominal organs in a simulated clinical laboratory setting. Emphasis will be placed on protocol, instrumentation, imaging, and identification of normal sonographic anatomy.

6. **DMSG 1410: Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy II**

This course focuses on a detailed study of the normal anatomy and physiology of the male and female reproductive system, obstetrics covering all trimesters, breast sonography and vascular systems as it relates to the ultrasound field. Students will be able determine normal sonographic appearances and recognize variances and sizes of organs and vessels. This course will explore the hemodynamics patterns and spectral waveforms found in the male and female pelvis and obstetrics.

7. **DMSG 1411: Diagnostic Medical Sonography II**

Students will be exposed to different pathologies of the male and female reproductive systems, obstetrics covering all trimesters, breast and vascular systems. This course will focus on ultrasound findings, scanning techniques, patient history, laboratory data, and other imaging modalities to help better understand how to interpret pathology. Emphasis will focus on descriptive and anatomical terminology, clinical data, grayscale imaging, protocols, and Doppler characteristics as seen with various pathologies.

8. **DMSG 1412: Clinical Ultrasound Lab II**

Practical training in a simulated clinical laboratory will focus on completing and becoming proficient in scanning of the human body. Emphasis will be placed on instrumentation, protocol, record findings along with associated calculations, and anatomy identification of the abdomen, thyroid, pelvis, obstetrics, breast, and vascular systems.

9. **DMSG 1415: Professional Development and Growth in Sonography**

This course is designed to transition students from the classroom and lab setting into a clinical setting. Students will be able to recognize the functional skill required to be diagnostic medical sonographer. Students will observe the day-to-day operation of different ultrasound departments and share their personal reflections.

10. **DMSG 2403: Introduction to Vascular Sonography**

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding the basics of vascular sonography through both lectures and lab. Students will gain basic knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology associated with upper and lower extremity arteries and veins,

renal arteries, mesenteric arteries, and extracranial vasculature. In addition, students will be given hands-on instruction and practice in a simulated lab to develop the basic scanning skills required to perform duplex imaging of these various vascular structures.

11. DMSG 2425: Clinical Ultrasound Internship I

Students are assigned to various clinical rotations where they gain hands-on experience under the direction and supervision of assigned clinical preceptors. Students will focus on becoming proficient in the scanning of abdominal organs, non-cardiac chest, superficial structures, pelvis, obstetrics, and vascular systems. Students will expand scanning and patient care skills and as the semester progresses more clinical responsibilities will be given.

12. DMSG 2407: Sonography Board Reviews-2407

This course will help students prepare to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) specialty examinations in Physics, Abdomen and OB/GYN in a simulated atmosphere. It is designed to be used as an edition to your regular study and as a method to determine your strengths and weaknesses so that you can study more effectively. This course will cover test-taking skills and preparation on the computer. Students will be able to recognize pathology better through case study presentations.

13. DMSG 2430: Clinical Ultrasound Internship I

This is the final course in the Sonography Program. The student will focus on becoming proficient in the scanning of the human body. Students will perform under the guidance and supervision of assigned preceptors, in hands-on scanning in abdominal, superficial structures, OB/GYN, and vascular systems. Upon completion of this internship, students will be able to perform routine duties and be ready for the workplace as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

Pre-requisite (“Core”) Coursework

To produce quality sonograms, certain guidelines regarding course sequences must be followed. Within the “core” sonography curricula courses may not be skipped or “made-up” later. Students that fail or withdraw from core courses in any semester within sonography must retake the specified course prior to advancing to the next semester of the sonography program. Due to the skill specific nature of this

program, coursework completion according to the scheduled sequence is essential for skill development and proficiency.

