

TEXAS SOUTHMOST
COLLEGE

Division of Health Professions



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Student Handbook
2025– 2027

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Student Handbook

Name _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

Pages

Message to the Student	7
Non-discrimination Statement	7
Technical Standards (Essential Functions)	8
Mission of the Institution	8
Role and Scope of TSC	8
Mission of the Program	9
Program Goals	9
Student Retention	10
Program Description	10
Qualifications for Applicants	10
Institutional Accreditation	11
Program Accreditation	11
CAAHEP Non-Compliance Policy	12
Certification Requirements	13
Student Records	13
Student Work Policy	13
Behavioral Conduct	14
Professional Ethics/Confidentiality	14
Health Data Form	14
Liability Insurance	14
Grievance Procedure	15
Probation Policy	15
SAP Policy	15
DMS Student Classroom	16
Laboratory and Tutoring	16

SECTION II CURRICULUM

Sonography Course Requirements	18
Curriculum	19
Sonography Course Descriptions	20
General Academic Courses	25
Approximate Cost of the Sonography Program	27
Course Substitution	28
Transfer of Credit from other Institutions	28
Transfer Policy	28

SECTION III RESOURCES

Counseling Services	30
Advising	30

Disability Services	30
Tutoring.....	30
Financial Aid	30
Library	31
Professional Organizations.....	31
DMS Textbooks in the Library.....	31
DMS Required Textbooks	34
Dismissal/Withdrawal/Readmission.....	37

SECTION IV PRACTICUM

Sonography Practicum Affiliates.....	40
Practicum Chain of Command.....	42
Competency Based Practicum Education.....	43
Practicum Grade Criteria	43
Professional Qualities	44
Comprehensive Practicum Objectives/Model Patients	45
Professional Competency Evaluation Forms.....	46
Professional Qualities Evaluation Form.....	52
Practicum Performance Evaluation Protocol.....	54
Practicum Professional Competency Evaluations.....	56
Practicum Education Requirements Before Graduation	56
Student Examination Record	56
Practicum Grading Distribution.....	56
Required Practicum Evaluation Schedule	57

SECTION V PROGRAM PRACTICUM POLICIES

Absence Policy	60
Time Sheet	61
Tardy Policy	61
Sonographic Repeat Policy.....	61
Report of Sonographic Repeat Form.....	62
AIDS/Infection Control/Standard Precautions/Safety Policies	63
Immunization Policy.....	65
Dress Code (Uniform Policy)	65
Injury Policy	67
Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.....	68
Sonography Student Title IX Pregnancy Policy	71
Student Record Book Policy.....	72
Telephone Calls Policy	73
Incident Report/Counseling Policies	73
Criteria for Unsafe Practicum Performance	74
Student Employment Policy	75
CPR, Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing Policies.....	76
Drug Testing Procedure.....	77

SECTION VI APPENDICES

Incident Report Form.....	79
Advisement/Counseling Form	80
TSC Incident Form	81
TSC Medical Malpractice Liability Insurance	84
FERPA	85
Testing Policy	86

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

Message to the Students

Non-Discrimination Statement

Technical Standards (Essential Functions)

Mission of the Institution/Mission of the Program

Program Goals /Student Retention/Program Description

Qualifications for Applicants

Institutional Accreditation

Program Accreditation

CAAHEP Non-Compliance Policy

Certification Requirements

Student Records

Student Work Policy

Behavioral Conduct

Professional Ethics/Confidentiality

Health Data Form

Liability Insurance

Grievance Procedure

Probation Policy

SAP Policy

DMS Student Classroom

Laboratory and Tutoring

A Message to the Students

Welcome to Texas Southmost College - Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

This handbook has been compiled to help familiarize you with the policies utilized by this program as well as available student services.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Student Handbook pertains to students that have been admitted to that program and is a supplement to Texas Southmost College Student Handbook. The Vice President of Instruction is the chief administrator for academic policies and procedures, and the Vice President of Student Services is the chief administrator for non-academic policies and procedures.

It is through the spirit of cooperation and communication that students and faculty members share a common goal of learning. In this profession, competence is developed through diligence, determination and patience in the practicum environment as well as in the classroom.

The degree plan for sonography has been designed to provide the student with a well-rounded curriculum that incorporates general sonography as well as preparing the student academically to continue their education.

Please remember that you, the student, are the most important asset of this program. Your suggestions are welcomed, appreciated, and may be submitted at any time to the Advisory Committee of this program or directly to the Program Faculty.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is non-discriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, and national origin.

No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States as defined shall, solely by reason of his handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.

Technical Standards (Essential Functions)

What is required of an individual to perform all the diagnostic medical sonography skills?

A sonography student must possess motor and visual skills that would enable him/her to meet program objectives and perform job duties required in the profession. Specifically, the students:

1. Have the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively in order to assess communication and be able to adequately transmit information to the patient and to members of the health care team
2. Possess all the skills necessary to safely and accurately perform all diagnostic procedures, manipulate instruments and equipment
3. Have the ability to lift and move immobile and physically challenged patients
4. Have the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time
5. Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities
6. Have the ability to recognize emergency situations and take appropriate action

Mission of the Institution

Transforming our communities through innovative learning opportunities.

Role and Scope of TSC

University transfer, career, and technical programs leading to an associate degree or certificate along with courses specializing in college preparatory and developmental education, workforce training, adult literacy, and continuing education to support the evolving needs of citizens, industry, and economic development initiatives within Cameron and Willacy Counties.

High-quality instruction and learning opportunities in the classroom, online, and through other delivery methods; a supportive and innovative faculty and staff; appropriate technology, equipment, and learning resources; and advising and assessment services to promote transfer to a four-year baccalaureate institution, entry or advancement in the workforce, or lifelong learning.

A learning-centered, service-oriented environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion; facilitates growth and development; fosters social responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and innovation; and empowers and engages students, faculty and staff to achieve personal and professional goals. Institutional effectiveness that embraces individual accountability, data-driven decision making, change, and an unending pursuit of excellence.

Mission of the Program

Consistent with the mission of Texas Southmost College the faculty of the Medical Sonography Program is committed to serving the educational needs of the citizens of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This mission will be accomplished by providing enthusiastic students a high quality instruction, preparing the graduate with employable skills as an entry level sonographer, preparing the graduate to be successful on the National Certification Examination. The program's mission is supported by a caring team of educational staff, sonographers, and physicians with expertise in various aspects of sonography and a commitment to education. An extensive array of didactic resources and a wide variety of advanced practicum experiences at various Lower Rio Grande affiliate sites will provide graduates with the skills and versatility needed to function in a variety of health care facilities. The program will be conscientious to healthcare needs and educational requirements.

Program Goals

- GOAL 1.** To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.
- GOAL 2.** Upon completion of the program, at least 70 percent of the graduates will be successful on the national certification examination.
- GOAL 3.** Upon completion of the program, a minimum of 80 percent of the graduates will be employed within one year.
- GOAL 4.** Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be proficient, competent, and knowledgeable in all related competencies, and have developed technical and critical thinking skills necessary to function in the clinical setting.

Student Retention

In alignment with the TSC Strategic Plan, it is the goal of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program to have 80% of the students entering the program graduate within 36 months (JRC-DMS requires 80% student retention).

The DMS Program addresses retention rates using the following steps:

1. All program faculty meet with prospective students to develop a plan of prerequisite completion as well as the academic courses within the POS. The prospective students are provided an information packet with the POS, program costs, scholarship information, website information, clinical site locations and are directed to seek financial aid from the College Financial Aid office.
2. An orientation is provided to all accepted students. A copy of the DMS Student Handbook is issued with thorough explanation of the didactic and practicum expectations. Students are informed of counseling services and tutoring services available on campus. They are introduced to the second year students for additional support. The students exchange e-mail addresses and telephone numbers during the orientation.
3. The Tom & Eloise Sweeney Endowment Scholarship is awarded to second year DMS students selected by the scholarship committee each year. This provides the second year students with financial support especially for the ARDMS examination fees.

Program Description

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Texas Southmost College consists of didactic and practicum education integrated into 18 months of extensive, full-time study beginning in August. Practicum training begins during the second semester of enrollment for a total of 768 contact hours after completion of four practicum semesters. The program utilizes practicum affiliate sites throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Qualifications for Applicants

The minimum criteria to be considered for admission in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program are:

- Admission to TSC – Contact the enrollment office for college admission requirements (956)-295-3600.
- Submission of completed Application for Admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

- Submission of testing results that meet TSC testing requirements for admission.
- Documentation of any certifications currently held.
- Submission of two recommendation forms from physicians, employers, and/or instructors familiar with applicant's work (select a person that can best answer the recommendation form questions about you).
- A TSC DMS lab observation is required of all applicants (must schedule through the Allied Health Office 956-295-3731).
- Provide the DMS Program with a TSC unofficial transcript showing all accepted transferred courses.

Preprogram Courses:

BIOL 2301 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and
 BIOL 2302 Human Anatomy and Physiology II and
 ENGL 1301 Composition I
 MATH 1314 College Algebra (*with a grade of a C or better*)
 PHYS 1305 Elementary Physics (*with a grade of C or better for PHYS 1305*)

*All grades must be posted on TSC transcript by application deadline.

The applicant's grades in the following: BIOL 2301, 2302, ENGL 1301, PHYS 1305 and MATH 1314 and entrance exam test results are reviewed and recorded. Certain applicants may be selected for an interview by the Admissions Committee. The previously mentioned considerations, including an interview rating, are weighed and total point score is obtained. Applicants with the highest score ratings will be accepted in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Institutional Accreditation

Texas Southmost College (TSC) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Program Accreditation

The TSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763 Phone: (727) 210-2350 and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS).

