

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY INFORMATION SESSION

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College



Student labeling an ultrasound image

WHAT DO SONOGRAPHERS DO?

Sonographers perform ultrasounds, a medical imaging procedure that uses sound waves to obtain an image.

They may work in:

- Hospitals
- Outpatient Imaging Centers
- Private medical offices

www.bls.gov and **Search Diagnostic Medical Sonographer**



DMS Program Director Judi Green with a DMS graduate



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Length

Full-time sequential programs lasting four semesters including one summer

Program Accreditation

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)

Degree Earned Upon Completion

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)

National Certifications

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

First Year

- 5 days per week
- Full-time programs, no part-time classes
- 3 days Lectures and Labs at MEC
- 2 days of Clinical rotation

Summer Semester – 10 weeks

- 2 days Lectures and Labs at MEC
- 3 days of Clinical rotation

Second Year

- 2 days Lectures and Labs at MEC
- 3 days of Clinical rotation

- Program begins in August each year and ends in December the following year (16 months)
- Must earn minimum of C in each course
- 1,088 clinical hours by end of program



DMS students working with a phantom in the simulation center



PROGRAM EXPENSES

Expenses may include but are not limited to:

- Tuition and textbooks, uniforms, patches and badges
- Physical exam with immunizations
- Annual background check/drug screen
- AHA BLS Healthcare Professional CPR class
- ARDMS SPI and Subspecialty Registry fees (exams) & Society membership fees
- Parking (campus and clinical)
- Clinical evaluation system fee

- Refer to NOVA website for current tuition & textbook costs
- Estimated list of expenses available at Sonography website



ARDMS EXAM ELIGIBILITY

- ARDMS requires full and advance disclosure of criminal convictions
- Applicants with prior convictions may request a Pre-Application Review from ARDMS

www.ardms.org



CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

Before attending Clinical Education, you must have:

- Annual Background Check with Drug Screen
- Current CPR - AHA (BLS) for Healthcare Professionals
- Current physical exam with immunizations
- Instructions are provided to accepted applicants
- Students must be willing/able to travel to any rotation
- May be exposed to infectious diseases, terminally ill patients, combative or difficult patients, and other potential medical hazards



Echo students studying anatomy of a pig heart in the DMS lab



GRADUATION AND LICENSURE

Graduates earn an associate in applied science degree (AAS)

Abdominal-Extended & OB/GYN Graduates

- Take the ARDMS Abdomen (AB) and Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN) or the ARRT Sonography credentialing exam
- RDMS (AB, OB/GYN) or RT (S) credentials
- Perform exams in abdomen, obstetrics/gynecology and small parts scanning

Vascular Graduates

- Take the ARDMS or the CCI credentialing exam
- RVT or RVS credentials
- Perform exams for cerebrovascular, peripheral venous, peripheral arterial, and visceral vascular scanning

Adult Cardiac Graduates

- Take the ARDMS or the CCI credentialing exam
- RDCS or RCS credentials
- Perform exams in adult echocardiography



HOW TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- Separate application process after applying to NOVA
- Accepts applications once a year
- Students must complete specific requirements to be eligible
- Refer to the Application Checklist for the current list of requirements
- Requirements may change from year-to-year
- All courses must have a final grade to apply

www.nvcc.edu > [Search Box](#) > [Sonography](#)



Echo students studying anatomy of pig hearts in the DMS lab



TEAS TEST

- Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
- Refer to current **Application Checklist** for minimum required scores
- Only 3 allowed attempts in January to December calendar year
- Scores are good for 3 years
- Program looks at highest scores from all attempts – not most recent scores
- TEAS preparation website available for MEC applicants

nvcc.edu/medical/apply > Take TEAS Test



TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION

- Completed through the NOVA College Records Office
- All applicable credits must be posted before applying
- International transcripts must first be evaluated through an international evaluation agency before submitting to the CRO
- Evaluations may take several weeks
- Check prerequisites and any CLEP, IB or AP Exam scores to make sure they meet the grade requirements
- Applications with pending transfer credit evaluation after the deadline will not be considered for admission

nvcc.edu/medical/apply > Request Transfer Credit Evaluation



INTERNATIONAL DEGREES

- Foreign medical graduates holding a valid medical degree recognized by ARDMS are subject to different clinical requirements by ARDMS
- ARDMS has its own evaluation process for international transcripts
- Contact ARDMS or complete an Internet search for ARDMS international degrees