Year One: Core Course Sequence

Fall Semester

- Introduction to the Sonography & Echocardiography Profession-DMSG 1400
- Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy I-DMSG 1402
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography I –DMSG 1404
- Ultrasound Physics-DMSG 1405
- Clinical Ultrasound Lab I-DMSG 1406

Spring Semester

- Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy II-DMSG 1410
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography II –DMSG 1411
- Clinical Ultrasound Lab II-DMSG 1412
- Professional Development and Growth in Sonography-DMSG 1415

Year Two: Core Course Sequence

Fall Semester

- Introduction to Vascular Sonography-DMSG 2403
- Clinical Ultrasound Internship I-DMSG 2425

Spring Semester:

- Sonography Board Reviews-DMSG 2407
- Clinical Ultrasound Internship II-DMSG 2430

Clinical Internship (Overview & Expectations)

Clinical internship is the final phase of "clinical" and the final classes of the Sonography Program. The student will utilize all the knowledge acquired throughout the program within the clinical environment, on real patients.

To provide the necessary "hands-on" time for the students, clinical internship sites are selected according to their ultrasound procedure volumes and site staffing.

Unfortunately, this necessitates that some of our clinical internship sites may not be within daily driving distance.

The Sonography Program requires clinical internship of several months' duration towards the end of the program. These internships may require placement at a site outside the St. Cloud area or outside of Minnesota. This may create financial hardship and separation of families during the internship period. The College will make every effort to secure sites within the state and the five surrounding states; however, for reasons beyond the control of the College other sites may be used.

Clinical sites may vary year-to-year in accordance with the sites' ability to provide a quality-learning environment for the student (site staffing dynamics).

The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will assign student(s) to a clinical facility, matching the student(s) with the internship site. Consideration will be given to the site's needs and students' desires. The clinical site will be notified and given the name of the student assigned to their respective site.

Exceptions may be made should a student have family out of state and wish to pursue clinical outside of the normal five-state area. Clinical facilities must meet standard volume requirements and have adequate staffing to facilitate clinical instruction.

Once a student is assigned to a site for clinical internship, he/she must comply with that specific site's codes of dress and conduct. Failure to adhere to clinical site regulations may result in immediate removal from the clinical internship site, and subsequent academic disciplinary actions.

Under no circumstances may a student contact clinical sites to secure placement. A student who violates this provision is subject to dismissal from the Sonography Program.

Students must have the following PRIOR to starting clinical internship:

1. Basic Life Support Certification
2. Physical exam with proof of immunizations
3. (State) Criminal background check to include fingerprinting

It is strongly recommended that students have access to a computer and Internet access during clinical internship. This will allow for transmission of papers/coursework and clinical logs to be readily communicated to instructors. Otherwise, fax transmission may be utilized.

Clinical Assignments

SCTCC Sonography Program places students in clinical settings in separate medical facilities for a key portion of the learning experience. In some circumstances, a student may be denied placement by a medical facility, and as a result, unable to complete the Program. SCTCC does not guarantee a student an alternative placement under these circumstances. For example:

- **Criminal Background Record & Finger Printing**

Students are required to complete a criminal background check and finger printing before attending clinical experiences. Based on the background report, a student may be prohibited from entering a clinical experience. A student disqualified from placement at a clinical setting will be unable to complete the program. A criminal background check is done yearly, and it is the student's responsibility to keep current. Students are responsible for the fees assigned to a background check and finger printing.

"A background check and finger printing will be completed as a requirement of this program. At the time of the background check submission, students must provide documentation as required by the MN Department of Human Services. If you have been arrested, charged, or convicted of any criminal offense, you should investigate the impact that the arrest, charge or conviction may have on your chances of employment in the field you intend to study or on your chances to obtain federal, state, and other higher education financial aid."

Patient Privacy

The importance of maintaining patient privacy is a core academic outcome in the Sonography Program. Students are taught to maintain the confidentiality of all persons receiving services. A student who breaches confidentiality may fail the immediate lesson or the entire course, depending on circumstances.

A student who fails a clinical course will not have priority registration to repeat the course. As a student who fails a course due to breach of patient confidentiality may be unable to find a placement for a future clinical course, and therefore, unable to complete the Program.

Student Service Work

While performing tasks as part of the required clinical educational experience, students may not take either the responsibility or the place of qualified staff. After demonstrating competency, however, students may be permitted to undertake certain defined clinical activities under appropriate supervision and direction.