CAAHEP non-compliance Policy_____

Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) through the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS). This agency sets the standards for the nation's colleges and universities. This program will promote quality and safety for all patients, quality education, on-going assessment of curricula, student services, and student learning outcomes.

If for some reason you feel that the program is not providing for academic excellence, health care quality or patient safety you may follow the guidelines below:

Guidelines:

1. Student shall provide in writing their complaints to the program director.
 - a. Clearly state areas of non-compliance
 - b. Date and sign the complaint document
2. The program director shall respond in writing within 7 working days to the allegation or complaints.
3. If the student is not satisfied, the complaint shall be forwarded to the Dean of the Division of Health Professions.
4. A complaint that is unresolved can be submitted to CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs). To receive formal consideration, all complaints shall be submitted in writing and signed. The complaint should demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made to resolve the complaint, or alternatively that such efforts would be unavailing.

Certification Requirements

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, the graduate becomes a candidate to sit for the Certification Examination administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). Graduates of the program qualify for certification exams in physics, abdomen and OB/GYN. It should be noted that in order for the sonographer to be an American Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, the physics examination and at least one of the two other specialty area exams must be successfully passed. The ARDMS examinations are administered as computer-based testing as soon as the graduate student successfully completes the program. The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography certification is a requirement for employment in most health care facilities.

The ARDMS will screen for violations of Public Health or Safety. The application will ask the following:

Are you currently charged with or have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, to any crime. If “yes,” please provide a written detailed description of the charge or disposition and a copy of the official court documents. (Crimes involving public health and safety may include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual abuse, violence or threat of violence, driving while intoxicated, controlled substances, and fraudulent medical records, prescription blanks or health insurance claims.)

Student Records

The program maintains two sets of records on the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program student in the program director’s office. One is a personal file which contains admission documents, application, and transcripts. Another separate file contains practicum information such as the record of examinations completed, practicum attendance, and other practicum education data. These documents are secured and may be reviewed by making arrangements with the program director.

Student Work Policy

As in all the Health Science Programs at Texas Southmost College, working full-time while enrolled in a program is difficult and not recommended since work schedules generally conflict with class and/or practicum rotations. Should a student be employed in any ultrasound facility that is an affiliate of the program, they may do so only during times where it does not involve or conflict with program activities. Additionally, should a student be employed by a facility where practicum rotation is normally conducted, they may not use “employer time” to substitute for program practicum requirements.

Behavioral Conduct

Diagnostic medical sonography students representing Texas Southmost College will be expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect favorably upon themselves and the program. Every effort is taken to provide for all students an academic environment that is conducive to academic endeavors, social growth, and individual self-discipline. The college assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct and that they will observe these rules as a matter of training and habit (See TSC Student Handbook - Discipline Code/Sanctions).

Professional Ethics/Confidentiality

Students must remember at all times that the information in a practicum area is confidential. This means that all sonogram results are to be directed only to physicians for diagnosis and treatment. **Students shall not tell patients, parents, friends, relatives, or non-hospital employees the results of examinations or the nature of any illness.** The physician gives this information to the patient only. Failure to comply with the above rule will result in a disciplinary action to be decided by the program director, faculty, and clinical instructor. It is vital that the student complies with the Code of Ethics for the Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional as developed by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (this is discussed in the didactic portion of the program extensively).

Health Data Form

All incoming students in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program must be deemed in good health. A physical examination and up-to-date immunizations are required upon enrollment. Students will be responsible for obtaining their immunizations, CBC, and drug screening prior to their clinical rotations. [see the immunization policy in the practicum section of this handbook].

Liability Insurance

All students in the diagnostic medical sonography program are required to have professional liability insurance. This insurance is provided on a group basis and the cost for the professional liability insurance is included in the fees paid during the semester in which a practicum course is required.

Grievance Procedure

The intention of the student grievance procedure at TSC is to assure the aggrieved student of due process in the disposition of the grievance or complaint. While the procedure will not guarantee the student that the result will be totally satisfactory, the college intends for the procedure to provide sufficient options for resolution of the matter. The procedure for filing a grievance can be found on the official TSC website.

Probation Policy

Probation periods may be required of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program student. Probation is a trial period in which the student must improve or be withdrawn from the program. At the discretion of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Officials, a student may be placed on probation in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program for any of the following reasons:

1. Unsatisfactory Film Analysis (Practicum Quizzes) Scores Below a 75%.
2. Unsatisfactory performance in the practicum
3. Unsatisfactory practicum attendance and punctuality
4. Inability to maintain physical and mental health necessary to function in the program

The time and terms of probation are to be determined by the Program Director and the Clinical Coordinator of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

SAP Policy

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

TSC monitors academic progress every fall and spring semester to identify those students who are experiencing difficulty with their courses. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is based upon two components: 1) GPA; and 2) Course Completion.

All students must:

TSC monitors academic progress every fall and spring semester to identify those students who are experiencing difficulty with their courses.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is based upon two components: GPA of 2.0 or higher and successful course completion of at least 67% of course work attempted. Students remain in good standing with the College and Financial Aid when both criteria are met. Students who do not maintain these required minimum standards will be placed on probation or suspension as appropriate.

The complete Satisfactory Academic Progress policy and the Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid policy can be found in the current Undergraduate Catalog.

*For additional information on SAP, visit

<http://tsc.edu/index.php/component/content/article/240-catalog/2326-financial-aid.html>

DMS Student Classroom _____

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program lecture courses are taught at the ITECC. The specific location and times are published in the TSC course schedule.

Laboratory and Tutoring_____

DMS enrolled students may utilize the laboratory to practice the assigned sonographic examinations. A student can do this by scheduling time with faculty or program director on a need basis. Students may request tutoring services.

SECTION II CURRICULUM

Sonography Course Requirement

Curriculum

Sonography Course Descriptions

General Academic Courses

Approximate Cost of the Program

Course Substitutions

Transfer of Credit from other Institutions

Transfer Policy

Sonography Course Requirements

All Sonography courses must be completed successfully before entering the more advanced course(s) the following semester. Due to the structure and chronological order of these classes, if a student should be unsuccessful he/she would be unable to continue in consecutive courses until the failed course is completed the following year. Under these circumstances, the student will be required to submit an additional application. Re-admission to a sonography course is not guaranteed but offered only on a space available basis.

It is expected that each student will successfully demonstrate competency in the classroom, laboratory and practicum areas. Since this is a competency-based program, each instructor will give the student a course syllabus and/or unit objectives to be mastered. Grading distribution for all DMSO courses will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A = 92 - 100%
- B = 82 - 91%
- C = 75 - 81%
- D = 65 - 74% (Failing, must repeat course)
- F = 64 and below

- * For any DMSO course, a grade of at least a "C" must be earned. Any DMSO course of a "D" or lower is not considered passing and must be repeated. **A student will not be allowed to test out of a course.**

NOTE: If re-admission is granted, the student will re-enter on a probationary status for at least one semester. At the end of this probationary period, the student will be required to meet with the sonography program staff to discuss his/her progress.

Please note that if the student violates the stipulations of probation, the student will be dismissed again. If a student fails or is dismissed twice during the program, the student will not be re-admitted for a third attempt (see re-admission policy).



Diagnostic Medical Sonographers will be versatile in general sonography, which includes abdominal, small parts, and OBGYN studies. You will be marketable as you may fully and independently function in both hospitals and private clinic settings. Additionally, with your cursory understanding of ultrasound physics, you may continue to specialize in the other modality areas in sonography, such as nuchal translucency, fetal and adult echocardiography, and vascular.

Recommended Course Sequence

Prerequisites	Credits	Suggested Semester
BIOL 2301* Anatomy and Physiology I	3	These courses must be completed before a program application is submitted
BIOL 2302* Anatomy and Physiology II	3	
MATH 1314* College Algebra	3	
ENGL 1301* Composition I	3	
PHYS 1305* Elementary Physics	3	
General Education/Core Curriculum Courses	Credits	Suggested Semester
PSYC 2301* General Psychology	3	Summer I/Year 1
XXXX X3XX** Language, Philosophy and Culture Elective OR	3	Spring/Year 2
XXXX X3XX** Creative Arts Elective		
Program Courses	Credits	Suggested Semester
DMSO 1302* Basic Ultrasound Physics	3	Fall/Year 1
DMSO 2253* Sonography of Superficial Structures	2	Fall/Year 1
DMSO 1441* Abdominopelvic Sonography	4	Fall/Year 1
DMSO 2405* Sonography of Obstetrics/Gynecology	4	Fall/Year 1
DMSO 1360* Clinical I – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	3	Spring/Year 1
DMSO 2441* Sonography of Abdominopelvic Pathology	4	Spring/Year 1
DMSO 2342* Advanced Obstetric Sonography	3	Spring/Year 1
DMSO 1342* Intermediate Ultrasound Physics	3	Spring/Year 1
DMSO 1161* Clinical II – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	1	Summer I/Year 1
DMSO 2160* Clinical III – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Physics	1	Summer II/Year 1
DMSO 2361* Clinical IV – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	3	Fall/Year 2
DMSO 2451* Doppler Physics	4	Fall/Year 2
DMSO 2245* Advanced Sonography Physics	2	Spring/Year 2
DMSO 2343* Advanced Ultrasound Physics	3	Spring/Year 2
Total Credit Hours for Graduation	61	

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO) are statements that specify what students will know, be able to do or be able to demonstrate when they have completed the program.

1. Graduates will be able to perform entry-level scanning skills.
2. Graduates will be able to select proper scanning protocols.
3. Graduates will be able to apply proper patient care in the clinical setting.

*Grade of "C" or better is required for graduation.

