

Sonography Program Application and Information Packet

The ultrasound profession is subdivided into nine specialties. The specialties offered at Lackawanna College are General Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiac Ultrasound and Vascular Ultrasound. Students will select one specialty field of study in which to major. (please select one of the following)

Cardiac Sonography

Vascular Technology

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Enrollment is limited by availability of clinical sites and other factors. Applicants must have a successful record of achievement in high school science courses, algebra and physics or develop these skills prior to program admission. Applications will be reviewed by the Program Director and applicants will be notified by mail of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the specialty Pre-Semester Program. All qualified and accepted applicants will need to attend an information session. Information sessions will provide detailed information about the field of ultrasound, our program requirements and expectations, credentialing examinations and the current job market. This session will also give the student the opportunity to meet with the Program Director and asked questions regarding the program and field of ultrasound.

Lackawanna College Sonography Programs Technical Standards

A career-entry diagnostic medical sonographer must be able to (1) interact with and interview patients to assess clinical history of present illness; (2) lift and/or move patients and machines; (3) operate sophisticated imaging and physiologic testing instrumentation; (4) accurately perform diagnostic medical sonography procedures and review images utilizing independent judgment; (5) create accurate and precise records of studies performed; (6) perform quality assurance activities related to procedures and instrument performance.

Technical Standards Acknowledgement Form

I have read and understood the Technical Standards of the Lackawanna College Sonography Program, and believe that I can meet these standards.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please return signed form to the Admissions Office.

Sonography Applicant Information Overview

This document contains important information for prospective applicants to the Sonography program at the Scranton Campus of Lackawanna College. Careful review of each section is required to complete the application for admission.

The cohort of students enrolled for the next DMS/Cardiac/Vascular program start date will be selected from applicants with complete packages submitted by the application deadline. The application checklist identifies all of the documents required for a complete

application. Only qualified applicants with complete application materials will be considered for an interview.

Interviews will be scheduled for qualified Sonography program applicants who meet minimum requirements and submit a fully completed application with all materials received by the Sonography department.

- A. The top 25 applicants for Vascular and Cardiac
- B. The top 20 applicants for DMS

Application Checklist

Applicants may use the following checklist to monitor progress in completing the application process:

Document/Process	Date Submitted/Completed
Application for Admission	
Official High School Transcripts	
Official Postsecondary Transcripts	
Letters of Recommendation	
Pre-Sonography Informational Meeting	
Acknowledgement Forms	
Essay	

Completion of a Prerequisite Biology

When applying to the Lackawanna College Sonography Program, a student must prove that he or she is capable of completing this rigorous program with proof of previous success in studying the Sciences. This can be done in one of three ways:

- The student has completed Biology, or Anatomy and Physiology in high school within the past three years with a passing grade of C or better. An official high school transcript must be sent to Lackawanna College as evidence of this.
- The student has completed a three (3) or four (4) credit college-level course eligible for transfer within Lackawanna College in Biology, or Anatomy and Physiology with a passing grade of C or better. An official college transcript must be sent to Lackawanna College as evidence of this.
- If neither of the above scenarios applies, a student must enroll in a college-level Biology, course before applying to a Sonography program. If a student is currently enrolled in this course while in the process of applying to the Sonography program, the student may receive probationary acceptance while completing this course. Evidence by way of an official college transcript must be received confirming completion of the course with a grade of C or better for official entry into Sonography pre-semester. Should the applicant either not complete the course or not receive the requisite grade, he or she will then forfeit the seat in the Sonography program.

Clinical Externship Statement

During the externship portion of the program, the student is assigned to a medical facility that regularly performs diagnostic medical ultrasound imaging. You are required to be present at the medical facility. The specific start and ending hours depend upon the hours of operation for the specific facility.

Vacations are not permitted during the externship portion of the program.

The Program Director and Clinical Coordinator are responsible for placing students at clinical education centers. Students may be asked for their preferences, but the decision of the faculty is final. Students may not make their own arrangements for clinical training. Students must be prepared to travel to the clinical education centers and are responsible for having reliable transportation. Students should be prepared as some sites may require overnight accommodations and/ or relocation. All expenses incurred will be the student's responsibility. Students may be assigned to more than one clinical education center during the duration of the program in order to participate in an appropriate number of cases.

In addition, student placement is based on their current skill level. Students that are more advanced will be scheduled at a lab that has higher volume and the availability for the student to keep up training at the lab's pace. Students that need more one on one training will be placed at a lab in which the volume and pace is more suitable for that student's current skill level and offers the ability to help students grow and progress in their training.

Because clinical sites have strict requirements that apply both to employees and to students or externs assigned to the site, students must annually supply updated PA State Clearances, PA Child Abuse Clearances and FBI Clearances to Castle Branch. Students' ability to be placed in a clinical site or to continue their clinical placement is contingent upon the submission of these clearances and students' maintenance of a clean record. If student records indicate a misdemeanor or felony conviction during enrollment in the program, the student will not be permitted to continue his or her clinical placement and will be removed from the program.

Required Documentation (this will be required upon acceptance into the Program):

- CPR Certification (2 year American Red Cross or American Heart Association only)
- *FBI Background check
- *PA State Police Background Check
- *Child Abuse Clearance
- *Full Physical Exam
- 2 Step PPD (annually)
- Copy of Childhood Immunizations

Proof of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox illness

Hepatitis B vaccination or signed waiver refusing

Urine Drug Testing- 10 Panel

* Must be done every 12 months in order to be considered up-to-date.

Clinical Externship Acknowledgment Form

I have read and understood the Clinical Externship Standards of the Lackawanna College Sonography Program, and believe that I can meet these standards.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please return signed form to the Admissions Office.

ARDMS Certifying Examination Statement

Currently the following two states require licensure of sonography professionals

- **Oregon:** All qualified medical imaging technicians and physicians practicing in Oregon must have a valid license issued by the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging before performing ultrasound exams.
- **North Dakota:** On March 19, 2015, a new law passed that makes North Dakota the third state in the United States to require licensure for sonographers.

ALSO NOTE

- **New Mexico,** as of December 2014, was in the process of setting the rules for the sonography licensure program.

The remaining states do not require that a diagnostic medical sonographer be licensed or ARDMS or CCI certified in order to work as a sonographer, however many employers do require that potential employees be ARDMS and/or CCI certified, or be eligible to sit for the ARDMS and/or CCI certifying examination within one year or less after hire.

Each of Lackawanna College's Sonography programs are accredited through The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Students that successfully graduate from the DMS, Vascular and/or Cardiac Program will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS or CCI examination(s).

Required Essay for Application

To complete the application process, students will be required to submit a 250 word essay. Think of three attributes or characteristics that you look for in a healthcare professional. Describe why an individual with those attributes makes a good healthcare professional. Identify the qualities you feel you yourself possess, and describe how they will enhance your role both as a student and as a future medical professional.