HOW TO APPLY

- Submit an online Health Sciences & Nursing Application
- Must attach copy of TEAS scores
- Do not attach transcripts, recommendation letters or physical forms
- Click on View Application on the email confirmation to attach missing documents
- Use comment box to indicate preferred order of being considered if applying to multiple specializations (ex. Adult Cardiac 1st choice, OB/GYN 2nd choice, etc)

nvcc.edu/medical/apply > **Apply Online**

Health Sciences and Nursing Application

Please make sure your personal information is correct in NovaConnect prior to submitting this application. If needed, visit the Student Center on NovaConnect (SID) to update your mailing address. All name changes must be processed in person at any campus Student Services Center. Grades posted to your account within the last 48 hours may not be reflected on this application.

For help completing this form, or general advising questions please contact MEC Student Services at 703-822-6531 or via email to ApplyMEC@nvcc.edu. You may also visit our blog for answers to frequently asked questions.

Student Information

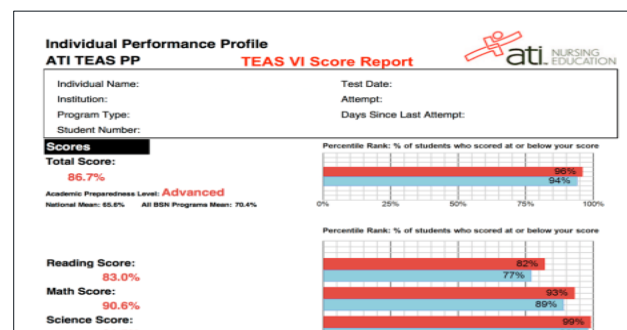
EMPLID: _____ Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____ Alternate Email: _____

Street: _____

Select One: _____

Health Sciences & Nursing Application



TEAS Score Report

Select all DMS specializations that you are applying to below. If you are applying to more than one NOVA specialization, indicate your order of preference for each program in the Comments box below. (Example: 1st choice: Abdominal-Extended & OB/GYN, 2nd choice: Adult Cardiac, 3rd choice: Vascular). If you are only interested in one specialization and do not want to be contacted if there are openings in another specialization, also indicate this in the Comments box below.

NOVA Abdominal-Extended & OB/GYN

NOVA Adult Cardiac

NOVA Vascular

Selection boxes on the HSN app for applicants to apply to one or more DMS specializations



COMPETITIVE ADMISSION

- Refer to the **Application Checklist** for current competitive ranking criteria
- Meeting the minimum application requirements does not guarantee acceptance
- Program typically receives 50-100 applications per year
- How competitive it is can change from year to year and depends on how many apply
- Focus on getting the highest grades and scores for best chance of acceptance



DMS students working with a phantom in the simulation center



DOMICILE ADMISSION POLICY

NOVA Admission Policy for Limited Enrollment Programs states that applicants are accepted on the following priority basis:

- 1 – legal residents domiciled in the cities and counties supporting the college
- 2 – other legal residents of Virginia
- 3 – out-of-state applicants
- 4 – international students requiring Form I-20
- VCCS Policy Manual, Section 6.0.5 under Admission Priorities



ACCEPTANCE STATUS

All applicants will receive notification of final status via VCCS email

- Applicants that are accepted must immediately order the background check and drug screen
- Must attend mandatory Sonography Program Orientation
- Students who decline admission or not in attendance at Orientation will be replaced



DMS student scanning a fellow student in the Sonography lab



INFORMATION SESSION CODE

Record this code in the Information Session Code field on the Health Sciences and Nursing Application when you apply to the program.

Type the code shown below EXACTLY as written; no spaces and no capital letters

ultrasound1956



DMS student scanning a fellow student in the Sonography lab



ACADEMIC ADVISING



Medical Education Campus in Springfield, Virginia

Email, chat, live Zoom sessions, or in-person
nvcc.edu/advising