†Students may take any course within this category of the TSC General Education Core Curriculum.

This information is provided as an example only. You will develop a personalized plan with your Success Coach and faculty advisor/mentor that reflects your goals and interests. You are required to meet with an advisor each semester to ensure you are on track for graduation. This document does not contain all the information you need to stay on track for graduation.

Sonography Courses

DMSO 1302-Basic Ultrasound Physics

Course Level: Introductory

Course Description: Basic acoustical physics and acoustical waves in human tissue. Emphasis on ultrasound transmission in soft tissues, attenuation of sound energy, parameters affecting sound transmission, and resolution of sound beams.

Learning Outcomes: Describe the interaction of sound and soft tissues; explain sound production and propagation; and summarize the basic principles and techniques of ultrasound.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 2253-Sonography of Superficial Structures

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Detailed study of normal and pathological superficial structures as related to scanning techniques, patient history and laboratory data, transducer selection, and scanning protocols.

Learning Outcomes: Identify sonographic appearance of normal and abnormal superficial structures; identify appropriate scanning technique using standard protocol guidelines; and evaluate patient history and laboratory data as it relates to sonography.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 1441-Abdominopelvic Sonography

Course Level: Introductory

Course Description: Normal anatomy and physiology of the abdominal and pelvic cavities as related to scanning techniques, transducer selection, and scanning protocols.

Learning Outcomes: Identify the sonographic appearances of normal abdominal and pelvic structures; explain physiology of abdominal and pelvic organs; and describe the appropriate scanning techniques according to standard protocol guidelines.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 2405-Sonography of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Detailed study of the pelvis and obstetrics/gynecology as related to scanning techniques, patient history and laboratory data, transducer selection, and scanning protocols.

Learning Outcomes: Identify the sonographic appearances of normal and abnormal female pelvis; identify normal and abnormal obstetrical findings; demonstrate appropriate scanning techniques using standard protocols; and evaluate patient history and laboratory data as it relates to sonography.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 1360-Clinical I

Course Level: Introductory

Course Description: A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.

Learning Outcomes: As outlined in the learning plan, apply the theory, concepts, and skills involving specialized materials, tools, equipment, procedures, regulations, laws, and interactions within and among political, economic, environmental, social, and legal systems associated with the occupation and the business/industry and will demonstrate legal and ethical behavior, safety practices, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and appropriate written and verbal communication skills using the terminology of the occupation and the business/industry

DMSO 2441-Sonography of Abdominopelvic Pathology

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Pathologies and disease states of the abdomen and pelvis as related to scanning techniques, patient history and laboratory data, transducer selection, and scanning protocols. Emphasizes endocavitary sonographic anatomy and procedures including pregnancy.

Learning Outcomes: Identify abnormal abdominal and pelvic structures; demonstrate appropriate scanning techniques using standard protocol guidelines; and evaluate patient history and laboratory data as it relates to sonography.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 2342-Sonography of High Risk Obstetrics

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Maternal disease and fetal abnormalities. Includes scanning techniques, patient history and laboratory data, transducer selection, and scanning protocols.

Learning Outcomes: Identify and differentiate normal and abnormal fetal and maternal structures; demonstrate pertinent measurement techniques and scanning techniques using standard protocols; evaluate patient history and laboratory data as it relates to ultrasound; and select appropriate transducer for area of interest.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 1342-Intermediate Ultrasound Physics

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Continuation of Basic Ultrasound Physics. Includes interaction of ultrasound with tissues, mechanics of ultrasound production and display, various transducer designs and construction, quality assurance, bioeffects, and image artifacts. May introduce methods of Doppler flow analysis.

Learning Outcomes: Describe pulse-echo principles and actions; identify instrument options and transducer selection; recognize common image artifacts; and describe potential bioeffects.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 1161-Clinical II

Course Level: Introductory

Course Description: A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.

Learning Outcomes: As outlined in the learning plan, apply the theory, concepts, and skills involving specialized materials, tools, equipment, procedures, regulations, laws, and interactions within and among political, economic, environmental, social, and legal systems associated with the occupation and the business/industry and will demonstrate legal and ethical behavior, safety practices, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and appropriate written and verbal communication skills using the terminology of the occupation and the business/industry.

DMSO 2160-Clinical III

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.

Learning Outcomes: As outlined in the learning plan, apply the theory, concepts, and skills involving specialized materials, tools, equipment, procedures, regulations, laws, and interactions within and among political, economic, environmental, social, and legal systems associated with the occupation and the business/industry and will demonstrate legal and ethical behavior, safety practices, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and appropriate written and verbal communication skills using the terminology of the occupation and the business/industry.

DMSO 2361-Clinical IV

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: A health-related work-based learning experience that enables the student to apply specialized occupational theory, skills, and concepts. Direct supervision is provided by the clinical professional.

Learning Outcomes: As outlined in the learning plan, apply the theory, concepts, and skills involving specialized materials, tools, equipment, procedures, regulations, laws, and interactions within and among political, economic, environmental, social, and legal systems associated with the occupation and the business/industry and will demonstrate legal and ethical behavior, safety practices, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and appropriate written and verbal communication skills using the terminology of the occupation and the business/industry.

DMSO 2451-Doppler Physics

Course Level: Intermediate

Course Description: Doppler and hemodynamic principles relating to arterial and venous imaging and testing.

Learning Outcomes: Describe Doppler and hemodynamic principles and actions; identify instrument options and transducer selection; interpret methods of Doppler flow analysis; differentiate common image artifacts; and describe potential bioeffects.

Lab Recommended

DMSO 2245-Advanced Sonography Practices

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: Exploration of advanced sonographic procedures and emerging ultrasound applications.

Learning Outcomes: Describe selected advanced sonographic practices and procedures and apply these to case study interpretation and review; and compare and contrast various sonographic and other imaging modalities.

DMSO 2343-Advanced Ultrasound Principles and Instrumentation

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: Theory and application of ultrasound principles. Includes advances in ultrasound technology.

Learning Outcomes: Describe and discuss ultrasound principles and instrumentation including modes of operation, techniques for recording sonographic images, and advances in ultrasound technology.

Lab Recommended

General Academic Courses

BIOL-2301 - Anatomy and Physiology I

Anatomy and Physiology I is a study of the structure and function of the human body including cells, tissues and organs of the following systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous and special senses. Emphasis is on interrelationships among systems and regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis. Recommended Corequisite for Non-Sci Majors: BIOL 2101 or prior credit. Required Corequisite for Science Majors: BIOL 2101 or prior credit. Prerequisite: TSI met in math, reading, and writing or equivalent. Lec 3, Cr 3

BIOL-2302 - Anatomy and Physiology II

Anatomy and Physiology II is a study of the structure and function of the human body including the following systems: endocrine, cardiovascular, immune, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, reproductive. Emphasis is on interrelationships among systems and regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis. Recommended Corequisite for Non-Sci Majors: BIOL 2102 or prior credit. Required Corequisite for Science Majors: BIOL 2102 or prior credit. Prerequisite: BIOL 2301. Lec 3, Cr 3

XL-X 3XX Language, Philosophy & Culture/Creative Arts Elective

****Language, Philosophy & Culture ** 3 credits**

- ENGL 2321 British Literature
- ENGL 2326 American Literature
- ENGL 2331 World Literature
- ENGL 2332 World Literature I
- ENGL 2333 World Literature II
- ENGL 2341 Forms of Literature
- ENGL 2351 Mexican - American Literature
- HIST 2321 World Civilization I
- HIST 2322 World Civilization II

****Creative Arts ** 3 credits**

- ARCH 1301 Architectural History I
- ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation
- ARTS 1303 Art History I (Prehistoric to the 14th Century)
- COMM 2366 Film Appreciation (Formerly Introduction to Cinema)
- MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation

PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology

A survey of the scope and methods of psychology; cultivation of a scientific attitude toward behavior. Lec. 3, Cr. 3

ENGL 1301 Composition I

Expository writing with emphasis on thinking and composing skills required to write full-length essays on topics of personal experience, current issues, and material in published essays.

Students will practice some research skills and produce a documented paper employing in-text citations. Prerequisite: A grade of A in ENGL 0320, grade of A, B, or C in ENGL 0321, or placement based on assessment scores. Lec. 3 Cr. 3

MATH 1314 College Algebra

This course is in-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions and systems of equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conics may be included. Lec. 3, Cr. 3.

PHYS 1305 Elementary Physics I

Conceptual level of topics in physics intended for non-science majors. This course is intended only for students requiring a college-level physics course as a prerequisite to apply for an allied health program. This course does not include a laboratory. Lec. 3, Cr. 3

Approximate Cost of Medical Sonography Program

First Semester (Fall)

	Estimate Cost	
	(In-District)	(Out-District)
Tuition/Fees	\$1,886.00	\$2,211.00
Additional TSC course fees	\$1,056.00	\$1,056.00
Books	\$800.00	\$800.00
Student Supplies	\$350.00	\$350.00
(3) Uniforms/shoes	\$470.00	\$470.00
Castle Branch	\$125.00	\$125.00
Total	\$4,687.00	\$5,012.00

Second Semester (Spring)

Tuition/Fees	\$ 1,886.00	\$2,211.00
Additional TSC course fees	\$1,006.00	\$1,006.00
Penny Review	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total	\$2,992.00	\$3,317.00

Third/Fourth Semester (Summer I & II)

Tuition/Fees	\$604.00	\$654.00
Additional TSC course fees	\$728.00	\$728.00
Total	\$1,332.00	\$1,382.00

Fifth Semester (Fall)

Tuition/Fees	\$1,094.00	\$1,269.00
Additional TSC course fees	\$478.00	\$478.00
Total	\$1,572.00	\$1,747.00

Sixth Semester (Spring)

Tuition/Fees	\$830.00	\$955.00
Additional TSC course fees	\$228.00	\$228.00
URR	\$250.00	\$250.00
Total	\$1,308.00	\$1,433.00

APPROXIMATE TOTAL – 18 MONTH COST: \$11,891.00 \$12,891.00

Liability fees and parking fees are not included in the total cost.