Students do not receive compensation for services they perform in the clinical courses. Occasionally students are employed at the same institution where they attend clinical courses. As part of their employment, the students receive pay and are subject to standard employee policies. SCTCC does not require students to accept employment, nor does it prohibit such employment, subject to the following conditions:

1. The work is performed outside regular educational hours.
2. The work is separate from and does not interfere with the student's academic responsibilities.

Students must attend required classes, complete required clinical objectives and clinical hours and maintain passing grades to remain in the Program.

Academic Progress (Navigate 360)

Improving your college experience with Navigate

Students benefit from Navigate for its more personalized student support and better communication across departments. Academic advisors and success navigators can provide students with information and connections to campus and community resources.

Use Navigate to access these features:

- Easy access to find your Success Team members
- Schedule appointments for academic advising
- Find and send emails to your current instructors
- View alerts and progress reports submitted by instructors about your performance in a course.
- Quick access to the academic calendar, information on course registration, billing/payments, financial aid, and more.

Academic Standards

1. Students' academic and clinical performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester.
2. Academic grades must be 80 % or better on a 100 % scale. An 80 % average must be maintained in all academic core courses to pass. Lab and clinical

courses are pass/fail. Grading criteria are listed in the lab and clinic handbooks.

3. The academic grading system is the following:

94-100%: A

87-93%: B

80-86%: C

73-79%: D

72% and below: F

Delay in Program Completion

In some cases, students experience an interruption in their educational program. Students are encouraged to contact the Program Director as early as possible to arrange reinstatement. The Program Director, with the assistance of faculty, will determine the appropriate sequencing of course work upon reentry. The Sonography Program teaches skills that may erode if not used. Depending on the point at which a student leaves the Program, and the length of time a student is away from the Program, a student may need to repeat some courses upon reinstatement. Assessments will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Repetition of Courses

A Sonography Student who receives a “W,” “D”, or “F” in any course is making unsatisfactory progress in the Sonography Program. It is possible for a Sonography student to drop from a course and not receive a “W” if they drop on or before a set drop date. Students who do this will be considered as attempting to take the course.

If a student fails (1) course in a semester, they may be considered for a second attempt if space is available. If a grade of “W”, “D”, or “F” is obtained on the second attempt, the student will be dismissed from the Sonography Program. Students must repeat all core courses passed for that semester. An 80 % average must be maintained in all academic core courses to pass. Lab and clinical courses are pass/fail.

Students who fail (2) or more core courses in a semester will automatically be dismissed from the program.

If a student fails (2) performance or (1) performance and the final in Clinical Ultrasound Lab I or II, they will fail the course. Students will be allowed to repeat the

lab the following year if space is available. If a student fails > (2) performances or > (2) performances and a final or withdraws from Clinical Ultrasound Lab I or II, there will be no option to repeat that lab and they will automatically be dismissed from the program.

Students who fail a clinical internship course will not be allowed to repeat that course and will be dismissed from the program.

Graduation Requirements

1. Complete and pass all required Sonography courses prior to graduation following course sequence.
2. Complete the required number of days in each clinical rotation.

Physical Demands

Manual Dexterity: Sonography requires a moderate amount of hand-eye coordination. This manual dexterity is utilized to manipulate the ultrasound transducer according to the image displayed on the ultrasound display to obtain optimal images.

Physical Strength: Physical strength is needed to move ultrasound platforms to and from inpatient rooms within the hospital environment and mobile settings, assist patients to and from the examination table in the outpatient environment and properly position patients on the exam table to obtain ultrasound images. Typically lifting, pulling and pushing requirements will not exceed 50 pounds of force.

Visual Acuity: Sonographers rely on computer displays to obtain adequate recordings of human body in a semi-dark environment. Sonography modalities require the ability to differentiate shades of blue, red, yellow, and green and gray.

Potential Physical Hazards

Ultrasound Exposure: To date, diagnostic medical ultrasound has shown no adverse effects on the adult human population.

