



ST. VINCENT'S
MEDICAL CENTER
St. Vincent's HealthCare

St. Vincent's

Schools of
Medical
Science

Diagnostic Medical Sonography



ST. VINCENT'S SCHOOLS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Throughout Northeast Florida and Southern Georgia, St. Vincent's HealthCare is well known for providing excellence in patient care. Combining leading-edge technology with high standards and more than 90 years of experience, St. Vincent's HealthCare offers care and expertise that is unsurpassed in the region. Now, the experts in imaging services at St. Vincent's Medical Center extend this knowledge and expertise by providing career-training opportunities in the areas of:

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Radiologic Technology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Computed Tomography

Each school provides the most comprehensive education and clinical experience available. In just twelve to twenty-four months, depending upon the curriculum chosen, students can obtain certification and be prepared to take a national registry examination.

St. Vincent's Medical Center is a 528-bed, state-of-the-art medical center located on the beautiful St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida, just minutes away from the Atlantic Ocean. St. Vincent's HealthCare was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1916 to provide healthcare services to the sick and poor of North Florida. Today St. Vincent's Medical Center serves more than 25,000 inpatients each year, about 50,000 patients for outpatient surgery and invasive procedures, more than 60,000 people in its Emergency Department and performs more than 250,000 imaging procedures annually. St. Vincent's Medical Center was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a Distinguished Hospital in 2004 and 2005 for providing "An Outstanding Patient Experience." St. Vincent's was named one of "America's Best Hospitals" in the category of Heart & Heart Surgery by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2006, 2005 and 2003. St. Vincent's HealthCare is a member of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic and nonprofit health system in the United States.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

St. Vincent's School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography is dedicated to providing meaningful learning that will prepare qualified ultrasound professionals to provide quality healthcare services to our community, thereby achieving expectations and attaining their full professional potential.

THE PROFESSION

The field of diagnostic medical sonography includes general sonography, cardiac sonography, vascular technology and various sub-specialties involving ultrasound. The profession requires use of judgement in order to provide patients with appropriate healthcare services.

Sonographers and vascular technologists are highly educated, skilled professionals who work in a variety of medical settings in which a physician is responsible for using and interpreting appropriate ultrasound procedures. Sonographers and vascular technologists perform various duties to help the physician gather necessary data for a diagnostic decision. Some of these include:

- Obtaining, reviewing and integrating pertinent patient history and the supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results.
- Performing appropriate procedures and recording anatomic, pathologic and/or physiologic data for the physician to interpret.
- Recording, analyzing and processing diagnostic data and other observations made during the procedure for presentation to the interpreting physician.
- Exercising discretion and judgment in the performance of sonographic and/or other non-invasive diagnostic services.
- Demonstrating appropriate communication skills with patients and colleagues.
- Acting in a professional and ethical manner.
- Providing patient education related to medical ultrasound and/or other non-invasive diagnostic vascular techniques and promoting principles of good health.

From the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP), [Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer](http://www.caahep.org/standards/dms-st.htm), 1998-2001.

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at St. Vincent's has both academic and clinical practice components. This comprehensive 18-month program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The program provides graduates with the necessary eligibility requirements to qualify for examination by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Each year, applications are accepted until May 1st for classes beginning in July. Final class selection is made before the end of May. Up to six applicants are selected to enter the program each year. It is our policy to recruit without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or disabilities.

LATEX ADVISORY

Students frequently use and come in contact with latex and latex-based products that are so commonly used in the healthcare setting. Before considering a career in diagnostic medical sonography, students with latex allergies should seek expert advice from their healthcare provider to make an informed decision regarding exposure to these products.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must either be certified as a Radiologic Technologist or have a minimum of an Associate's Degree (preferably in a healthcare related field). Prerequisite college level courses in general physics, human anatomy and physiology I and II, college algebra and medical terminology are required. For those applicants not currently employed in a healthcare related field, prerequisite courses must be successfully completed within five years of the time of application.

Applications must be received no later than May 1 of each year in order to be considered for the program that begins in July. Qualified applicants are contacted to arrange a personal interview. Acceptance is based on evaluation of prior educational and work experience, personal and professional references and personal interviews. Each applicant is evaluated using a point system.