Exams \$275.00 each/ 3 exams TOTAL: \$825.00 needed for ARDMS certification

<https://www.tsc.edu/?s=tuition+cost>

https://www.tsc.edu/assets/documents/departments/financial_aid/2025-2026%20Course%20Fees.pdf

Course Substitution

Course substitutions may be carried out only if the course to be substituted is equal or superior in content to the course that is required by the sonography program curriculum.

Transfer Credits from Other Institutions

Previous course work satisfactorily completed at accredited institutions will be evaluated for transfer and may be applied toward a degree program at Texas Southmost College.

Upon the student's request, a transcript will be evaluated after a student has registered for Texas Southmost College credit classes. An official transcript is required from each college attended. When the evaluation is complete, the number of transferred hours will be recorded on the TSC transcript.

NOTE: Previous DMSO courses are evaluated by the sonography program director to determine content. A student may receive full or partial credit for a course that has been completed; a challenge exam and laboratory skill competency will be required.

Graduation candidates are responsible for complying with the section in the catalog stating criteria for graduation: specifically, the grade points average required for graduation.

Transfer Policy

PURPOSE:

To provide a mechanism, in which students from other Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs may enter the TSC Medical Sonography program at an appropriate level.

POLICY:

A student from an accredited Diagnostic Medical Sonography program may receive transfer credit and enter the TSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at the appropriate level. The program must meet approval of the Joint Review Committee of Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

GUIDELINES:

1. The transfer student must meet all general requirements for the Associate in Applied Science Degree, as outlined in the TSC catalog.
2. The office of Admissions evaluates all student transcripts and will apply appropriate credit.
3. Any previous DMSO course will be evaluated by the medical sonography program director to determine the nature, content and level of the course. A student may receive full or partial credit for a course they have completed; a test(s) to assess laboratory skill competencies and knowledge of content area(s) will be required.

SECTION III RESOURCES

Counseling Services

Advising

Disability Services

Tutoring

Financial Aid

Library

Professional Organizations

DMS Textbooks in the Library

DMS Required Textbooks

Dismissal/Withdrawal/Readmission

Counseling Services

Many students face life challenges that can make accomplishing their academic goals difficult. The Counseling Center is available to assist with those challenges by encouraging personal and academic growth to help each student successfully meet life's challenges.

Enrolled students are eligible for personal counseling services, and there is no fee. The counselor respects the confidential nature of discussions to the limits provided by law. No record of a student's visit is made on any academic file.

Advising

The program director will be the advisor for each student upon admission to provide information about the academic program and to assist in making informed decisions. The program director may be consulted during pre-registration, for adding/dropping a course and withdrawing from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. All advising sessions will be documented.

Disability Services

Texas Southmost College would like to help students with disabilities achieve their highest potential in college.

Disability Support Services support services provided to qualified students with learning, physical, developmental, mental and emotional disabilities who are attending Texas Southmost College. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities. Reasonable accommodations are provided by the College to ensure access to all courses, programs, services, jobs, activities and facilities.

Tutoring

Volunteer second year students may serve as tutors for both first and second year students. All tutoring is provided in the DMS classroom.

Student Financial Aid Services

TSC provides financial aid to assist students. The financial assistance for eligible students is available in the form of grants, loans, college work-study, veterans' benefits, and scholarships. The college catalog contains the financial aid information made available to all students. Students enrolled in the sonography program are encouraged to visit the financial aid department and obtain information on financial resources available.

Library Facility

The TSC Campus library is located on 1 West University Blvd.

Monday - Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Phone: 956-882-8221

7:30 am - 10:00 pm

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Online library at Texas Southmost College. This library provides many online services for you. The most important of these are the Internet sites and databases which index professional journals, other periodicals, newspapers, other electronic information sources, etc. Some databases and sites provide the full texts of periodical articles and essays from a variety of print and electronic media in addition to their periodical indexing capabilities. Moreover, through the use of the hypertext links that you will find throughout this online library, you may reach out to the world of information available to you via the Internet.

You can readily retrieve this information by selecting the appropriate search engine, database, or Internet site and following the instructions for conducting a search of its resources. We are confident that you will find that this online library's resources will meet your information needs. We have made every effort to make this collection as user friendly as possible. If you experience any difficulties, please let us know and we will make every effort to resolve them.

Professional Organization

The **Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography** is the national organization of the profession. The SDMS holds an annual meeting each summer in one of the major cities of the United States of America. Student membership is approximately \$35.00 a year.

DMSO Textbooks and Instructional Aids (type,content,publication/production date)	Location
Pocket Atlas Normal Ultrasound Anatomy, Rifkin Lippincott 0881678457	Library
Abdomen and Superficial Structures,Kawamaura Lippincott 0397552637	Library
Handbook of Pathophysiology, Corwin Lippincott 0397552130	Library

Exercises in U/S-An Intro. to Normal Structures, Curry/Tempkin Saunders 0721649629	Library
Essentials of Human Diseases and Conditions, Frazier/Drzy/Do Saunders 0721652794	Library
Intro. to Ultrasonography and Patient Care, Craig Saunders 0721642292	Library
The Ultrasound Handbook, Hall Lippincott 0397550294	Library
Ultrasound Scanning: Principles and Protocols, Tempkin Saunders 072163706X	Library
Ultrasound Teaching Manual, Hofer Thieme 086577725X	Library
Understanding Ultrasound Physics Fundamentals, Edelman D. Armstrong Co. 0962644439	Library
Clinical Sonography – A Practical Guide, Sanders Lippincott 0781715563	Library
A Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, Fischback Lippincott 039755186X	Library
U/S Review of the Abdomen, Male Pelvis & Sm Pts Hickey/Goldberg Lippincott 0397516916	Library
Ultrasonography in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Callen Saunders 0721667120	Library
Manual of Ob/Gyn Ultrasound, Jaffe Lippincott 0397515952	Library
Abdominal Ultrasound How Why and When, Bates, Saunders 044306007X	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound, Bushong McGraw-Hill 007012017X	Library
Interventional Sonography, Weiner Parthenon 1850709238	Library
Breast Ultrasound, Sohn/Christ of Thieme 0865777225	Library
Three Dimensional Ultrasound, Nelson Lippincott 781719976	Library
Ultrasound and Multifetal Pregnancy, Montegagudo, Parthenon 1850709866	Library
Paediatric Ultrasound, Carly, Greenwich Med. 1900151170	Library
Which Tests for My Unborn Baby, Decrespigny Oxford Univ. Press 0195539540	Library
Ultrasound and the Fetal Brain, Chervenak Parthenon 1850706123	Library
Intro. to Vascular Ultrasonography, Zwiebel, Saunders 0721669492	Library
Safety of Diagnostic Ultrasound, Barnett, Parthenon 1850706468	Library
Guidelines and Gamuts in Musculoskeletal U/S, Wiley-Liss Wiley, John & Sons 0471197556	Library
Medical Physicists and Malpractice, Shalek/Gooden Medical Physics 0944838650	Library
Textbook of Neonatal Ultrasound, Haller Parthenon 1850709025	Library
Ultrasound of the Infant Brain, Levene/Williams Cambridge Univ. 0521412129	Library
DMSO Textbooks and Instructional Aids (type, content, publication/production date)	Location
Assistant Radiologist, Rudman, Nat'l Learning Cor 0837311128	Library
Baby Faces: Your Ultrasound Experience, Bunner, Bunner Publ. 0965654990	Library
Doppler Ultrasound: physics, instrumentation, and clinical applications, Evans, Wiley 471078263	Library
Ultrasound Exam Review: sonographer's self-assessment guide,	Library

Graig, Lippincott 397550219	
Textbook of Diagnostic Ultrasonography, Hagen-Ansert, Mosby 801679486	Library
Recent Advances in Ultrasound Diagnosis, Kurjak, Excerpta 444900225	Library
Doppler Ultrasound: physics and instruments, Kremkau, Saunders 072164869X	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound: principles and instruments, Kremkau, Saunders 721643086	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound: principles, instruments, and exercises, Kremkau, Saunders 721628230	Library
Ultrasound Atlas of Disease Processes, Krebs, Appleton & Lange 838592457	Library
Essentials of Ultrasound Physics, Zagzebski, Mosby 815198523	Library
Abdominal Ultrasound Study Guide and Exam Review, Hagen-Ansert, Mosby 815141769	Library
Appleton & Lange's Review for the Ultrasonography Examination, Odwin, Appleton & Lange 083859073X	Library
The Ultrasound Handbook: clinical, etiologic, pathologic implications of sonographic findings, Hall, Lippincott 781717116	Library
Ultrasound, Kurtz, Mosby 801680964	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound: A logical approach, Goldberg, Lippincott 397516142	Library
Pocket Protocols for Ultrasound Scanning, Tempkin, Saunders 072166881X	Library
Clinical Sonography: A practical guide, Miner, Lippincott 781715563	Library
Ultrasound Teaching Manuel: the basics of performing an interpreting ultrasounds scans, Hofer, Thieme 3131110414	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound (computer file): a logical approach, on CD-ROM, Goldberg, Lippincott 397584733	Library
Diagnostic Ultrasound, Bushong, McGraw-Hill 007012017X	Library
Basic Medical Techniques and Patient Care in Imaging Technology, Torres, Lippincott 397553986	Library
Heart Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Pancreas,Spleen, GB Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Stomach with Ulcers Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Female Genital Organs Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Breast Cancer Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Colon Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Deluxe Pregnancy Pelvis Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Female Pelvic Section Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Uterus/Ovaries Teaching Model with Pathologies	DMSO Lab
Median Section of Head & Neck Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Budget Brain with Arteries Teaching Model	DMSO Lab
Obstetrics Phantom	DMSO Lab
DMSO Textbooks and Instructional Aids (type,content,publication/production date)	Location
Full Body Scanning Model Abdomen	DMSO Lab
Full Body Scanning Model Cardiac/Vascular	DMSO Lab
Breast Model	DMSO Lab
3 Dell Desktop computers	DMSO Lab
Understanding Ultrasound Physics	Professor's Office