Repetitive Motion: Although scanning techniques may vary between patients, transducer manipulation requires repetitive motion involving the scanning fingers/hand, elbow and shoulder.

Ergonomic Considerations: Proper ergonomics should be utilized whenever possible to reduce stress in the body. Infrequently however, due to the nature of the hospital/clinical environment, stretching, lifting, and reaching are required when

performing ultrasound procedures. When moving or lifting a patient it is important to use the correct technique to prevent injury.

Exposure to bloodborne pathogens and communicable diseases:

Patients requiring ultrasound exams present with various medical illnesses potentially presenting the sonographer with biohazards (i.e., infectious diseases).

Students participating in clinical experiences are responsible for adhering to universal blood and body substance precautions to prevent exposure to blood and body substances infected with blood borne diseases. The splattering of blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious substances into the eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin can cause an exposure. Exposure can also be caused by a puncture from a contaminated needle or other sharp object.

In the event of an exposure in the sonography laboratory, the incident should be reported immediately to supervising faculty. In the event of an exposure at a clinical facility, the exposure should be immediately reported to your clinical preceptor or clinical manager. The exposure policy of the clinical facility must be followed. **The student is responsible for costs incurred because of exposure, including evaluation and treatment.** It is recommended that students have insurance to cover such instances and should check with their insurance provider regarding coverage.

Eye Strain: Ultrasound imaging is typically performed in a semi-dark environment, viewing the computer screen of the ultrasound machine.

Student Health

Immunizations

Students are required to provide physician certification of up-to-date immunization status before attending clinical internship. A form is provided by the college. Students are responsible for maintaining current immunization status. Some clinical facilities require students to provide the facility with this documentation as well.

Student Illness

Students must report to the Program Director any personal health condition that could compromise the health and safety of the student, their colleagues, or the patients to whom they provide care. Students missing more than two days will need a doctor's note to return to course work. The Program Director will meet with the

students and college or clinic administration to discuss a plan on how the student can complete the program.

Reasonable Accommodations

To be eligible for a reasonable accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, a student must be qualified to perform the essential functions of the course with or without accommodation and have a qualifying disability that limits a major life function. Essential functions in some required SCTC Sonography Program courses include heavy lifting, pushing, and pulling weight.

Leave of Absence During Pregnancy

If a student decides, she may elect to leave the Program during her pregnancy. If the student decides to choose this option and leaves the Program, she must notify the Program Director in writing. An incomplete will be awarded for the course(s) in progress. The remaining course work may be completed upon the students' return, subject to space availability. It may not be feasible for the student to re-enter the Program immediately since some courses are offered sequentially and only once a year.

Pregnant students are encouraged to notify the Program Director as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. The Program Director will meet with the student to discuss a plan for how she can complete the Program.

Class Participation and Attendance

Core Sonography classes are typically fast paced and challenging. Attendance is very important. Should it become necessary to miss a class, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students are responsible for obtaining lecture information from classmates or the instructor before or after class hours.

Absences: Sonography students are allowed five (5) days of instructor approved absences per Semester. Students missing more than five (5) days of approved absences in a Semester will receive a grade of incomplete for courses offered that Semester and will have to repeat those courses to advance in the program.

Repeating a course depends on space availability and with all faculty approval.

Students missing more than five (5) days of un-approved absences will be dismissed from the program with no repeat option. All laboratory/clinical hours missed are required to be made up before the end of the Semester to pass.

Tardiness: Prompt attendance is required. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. Every two (2) days of tardiness will be the equivalent of one (1) absence. This will count towards the maximum five (5) day absence.

Classroom & Laboratory Areas

Classroom and laboratory areas are to be always kept neat and clean. Students may bring food and/or drink into the lecture classroom, but food and drink are prohibited in scanning areas and around equipment.

Appropriateness of Clinical Examinations

During courses of instruction, students will be required to perform general ultrasound examinations on other students and volunteer “patients.” This scanning does not in any way replace or augment examinations required by medical necessity.