Classes are generally limited to six students. At the conclusion of the admission process, the six applicants with the highest scores are chosen by the Admissions Committee for the new class. The committee also selects two alternates in the event one of the six prospective students declines. Applicants are notified regarding acceptance into the program following completion of the interview process - no later than 45 days prior to the program's scheduled start date.

COURSE CURRICULUM AND CLINICAL ROTATIONS

Each student must complete 40 hours per week to fulfill mandatory clinical and didactic requirements. These requirements include formal classroom instruction as well as supervised clinical practice in all phases of sonography. The 40-hour week is scheduled Monday through Friday on varying schedules. Generally, the days start no earlier than 7 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. Holidays, sick days and vacation days are available to all students.

Complete course descriptions are found in the program policy manual. Lectures include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Patient Care
- Medical Ethics
- Professional Development
- Ultrasound/Medical Terminology
- Ultrasound Physics
- Abdominal Ultrasound
- OB Ultrasound
- Superficial Parts
- Gynecologic Ultrasound
- Vascular Technology
- Vascular Physics
- Neurosonography
- Ultrasound Bioeffects
- Anatomy
- Quality Assurance

This list of subjects can change at any time. If a change is made, students will receive a revised list.

COURSE COMPLETION / REGISTRY ELIGIBILITY

To complete the program successfully, students must maintain an 80 percent average throughout all phases of didactic instruction and an 85 percent average throughout all phases of clinical education. Students must exhibit appropriate professional conduct and show a satisfactory aptitude for the care of the sick.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply for the national certification examination of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in the areas of Abdomen, Obstetrics and Gynecology, General Physics and Instrumentation, Vascular Physics and Instrumentation and Vascular Technology. This is a pass/fail examination. Those who pass will receive certification as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) and Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT). This credential is the standard of excellence and acceptance for the profession and is required for most employment opportunities.

EXPENSES

- Tuition is \$3,500 (subject to change) payable to St. Vincent's. A \$250 non-refundable deposit is required at the time students accept their enrollment.
- Books and supplies cost approximately \$700, due the first day of class.
- Students are solely responsible for the cost of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography examinations to be taken immediately upon successful completion of the program.
- Purchasing and laundering of uniforms are the student's responsibility.
- Transportation and living expenses are the student's responsibility.
- Health insurance is not available. Upon acceptance, potential students must complete a required health evaluation and show proof of personal health insurance. Health evaluations are scheduled through St. Vincent's Human Resources.
- All students are required to have a background review by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
- \$25 application fee (non-refundable) payable to St. Vincent's Medical Center.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Physical and Mental Performance Requirements

Students must be able to:

- Efficiently reach, manipulate and operate equipment necessary for all ultrasound procedures.
- Move, manipulate and observe a patient or client as necessary for all ultrasound procedures.
- Visually assess patients or clients, medical test results and the working environment to decide the correct and appropriate action to take for the benefit of the patient or client.
- Clearly communicate, verbally and in writing, with the patient or client, families, personnel and others to disseminate information about patient care and work duties.
- Hearing is sufficient to gather information accurately that is relevant to patient or client and clinical activities.
- Make appropriate judgment decisions in an emergency or in situations not clearly governed by specific guidelines.
- Demonstrate emotional stability and psychological health in day-to-day interaction with patients or clients, staff, family members and others in routine and non-routine decision making processes and in the daily execution of didactic and clinical assignments.

AWARD OF COMPLETION

Upon successful completion of the program, St. Vincent's Medical Center awards a certificate of completion as the sponsoring institution.

REFUND POLICY

Your tuition of \$3,500, less the \$250 deposit, may be refunded on a pro-rated basis based upon the termination date. See the program policy manual for details.

APPLICATIONS AND INQUIRIES

Applications and inquiries must be addressed to:

St. Vincent's Medical Center

School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Educational Coordinator

Department of Radiology

1800 Barrs Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32204

For more information, please call (904) 308-8272 or email cwils002@jaxhealth.com.

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