Fundamentals and Exam Review Latest Edition ISBN# 0-9626444-3-9 Author(s) Edelman, Sidney K. Publisher Tops Printing, Inc.	DMSO 1342 Intermediate Ultrasound Physics
National Certification Examination Review – Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation ISBN# none published and sold by SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (\$70.00 non-member)	Professor's Office DMSO 1342 Intermediate Ultrasound Physics
Diagnostic Medical Sonography: A Guide to Clinical Practice Abdomen and Superficial Structures Edition 2nd 1997 ISBN# 0-397-55263-7 author(s) Kawamura, Diane M. publisher Lippincott	Professor's Office DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology
National Certification Examination Review - Abdomen ISBN# none published and sold by SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (\$70.00 non-member)	Professor's Office DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology
National Certification Examination Review - Obstetrics and Gynecology ISBN# none published and sold by SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (\$65.00 non-member)	Professor's Office DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology
Exam Preparation for Diagnostic Ultrasound Abdomen and OB/GYN Edition – 2002 ISBN# 0-7817-1778-7 Author(s) Sander, Roger C., Dolk, Jann D. and Miner, Nancy Smith Publisher Lippincott Williams and Wilkins	Professor's Office DMSO 2245 Advanced Sonographic Practices
National Certification Examination Review – Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation ISBN# none published and sold by SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (\$70.00 non-member)	Professor's Office DMSO 2343 Advanced Ultrasound Physics

DMSO Required Textbooks

Abdominal Ultrasound How, Why, and When

Edition – Latest

ISBN# 0443-06007X

Author(s) Bates, Jane A.

Publisher Churchill Livingstone

Ultrasound Scanning Principles and Protocols

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0-7216-6879-8

Author(s) Tempkin, Betty Bates

Publisher W.B.Saunders Company

Pocket Protocols Ultrasound Scanning

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0-7216-6881-X

Author(s) Tempkin, Betty Bates

Publisher W.B.Saunders Company

Obstetric Ultrasound Made Easy

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0443-07013X

Author(s) Smith, Norman C. and Smith, Pat M.

Publisher Harcourt

Comprehensive Review

General Sonography Examinations

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 978-0-323-05282-5

Author(s) Susanna Ovel

Publisher Mosby

Understanding Ultrasound Physics

Fundamentals and Exam Review

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0-9626444-3-9

Author(s) Edelman, Sidney K.

Publisher Tops Printing, Inc.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography: A Guide to Clinical Practice

Abdomen and Superficial Structures

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0-397-55263-7

Author(s) Kawamura, Diane M.

Publisher Lippincott

Ultrasound Review of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Edition - Latest

ISBN# 0-397-51654-1

Author(s) Hickey, Janice and Goldberg, Franklin

Publisher Lippincott Williams and Wilkins

**National Certification Examination Review
– Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation**

ISBN# none published and sold by
SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(\$70.00 non-member)

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography: A Guide to Clinical Practice
Abdomen and Superficial Structures**

Edition - Latest
ISBN# 0-397-55263-7
author(s) Kawamura, Diane M.
publisher Lippincott

**National Certification Examination Review
- Abdomen**

ISBN# none published and sold by
SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(\$70.00 non-member)

**National Certification Examination Review
- Obstetrics and Gynecology**

ISBN# none published and sold by
SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(\$65.00 non-member)

**Exam Preparation for Diagnostic Ultrasound
Abdomen and OB/GYN**

Edition - Latest
ISBN# 0-7817-1778-7
Author(s) Sander, Roger C., Dolk, Jann D. and Miner, Nancy Smith
Publisher Lippincott Williams and Wilkins

**National Certification Examination Review
– Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation**

ISBN# none published and sold by
SDMS – Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(\$70.00 non-member)

Note: No additional books are required at this time but may be subject to change

Dismissal/Withdrawal/Readmission Policy

Dismissal

A student may be dismissed from the program for the following reason:

1. Failure to achieve a grade of a 75 or higher in any DMSO course
2. Failure to complete practicum competencies during any DMSO course
3. Reestablish didactic comprehension by obtaining a minimum of an 80 per course examination taken. The readmission committee chair will schedule the didactic examinations per specialty depending on the semester the student exited the program. For example, if the student exited the program the second semester and returns a year later, the abdominal/small parts specialty examination will include information from courses completed prior to the exit. Each specialty examination will contain 40 questions or less. The specialty examinations include physics, abdominal/small parts, and OB-GYN. If the student is unsuccessful in any examination, the student will not be allowed to advance to the next examination. Reestablish competency in lab skills using the pass/fail method. If the student fails any lab skill simulation, the student will not be allowed to advance to the next lab skill.
4. **NOTE:** If re-admission is granted, the student will re-enter on a probationary status for at least one semester. At the end of this probationary period, the student will be required to meet with the sonography program staff to discuss his/her progress. Please note that if the student violates the stipulations of probation, the student will be dismissed again. If a student fails or is dismissed twice during the program, the student will not be re-admitted for a third attempt (see re-admission policy).
5. Unprofessional appearance or unsafe conduct in the practicum area, including but not limited to unsafe practicum performance (refer to “Criteria for Unsafe Practicum Performance)
6. Failure to comply with rules and regulations of the Program, TSC, or any affiliating agency

The final decision for dismissal will be made by the Program Director after consultation with the faculty, student, and the Dean of Health Professions.

Withdrawal

A student who wishes to withdraw from the Program after registration must meet with the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Director, notify the registrar and the office of the Vice President of Student Services, return all borrowed books and equipment, and clear all accounts. An exit interview will be conducted by the Program Director to assure proper advisement, documentation of student records and plans for readmission as appropriate.

Readmission

Students may be readmitted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program once after withdrawal or failure of a course. Students who have been dismissed for unsafe practicum practice are not eligible for readmission. Readmission is based on **SPACE AVAILABILITY** and on the student's compliance with conditions/requirements established by the Director and Admissions Committee. Requests for readmission are reviewed by the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Admissions Committee. Students applying for readmission must:

1. Apply, in writing to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Admissions Committee, at least 90 days prior to the semester they wish to reenter.
2. Complete all courses in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program curriculum within five years from the date the student registered in the first course identified with DMSO prefix.
3. Reestablish competency in Lab Skills by obtaining a minimum score of 75% per sonographic procedure simulated.
4. Reestablish didactic comprehension by obtaining a minimum score of 75% per course final taken.
5. Demonstrate compliance with recommendations made at the time of withdrawal from the program. Examples of recommendations may include audit or remediation in academic course work; audit or repeat of DMSO course(s) previously taken.
6. A student who has been dismissed due to unsafe practices will NOT be considered for readmission to the program.

SECTION IV PRACTICUM

Sonography Practicum Affiliates

Practicum Chain of Command

Competency Based Practicum Education

Practicum Grade Criteria

Professional Qualities

Comprehensive Practicum Objectives

Professional Competency Evaluation Forms

Professional Qualities Evaluation Form

Practicum Performance Evaluation Protocol

Practicum Education Requirements before Graduation

Student Record Book

Practicum Grading Distribution

Required Practicum Evaluation Schedule

Sonography Practicum Affiliates

Throughout the eighteen month didactic component, the student is expected to complete four practicum semesters. The list below identifies the current practicum sites in good standing with TSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. It is the student's responsibility to commute to and from each site as scheduled. The practicum rotation schedule will be provided to the students by the CC at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of each semester. The schedule will be provided by the CC and students are expected to comply. In the event that new sites are acquired, the student is expected to commute to those sites as well.