Furthermore, the student (and volunteer simulated patients) must acknowledge, in writing, that they understand that all scanning performed within clinical classes and “open scan labs” is for the student’s educational purposes only and not for diagnosis. No physician will interpret, diagnose, or treat because of these examinations.

Patient/Student Privacy

During clinical courses and “open scan labs” students and volunteer patients will be required to expose a particular area of the body. This is necessary for the performance of routine ultrasound examinations. Male and female students alike will perform clinical scanning in a rotational order. At no time during the examination will the student or volunteer patient be unnecessarily exposed. Maintenance of the simulated patient’s privacy is a priority necessitated by professionalism within the field of ultrasound and strictly mandated by St. Cloud Technical & Community College.

Any/all information obtained through the practice of routine ultrasound exam on all students and volunteer patients is confidential and will not be shared and/or released by St. Cloud Technical & Community College to any other person or institution.

Exceptions

A valuable part of the clinical experience is the patient’s perspective. Should a student not be able to perform as a simulated volunteer patient, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible. If a student is unable to be a simulated volunteer patient in the lab, their grade and evaluations will not be affected by this. It is the responsibility of the program to provide volunteers if students refuse to be scanned.

Scanning Volunteer Patients for Educational Purposes in the SCTCC Clinical Lab

All scans in the clinical lab scans are for educational purposes only and are not diagnostic.

Before receiving a scan, each volunteer patient must read and sign a consent form and provide the name of their primary clinic and/or primary physician on the consent form.

If a sonography student finds an abnormality while performing a scan in the clinical lab, the student must not inform the volunteer patient of their findings. Students must report any abnormal findings to program faculty. Program faculty will inform the volunteer patient that an official ultrasound should be done for clarification at a medical facility. In addition, program faculty will offer to call the volunteer patient's primary clinic and/or primary physician to suggest that an official ultrasound be performed. If a volunteer patient does not have a primary clinic or physician, Program faculty will consult with the Medical Director for recommendations.

Under no circumstances **may** the sonography students perform obstetrical scanning of any pregnant woman in the St. Cloud Technical & Community College clinical lab without permission and supervision of the Program faculty. Every pregnant woman scanned in the SCTCC clinical lab must have had a prior ultrasound scan at a medical facility before being scanned in the SCTCC clinical lab.

Social Networking and Social Media Policy

This policy recognizes the fact that regardless of the original intent, words and images posted or distributed publicly have an impact on the reputation of the college, the program, community partners, and clinical sites. Therefore, it is the policy of the Sonography Program to prohibit all participants from posting detailed medical information, images, negative comments regarding an instructor, clinical site, partner or patient, and anything that could be considered a threat or harassing statement on any social networking site or message board.

Disclosure of personal health information and images via these sites, even if using your personal accounts/pages, can and will be treated as a HIPAA violation. Other statements not containing personal health information, but of a negative nature directed at Sonography Program personnel, clinical sites and partners will not be tolerated and are subject to the conditions listed in the paragraph below.

Your clinical experience is an extension of the program's relationship with area healthcare facilities, and your chance to gain valuable in-field experience. As such, it is expected and required that you treat these clinical sites as your workplace. Therefore, negative and/or subjective comments or postings via social media are grounds for discipline which may include failure of the course or dismissal.

In our program, AI may be used as a learning aid (e.g., clarifying terminology, reviewing grammar, generating study tools, or understanding how AI functions in healthcare). Don't use AI to complete a given assignment or write a required research paper. Citations are required for written and presentation assignments and should be completed in your own words.

Dress Codes

SCTCC Environment: Students must abide by the SCTCC dress code guidelines located in the SCTCC student handbook. Students will wear scrubs in Clinical Ultrasound Lab I & II. Scrub colors are either blue, black, or gray.

Hospital or Clinic Environment: It is mandatory for students to wear their college ID at all clinical settings. Dress codes vary at medical facilities; students must abide by clinical dress codes.