Harlingen Medical Center

5501 S Expressway 77
Harlingen, Texas 78550
Phone: (956) 365-1080
Fax: (956) 365-1000

Knapp Medical Center

1401 E. Eighth St.
Weslaco, Texas 78596
Phone: (956) 969-5564
Fax : (956) 969-5461

Rio Grande Regional Hospital

101 East Ridge Rd.
McAllen, Texas 78503
Phone: (956) 632-6503
Fax: (956) 630-6560

Valley Baptist Medical Center Brownsville

1040 W. Jefferson St.
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: (956) 698-5823
Fax: (956) 698-5821

Valley Baptist Medical Center Harlingen

2101 Pease St..
Harlingen, Texas 78550
Phone: (956) 389-6887
Fax: (956) 389-6838

Treasure Hills Imaging Center

1717 Treasure Hills Blvd.

Harlingen, TX 78550

Phone: (956) 389-3300

Fax: (956)389-3309

Valley Regional Medical Center

100 A Alton Gloor Blvd.

Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: (956) 350-7539

Fax: (956) 350-7526

San Benito Imaging Center

200 N. Sam Houston Blvd.

San Benito, TX 78586

Phone: (956) 399-2666

Fax: (956) 399-2638

Texas Health Care Imaging Brownsville

1460 N. Expressway 77/83

Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: (956) 546-7888

Su Clinica

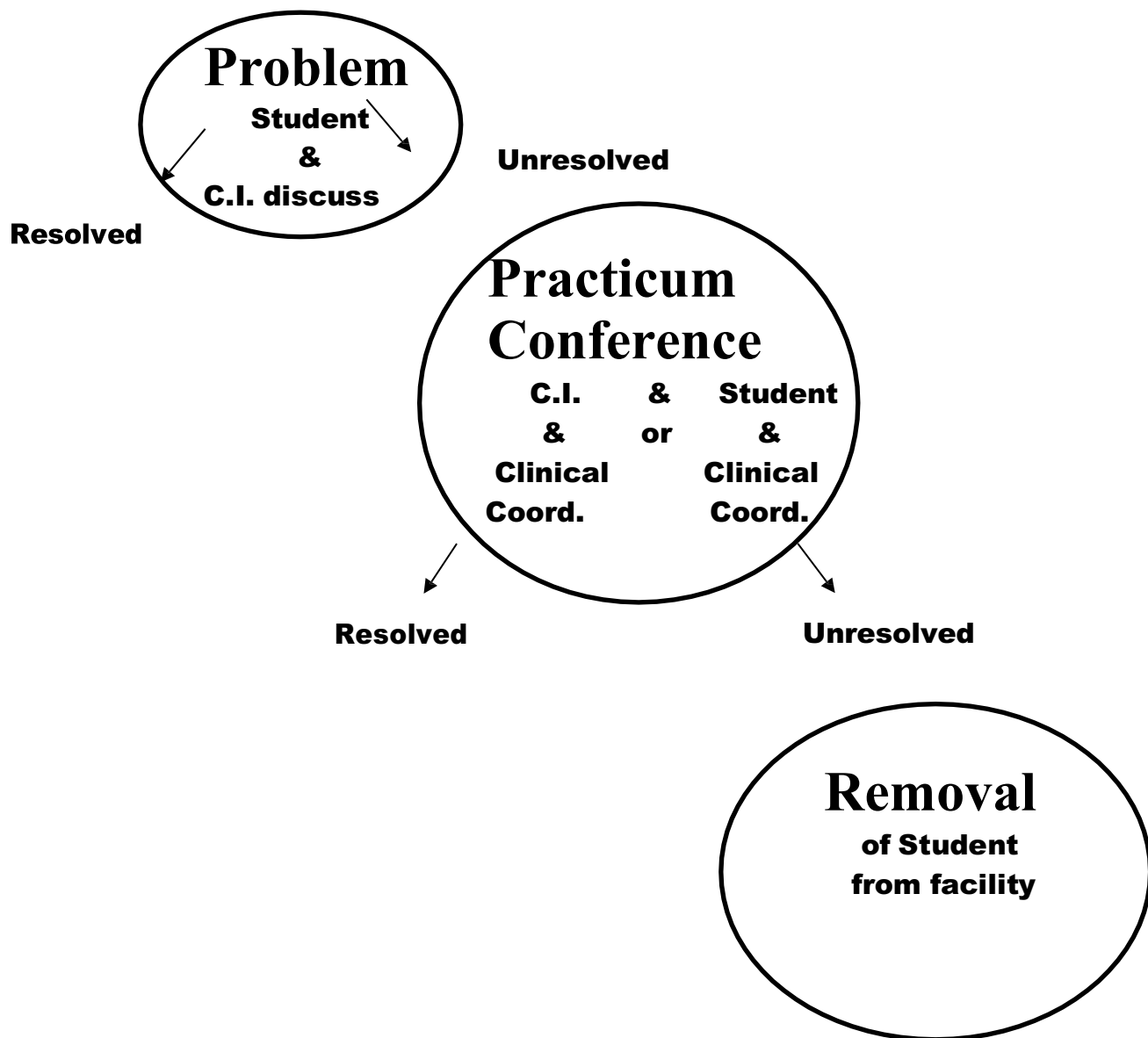
105 E Alton Gloor Blvd.

Brownsville, Texas 78526

Phone: (956) 831-8338

Practicum Site Problem Resolution

Chain of Command



Competency-Based Practicum Education

The purpose of this document is to identify the criteria essential to the successful completion of practicum education in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

All students must register for practicum courses **before** reporting to the practicum sites. There are a total of four (4) practicum semesters during which the student is expected to master basic, intermediate, and advanced skills in sonography scanning procedures.

Each practicum semester will require a certain number and type of examinations that must be completed and graded before the end of the semester. Please note that **if a student does not meet the required categories, points will be deducted** (see grading criteria).

Practicum Grade Criteria

A practicum grade will be determined based on the following components:

Professional Competencies	45%
Image Analysis/Sim.Registries	35%
Professional Qualities	20%

Point deductions from the average given (above) will occur in the following way (one verbal reprimand and then all subsequent violations are written):

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. tardy | One point deducted from overall practicum grade for each tardy (3 tardies = 8 hr. absence). |
| 2. written reprimand | Five points deducted from overall practicum grade for each write-up. |
| 3. incomplete work | Grand total of proc. eval. grades divided by the total expected proc. eval. (point deduction already factored). |

Example:

Ms. Montgomery received the following grades:

* professional Competencies	95	X .45	= 42.7
* film analysis/sim. registeries	85	X .35	= 29.7
* professional Qualities	95	X .20	= <u>19.0</u>
91.4 (average of 3 components)			

Ms. Montgomery was **tardy 3 times** and written up for **1 offense**.

91.4 (average grade obtained from Professional Competencies, PQE, F/A)
-3 points for tardies (= **one absence**)

88.4
-10 points for excessive absences (the absence constituted from the 3 tardies brought the total absences over the allowed amount for the semester)

78.4
-5 points for 1 written offense

73.4 **final practicum grade earned (below 75% = failing grade)**

A student who fails to comply with practicum policies is subject to a written reprimand. For example: failure to adhere to the Dress Code or the Attendance Policy.

Professional Qualities

The program faculty and clinical instructors will assess the students' professional qualities twice each long semester and once in the summer session. Professional Qualities assessed will include: program compliance, professional interaction with patient and sonographers, professional growth and development, self-reliance/confidence, motivation, image acquisition/analysis, skill performance, equipment analysis, and patient management.

Comprehensive Practicum Objectives_____

The practicum experience is planned to provide the student the opportunity to develop sonographic skills and become proficient in the medical diagnostic Sonography profession. Students are expected to achieve the practicum objectives within the allotted time. Students are expected to attend every practicum session to its entirety.

In order for the diagnostic medical sonography student to be successful in the practicum education component of the program, they must demonstrate competency in performing those sonographic procedures that are common in all sonographic settings. Both the clinical instructors and the clinical faculty will be engaged in the evaluation process. Anytime a student earns a grade less than a “C” on a professional competency, he/she must see the clinical faculty for counseling. The following identifies the professional competencies of basic, intermediate, and advanced sonographic procedures that the sonography students are expected to master.

Abdomen, Appendix, and Extremity Non-Vascular Professional Competencies

Interventional Procedure / Pleural Space Competency

Obstetrics and Gynecology: Non-Gravid Female Pelvis

Obstetrics and Gynecology: OB/1st Trimester Examination

Obstetrics and Gynecology: OB/2nd and 3rd Trimester Examination

Obstetrics and Gynecology: OB/Biophysical Profile

If the student is unable to meet the required comprehensive practicum competencies satisfactorily, the clinical coordinator/faculty will consult with the student and begin a remediation plan. Due to the structure and chronological order of the competencies, if a student should be unsuccessful he/she would be unable to continue in consecutive practicum education courses.

Model Patients_____

Students use model patients to improve their scanning skills. The community is invited to participate and help them achieve their goals. All sonograms are available by appointment for anyone over 18 years of age and must have a physician in the United States.

Abdomen, Appendix, and Extremity Non-Vascular Professional Competencies

Examination

--

A TD P

--	--	--

clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	----------

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>	
Demonstrates patient management appropriately	
Uses and applies knobology correctly	
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates anatomy in multiple planes	
Identifies and utilizes anatomical landmarks to image anatomy and related pathology	
Uses appropriate patient positions to demonstrate anatomy, related pathology and demonstrates critical thinking as pertinent to this proficiency	
Demonstrates scanning skills improvement	
Demonstrates good judgment in obtaining diagnostic images including nonstandard views	
Identifies and evaluates age-related changes, developmental, gender variations and obtains and evaluates patient history (medical chart or patient questioning)	
The images evaluate anatomy in all image planes with proper measurements	
The examination was performed in a timely manner according to level	
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:	

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range)

50- 40 points = A

39-26 points = B

25-16 points = C

TOTAL NUMBERS OF POINTS:

FINAL GRADE BASED ON POINTS:

PTS	GR	PTS	GR	PTS	GR
50-48...100		39-37...92		25-24...84	
47-46...98		36-34...90		23-22...83	
45-44...96		33-31...88		21-20...82	
43-42...95		30-28...87		19-18...79	
41-40...93		27-26...85		17-16...75	

*Below 16 = Failing

Obstetrics and Gynecology Professional Competencies

Examination

A TD P

--	--	--

Non-Gravid Female Pelvis

clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	----------

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>	
Demonstrates patient management appropriately	
Uses and applies knobology correctly	
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates anatomy in multiple planes	
Identifies and utilizes anatomical landmarks to image anatomy and related pathology	
Uses appropriate patient positions to demonstrate anatomy, related pathology and demonstrates critical thinking as pertinent to this proficiency	
Demonstrates scanning skills improvement	
Demonstrates good judgment in obtaining diagnostic images including nonstandard views	
Identifies and evaluates age-related changes, developmental, variations and obtains and evaluates patient history (medical chart or patient questioning)	
The images evaluate anatomy in all image planes with proper measurements	
The examination was performed in a timely manner according to level	
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:	

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range):

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS:

50 – 40 points = A

FINAL GRADE BASED ON PTS.:

39 – 26 points = B

<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>
-------------	------------	-------------	------------	-------------	------------

25 – 16 points = C

50-48.....100	39-37.....92	25-24...84
---------------	--------------	------------

47-46.....98	36-34.....90	23-22...83
--------------	--------------	------------

45-44.....96	33-31.....88	21-20...82
--------------	--------------	------------

43-42.....95	30-28.....87	19-18...79
--------------	--------------	------------

41-40.....93	27-26.....85	17-16...75
--------------	--------------	------------

Below 16 = Failing

Obstetrics and Gynecology Professional Competencies

Examination

OB/1st Trimester Examination

A TD P

--	--	--

clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	----------

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>	
Demonstrates patient management and history appropriately	
Uses and applies knobology correctly	
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates anatomy in multiple planes	
Appropriately performs transabdominal or endovaginal imaging	
Identifies and utilizes anatomical landmarks to image anatomy and related pathology	
Demonstrates scanning skills improvement	
Utilizes obstetrical package appropriately to evaluate measurements obtained and complies with the ALARA standard	
Applies knowledge of 1 st trimester anatomy and related pathology to arrive at a preliminary conclusion	
The images evaluate fetal anatomy in all image planes with proper measurements	
The examination was performed in a timely manner according to level	
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:	

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range):

50 – 40 points = A

39 – 26 points = B

25 – 16 points = C

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS:

FINAL GRADE BASED ON PTS.:

<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>
50-48.....	100	39-37.....	92	25-24...	84
47-46.....	98	36-34.....	90	23-22...	83
45-44.....	96	33-31.....	88	21-20...	82
43-42.....	95	30-28.....	87	19-18...	79
41-40.....	93	27-26.....	85	17-16...	75
Below 16 = Failing					

Obstetrics and Gynecology Professional Competencies

Examination

A TD P

--	--	--

OB/2nd and 3rd Trimester Examination

Clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	---

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>		
Obtains patient history and evaluates signs, symptoms and risk factors related to second or third trimester obstetrical pathology		
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates fetal anatomy appropriately		
Identifies landmarks, obtains images and accurately measures the parameters (<i>i.e.</i> BPD, HC, AC, FL) and demonstrates critical thinking		
Demonstrates, evaluates and utilizes different patient positions and windows to optimally visualize fetus and pelvic structures		
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates fetal lie, heart rate and four chamber view		
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates placenta location and grading		
Demonstrates, identifies and evaluates umbilical cord, number of vessels and umbilical cord Doppler if required		
Utilizes obstetrical package appropriately to evaluate measurements obtained and complies with the ALARA standard		
Demonstrates, identifies, evaluates and accurately measures when appropriate the fetal structures (<i>i.e.</i> kidneys, spine, cerebellum, etc.)		
The examination was performed in a timely manner according to level		
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:		

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range):

50 – 40 points = A

FINAL GRADE BASED ON PTS.:

39 – 26 points = B

25 – 16 points = C

<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>
50-48.....	100	39-37.....	92	25-24...	84
47-46.....	98	36-34.....	90	23-22...	83
45-44.....	96	33-31.....	88	21-20...	82
43-42.....	95	30-28.....	87	19-18...	79
41-40.....	93	27-26.....	85	17-16...	75
Below 16 = Failing					

Obstetrics and Gynecology Professional Competencies

Examination

A TD P

--	--	--

OB/Biophysical Profile Examination

Clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	---

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing on number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>			
Obtains patient history and evaluates signs, symptoms and risk factors related to second or third trimester obstetrical pathology			
Utilizes obstetrical package and complies with ALARA standards			
Identifies related fetal anatomy appropriately			
Evaluates fetal breathing movements appropriately			
Evaluates gross body movements appropriately			
Evaluates fetal tone appropriately			
Evaluates reactive fetal heart rate appropriately			
Measures qualitative amniotic fluid volume appropriately			
Demonstrates knowledge and improvement in OB scanning skills			
The examination was performed in a timely manner according to level			
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:			

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range):

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS:

50 – 40 points = A

FINAL GRADE BASED ON PTS.:

39 – 26 points = B

<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>GR.</u>
50-48.....	100	39-37.....	92	25-24...	84

25 – 16 points = C

47-46.....	98	36-34.....	90	23-22...	83
------------	----	------------	----	----------	----

45-44.....	96	33-31.....	88	21-20...	82
------------	----	------------	----	----------	----

43-42.....	95	30-28.....	87	19-18...	79
------------	----	------------	----	----------	----

41-40.....	93	27-26.....	85	17-16...	75
------------	----	------------	----	----------	----

Below 16 = Failing

Interventional Procedure / Pleural Space Competency

Examination

--

A TD P

--	--	--

clinical rotation

	of	4
--	----	----------

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by writing one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

<i>Performance Objectives</i>	
Demonstrates appropriate and effective communication with the patient and instructor before, during and after the exam.	
Appropriately handles the equipment and adjusts all technical settings for diagnostic quality images	
Identifies and describes the anatomy demonstrated in the exam	
Identifies, properly measures and describes any findings demonstrated in the exam	
Obtains quality images of the area of interest using multiple patient positions	
Annotates each image according to AIUM guidelines	
Demonstrates good judgment in obtaining diagnostic images including nonstandard views and demonstrates scanning skills improvement	
Effectively obtains relevant patient history and information	
Centers anatomy in all images	
Maintains focus and ability to stay on task while performing the exam and completes the exam in a timely manner according to level	
Please note areas of suggested improvement below:	

DMS student

Supervising sonographer

Date

Affiliate site

Grading Scale (point range)

50- 40 points = A

39-26 points = B

25-16 points = C

*Below 16 = Failing

TOTAL NUMBERS OF POINTS:

FINAL GRADE BASED ON POINTS:

PTS	GR	PTS	GR	PTS	GR
50-48...100		39-37...92		25-24...84	
47-46...98		36-34...90		23-22...83	
45-44...96		33-31...88		21-20...82	
43-42...95		30-28...87		19-18...79	
41-40...93		27-26...85		17-16...75	

Texas Southmost College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Rating Scale for Evaluation of Professional Qualities

READ BEFORE BEGINNING: DO NOT write your name on this evaluation sheet. This scale gives the clinical instructor or sonographer the opportunity to express their feelings about the student's value system, emotions, and attitude towards this profession. Therefore, as you rate the student please mark your ratings as fairly and honestly as possible. Marking all the items with the same number is a sure sign of little thought on your part. The Clinical Coordinator will collect these forms from each clinical site. Thank you.

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTOR: Any rating of less than 2 will require comments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- o **NAME OF STUDENT BEING EVALUATED:** _____ Date: _____
- o Name of hospital or clinic: _____
- o The evaluator is a: (place a check mark)
☐ Clinical Instructor ☐ Sonographer ☐ Supervisor ☐ Other

RATING RANGES: Please evaluate the student in the following categories by circling one number per item. The rating ranges from 1 through 5, with 5 being the excellent rating.

A.) Compliance: Appearance 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

B.) Professional Interaction 1 2 3 4 5
(patient/sonographers)

Comments: _____

C.) Professional Growth/Development 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

D.) Self-Reliance/Confidence 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

E.) Motivation 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

OVER PLEASE

F.) Image Acquisition/Analysis
5

1

2

3

4

Comments:

G.) Skill performance

1

2

3

4

5

Comments:

H.) Equipment Analysis

1

2

3

4

5

Comments:

I.) Patient Management

1

2

3

4

5

Comments:

J.) Compliance:
Follows Rules/Regulations/Instruction

1

2

3

4

5

Comments:

NOTICE TO STUDENT: Any rating of less than 2 will require counseling by the clinical coordinator.

Grading Scale (point range):

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS:

50 – 40 points = A

FINAL GRADE BASED ON PTS.:

39 – 26 points = B

25 – 16 points = C

PTS. GR.
50-48.....100

47-46.....98

45-44.....96

43-42.....95

41-40.....93

Below 16 = Failing

PTS. GR.
39-37.....92

36-34.....90

33-31.....88

30-28.....87

27-26.....85

PTS. GR.
25-24.....84

23-22.....83

21-20.....82

19-18.....79

17-16.....75

Please Add Comments: -

Practicum Performance Evaluation Protocol

The student is reminded that the performance of sonographic examinations is a process which is characterized by the sonographer demonstrating increased proficient and competency as experience is required. For this reason, the program has developed practicum evaluation guidelines for the sonography student and the practicum instruction. The protocol is indicated in the following sequence.

Didactic Instruction and Laboratory Activities: These activities will address anatomy, physics and instrumentation. Scanning techniques are introduced in the laboratory under instructor supervision. Case studies will aid in the identification of normal anatomy.



Practicum Observation: The student is assigned to a practicum rotation at one of the Rio Grande Valley practicum affiliates. During the early stage of the practicum, the student is limited to an observation phase.



Directly Supervised Performance: After the student observes the sonographer perform an examination a sufficient number of times, understands the function of the equipment and examination protocol, the student is allowed to begin transducer work on the patient. The rate of progress is dependent upon the students' ability to perform the tasks assigned by the clinical instructor. The student is under direct supervision until the clinical instructor determines that the procedures(s) performed by the student are consistent with diagnostic requirements for that examination.

Practicum Performance Evaluation: When the student and the instructor agree that a procedure(s) may be performed independently, a practicum performance evaluation is conducted. If the student is not successful with the examination attempted, remedial instruction and directly supervised performance is required until the clinical instructor determines that the deficiencies have been properly addressed.