General Policies and Procedures

Sonography students must abide by the general policies and procedures that are provided in the St. Cloud Technical & Community College Student Handbook.

Professional Conduct

Integral to the profession of diagnostic medical sonography is a concern for the welfare of the sick, injured, and vulnerable and for social justice; therefore, students enrolled in the Sonography Program at the SCTCC accept the moral ethical responsibilities that have been credited to the profession of diagnostic medical sonography and are obligated to uphold an adherence to the professions Code of Ethics. The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) 2006 Code of Ethics for the Profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography outlines the goals, values, and ethical principles that direct the profession of diagnostic medical sonography and is standard by which ethical conduct is guided and evaluated by the profession. The Sonography Program at St. Cloud Technical and Community College has an obligation to graduate students who will provide safe and competent patient care and uphold the moral and ethical principles of the profession of diagnostic medical sonography.

In situation where student may be in violation of the SCTCC Student Code of Conduct, a citation will be filed with the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Principles (SDMS)

- Be truthful and promote appropriate communications with patients and colleagues.
- Respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and yourself.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and situations that exploit others or misrepresent information.
- It accurately represents his/her experience, education, and credentialing.
- Promote equitable access to care.
- Collaborate with professional colleagues to create an environment that promotes communication and respect.
- Communicate and collaborate with others to promote ethical practice.
- Engage in ethical billing practices.
- Engage only in legal arrangements in the medical industry.
- Report deviations from the Code of Ethics to institutional leadership for internal sanctions, local intervention and/or criminal prosecution. The Code of Ethics can serve as a valuable tool to develop local policies and procedures.
- Refrain from the use of any substances that may alter judgment or skill and thereby compromise patient care.
- Protect patients and/or study subjects by adhering to oversight and approval of investigational procedures, including documented informed consent.
- Acknowledge personal and legal limits, practice within the defined scope of practice, and assume responsibility for his/her actions.
- Maintain confidentiality of acquired patient information and follow national patient privacy regulations as required by the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)."
- Promote the privacy, dignity, and comfort of the patient by thoroughly explaining the examination, patient positioning and implementing proper draping techniques.
- Recognize the patient's individuality and provide care in a non-judgmental and non-discriminatory manner.

Behaviors that violate academic, moral, and ethical standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Knowingly furnishing false information
- Falsifying written information or documentation
- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Theft
- Crossing professional boundaries
- Unsafe behavior in a clinical setting
- Breaching of confidentiality
- Unprofessional behavior (verbal and physical)
- Disruptive behaviors in classrooms, labs and clinical settings
- Foul language in classrooms, labs clinical settings, and/or during faculty conference

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not meet the moral, ethical, or professional behavioral standards of the Sonography Program. Students dismissed from the sonography program for the above reasons are not eligible for re-admission.

Parking

While attending classes at SCTCC, parking passes are required and may be purchased at the business office. The parking rate is calculated at a base rate per credit and will be included in the tuition statement under student fees. Students will receive a parking fine without a parking pass. Students may park in any designated area. When a student is attending a clinical rotation, abide by the medical facilities abide by the medical facilities.

Accreditation

The Sonography Program at the St. Cloud Technical & Community College has been reviewed by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCDEMS) and granted accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The next comprehensive evaluation of the program, including an onsite review, will occur in 2035. The Sonography Program at SCTCC is committed to maintaining accreditation.

Certification

Most employers require sonographers to acquire national registry credentials through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). There are several different prerequisites govern by ARDMS to be eligible to take the ARDMS registry. The Program Director will go over eligibility requirements during the beginning of the program. The Sonography Program at the SCTCC prepares students to take the following ARDMS examinations: Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Abdomen.

Professional Organizations

1. **American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM):** A nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and research of ultrasound. AIUM publishes the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine. AIUM can be reached at www.aium.org or phone number [1-800-638-5352](tel:1-800-638-5352).
2. **Midwest Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (MSDU):** A nonprofit organization that meets several times a year to keep sonographers updated on changes in the profession. The organization also schedules educational meetings and conferences to help obtain continuing medical education credits required by ARDMS. MSDU can be reached at www.msdu.org.
3. **Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SDMS):** A society that promotes educational information pertaining to the ultrasound field. SDMS publishes the Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. SDMS can be reached at www.sdms.org or phone number [1-800-229-9506](tel:1-800-229-9506).
4. **Society of Vascular Ultrasound (SVU):** A vascular society that promotes advanced education in vascular technology. SVU publishes the Journal of Vascular Technology. SVU can be reached at www.svunet.org or phone number [1-301-459-7550](tel:1-301-459-7550).
5. **American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS):** An organization that oversees the registry exams in diagnostic medical

sonography. ARDMS can be reached at www.ardms.org or phone number [1-800-541-9754](tel:1-800-541-9754).

6. Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

(JRCDMS): The governing body of educational programs in sonography and makes accreditation recommendations to CAAHEP. JRCDMS can be reached at:

6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phone: 443-973-3251

Fax: [866-738-3444](tel:866-738-3444)

<https://www.jrcdms.org>

7. Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

(CAAHEP): An independent body that oversees the accreditation of allied health education programs, including diagnostic medical sonography.

CAAHEP can be reached at:

9355-113th St. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

Phone: [727-210-2350](tel:727-210-2350)

Fax: [727-210-2354](tel:727-210-2354)

www.caahep.org

Textbooks

Textbooks are required and recommended by the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator for each semester. Textbooks can be purchased in the SCTCC Bookstore. Upon graduation, it is highly recommended to keep all purchased core textbooks. The required textbooks will be a good reference during the first years of employment and can be used to study for the national registries.

Estimated cost for books and supplies: \$6640 for the two years. Most of the core textbooks are purchased within the first year and used throughout the Sonography Program. Students purchase Trajecsyst Report System for clinic internships with a cost estimated at \$75-\$100.

Signature Page

I have read and understand the contents of the Sonography Program's Handbook. I also understand that deviation from the guidelines set forth in the "Class Policies and Guidelines" and "Clinical Internship (Overview & Expectations)" sections of this handbook may result in the generation of an adverse academic progress report or the immediate termination from clinical internship and/or the Sonography Program.

X

Signature & Date

Memo Of Understanding

The Sonography Program requires clinical internships of several months' duration towards the end of the program. These internships may require placement at a site outside the St. Cloud area or outside of Minnesota. This may create financial hardship and separation of families during the internship period. The College will make every effort to secure sites within the state and the five surrounding states; however, for reasons beyond the control of the College other sites may be used.

Assignment to a site will be done by the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator, matching the student with the internship site. Consideration will be given to the site's needs and students' desires. The clinical site will be notified and given the name of the student assigned to their respective site.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A STUDENT CONTACT CLINICAL SITES TO SECURE PLACEMENT. A STUDENT WHO VIOLATES THIS PROVISION IS SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

By my signature below I acknowledge that I have read and understand this memo of understanding. I have received a copy of this document.

X

Signature & Date

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

As a student at St. Cloud Technical & Community College, I understand my responsibility to clients and have been sufficiently educated and trained about the significance of confidentiality and agree not to breach that confidentiality.

I will not access medical information that I do not need to perform my job/student responsibilities.

I will not inappropriately divulge information that I have obtained in the course my job/student responsibilities.

I understand that a breach of confidentiality will subject me to disciplinary action by the college, **which may range from a written warning to immediate termination and** may subject me to legal action. I understand that the disciplinary action would become a part of my student file.

A breach occurs in the following instances, which are not intended to include all situations:

Discussing any information pertaining to clients with anyone (including my own family) who is not directly involved with such patients.

Discussing or displaying any information pertaining to clients where it can be overheard or seen by anyone not directly involved with such clients, including other clients and their families.

Describing client behavior which has been observed or learned through my affiliation with the college.

Sharing or failing to properly protect computer passwords or other information authorizing or providing access.

Transmitting client information to any individual, entity, or agency outside the college, except as authorized by law.

X

Signature & Date