Performance Under Limited Supervision: Upon successful completion of a practicum evaluation, the student is permitted to perform the examination with a clinical instructor in the area but not necessarily in the same room. The clinical instructor will be immediately available if needed. The student will be required to get the clinical instructor's approval of the study prior to discussing it with the interpreting physician.



Periodic and Continued Education: To ensure that a student maintains competency and continues to improve, any procedure previously evaluated will be reassessed periodically at random. If a student is not successful with a re-evaluation, the student will be required to return to directly supervised performance until the instructor determines that the deficiency has been corrected.

Note: In support of professional responsibility for provision of quality patient care, **unsatisfactory sonograms shall be repeated only in the presence of a qualified sonographer**, regardless of the student's level of competency. The staff sonographer must sign the student's repeat form to indicate direct repeat supervision.

Practicum Professional Competency Evaluations

As indicated previously, these evaluations will be conducted at such time that the instructor and student determine that the examination can be conducted independently. The student is expected to complete the examinations that are required for each practicum course. Once the student reviews the completed evaluation, it shall remain confidential and kept on the designated location. This grading component represents 45% of the course grade.

Practicum Education Requirements Before Graduation

The student must be able to demonstrate competency in all of the procedures identified in the graduation competency sheet. It should be noted that proficiency in sonographic examinations is a continuous process.

Student Examination Record

The students will be required to record any and all exams that they have participated in or performed. It is vital that the students record all examinations in this record book since it will be used to document the total number of examinations completed while enrolled in the program.

Practicum Grading Distribution

The following distribution is in effect for each practicum course:

DMSO 1360: Clinical I

Professional Competencies	45%
Film Analysis/Sim./Registries.....	35%
Professional Qualities.....	20%

DMSO 1161: Clinical II

Professional Competencies	45%
Film Analysis/Sim./Registries.....	35%
Professional Qualities.....	20%

DMSO 2160: Clinical III

Professional Competencies	45%
Film Analysis/Sim./Registries.....	35%
Professional Qualities.....	20%

DMSO 2361: Clinical IV

Professional Competencies	45%
Film Analysis/Sim./Registries.....	35%
Professional Qualities.....	20%

Required Practicum Evaluation Schedule

DMSO 1360: Clinical I

Abdominal Portion

1. Hepatic
2. Gallbladder
3. Pancreas
4. Kidneys
5. Spleen
6. Aorta
7. Major Upper abdominal vasculature

Obstetrics and Gynecology Portion

1. Non-pregnant uterus
2. Ovaries
3. Pelvic vessels
4. Urinary Bladder
5. 1st Trimester Pregnancy
6. 2nd and 3rd Trimester Pregnancies

Superficial Structures Portion

1. Small parts (thyroid, testicular, prostate)

DMSO 1161: Clinical II

Superficial Structures Portion

1. Small parts (thyroid, testicular, prostate)

Abdominal Portion

2. All those examinations identified above

Obstetrics and Gynecology Portion

3. All those examinations identified above

DMSO 2160: Clinical III

Abdominopelvic Pathology Portion

1. All pathology associated with the abdominal portion above

High Risk Obstetrics

1. Transvaginal Pelvis
2. Extensive Obstetrics

Abdominal Portion

1. All those examinations identified in Practicum DMSO 1260

Obstetrics and Gynecology Portion

1. All those examinations identified above in Practicum DMSO 1260

DMSO 2361: Clinical IV

Pathophysiology Portion

1. Abdominal Category
2. OB-GYN Category

Abdominal Portion

1. All those examinations identified in Practicum DMSO 1260

Obstetrics and Gynecology Portion

1. All those examinations identified above in Practicum DMSO 1260

SECTION V

PROGRAM PRACTICUM POLICIES

Absence Policy

Time Sheet Policy

Tardy Policy

Sonographic Repeat Policy

Report of Sonographic Repeats

AIDS/Infection Control/Standard Precautions/Safety Policies

Student Health and Immunization Policies

Uniform Policy

Injury Policy

Sonography Student Title IX Pregnancy Policy

Student Record Book Policy

Telephone Calls Policy

Incident Report/Counseling Policies

Criteria for Unsafe Practicum Performance

Student Employment Policy

CPR, Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing Policies

Absence Policy for Practicum

The practicum components comprise a major portion of the students learning activities; therefore, we want to stress that any absences should be taken only in the event of illness or family emergency. Notify the practicum site of your absence by calling at least 15 minutes prior to normal reporting time. **If an emergency arises and the student must leave the practicum site, the exit time must be documented. This time will be deducted from the maximum allotment allowed, and the time must be made up in accordance with the program policies.**

Punctuality, consistent attendance, and the student's diligence in participating 100% with patient care and examinations are key factors to the successful completion of this program as well as securing employment. Each student must be registered in the practicum course at TSC prior to attending the practicum site.

Students are involved in didactic and practicum rotations not to exceed 40 hours per week. Some practicum courses contain class time and/or a lecture component. Your attendance is required for both of these components. The following is a breakdown of the semesters involved, and the total number of absences that are allowed. If a student is absent more than the allotted hours designated below, the practicum grade will be affected. **For each absence beyond the maximum allowed, ten points will be deducted from the overall practicum course grade. Any time missed will be replaced during the make-up schedule the last week of the semester (this includes tardies and absences).**

Example: A student is enrolled in a first year course that allows a 21 hr absence. If 21 hrs have been taken, and the student has another absence, the result would be a ten point deduction from the overall practicum grade: had a 97 A = after the ten point deduction the grade is 87 B, or had a 91 B = after the ten point deduction the grade is 81 C.

If a fourth day is missed, another ten points will be deducted from the overall practicum grade: had an 87 B = after the ten point deduction the grade is 77 C.

****Anytime a student is absent (late: minutes, hours, etc.), he/she MUST see the clinical faculty for counseling. This is done to ensure maximum practicum attendance. Any infraction of this policy will result in a written reprimand.**

EXAMPLE:

****FOR EMERGENCIES****

SEMESTER	COURSE #	HRS/WKS/DYS	MAX.# Hrs
Spring 1st yr.	DMSO 1360	18 hrs. a week X 16 weeks	21
Summer, 1st yr.	DMSO 1161	19 hrs. a week X 5.5 weeks	7&30mins
SummerII, 1st yr.	DMSO 2160	19 hrs. a week X 5.5 weeks	7&30mins
Fall, 2nd yr.	DMSO 2361	18 hrs. a week X 16 weeks	21

Time Sheet Policy

Each student will fill out his or her time sheet accordingly:

1. **ONLY** the student whose name appears on the time sheet should write on that time sheet.
2. sign in immediately before beginning practicum duties; take care of personal items **BEFORE** you clock in
3. sign out for lunch and sign in upon returning from lunch (**student must complete a minimum of 7 to 7 1/2 hours of practicum per assigned day**)
4. sign out at the end of your practicum shift with a **DAILY** clinical instructor signature
5. time sheets are to remain in the practicum settings at **all times**
6. students must transfer the time sheet to CAMPUS **only when instructed by program faculty**
7. make sure the clinical instructor signs the bottom of the time sheet (on both sides) upon semester completion

****Please arrive at the practicum site at least ten minutes before designated practicum time.**

Tardy Policy

A student who is late less than 3 hrs or leaves the clinical site less than 3 hrs before the end of the practicum day will be assessed a tardy* (beyond 3 hrs, either tardy or leaving early, the student will be assessed an absence). One point will be deducted from the overall practicum course grade for each tardy. Only two tardies will be allowed in any practicum semester. If a third tardy is accrued, an 7-hour absence will be deducted in addition to the one point deduction for the third tardy. If a student anticipates being late more than 15 minutes, the student needs to inform the clinical instructor at the assigned site as well as call the Clinical Coordinator.

Sonographic Repeat Policy

In support of professional responsibility for provision of quality patient care, **unsatisfactory sonograms shall be repeated only in the presence of a qualified sonographer**, regardless of the student's level of competency. The staff sonographer must sign the student's repeat form upon completion of the supervised repeated image. ***Please DO NOT write outside the designated table boundaries!**

Name

RECORD OF SONOGRAPHIC REPEATS

**Texas Southmost College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
“SAMPLE”**

Date	Room	Sonographic Exam Repeated	Sonographers Initials

**POLICY:
EVERY REPEAT MADE BY A STUDENT MUST BE
SUPERVISED BY A SONOGRAPHER**

AIDS\Infection Control\Standard Precautions\Safety Policy

NOTE: Students will have an in-service on universal precautions, infection control, communicable diseases, and safety held on online during Hospital Wide Orientation (HWO) and as provided by the practicum affiliations.

Communicable Diseases Policy

Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonogram Program will be given an orientation on communicable diseases during HWO. The students will follow the guidelines set forth by TSC, the practicum sites, the Centers for Disease Control, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and any other regulatory agency affiliated with both TSC and the practicum affiliates.

GUIDELINES:

1. Students are required to have a complete physical examination and current immunization (see physical examination forms) records on file. These records must be submitted prior to the first practicum rotation.
2. If a student is unable to meet practicum objectives due to the presence of a communicable disease, a passing practicum grade cannot be obtained.
3. In the event that a student becomes exposed to a communicable disease, the following procedures are recommended: (Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Mumps, Measles, etc.)
 - a. report exposure to clinical instructor, authorities in health care agencies, and educational institution.
 - b. assess the clinical status of the source-client.
 - c. test the exposed individual soon after possible exposure.
 - d. retest in 6 weeks, 3, 6, and 12 month intervals with a private physician
 - e. seek counseling and adhere to the recommendations for the prevention of transmission of infections or communicable diseases.
 - f. confidentiality of medical records is protected and information is shared only on a strictest “need to know” basis.
 - g. confidential screening for various communicable diseases can be obtained through the Cameron County Health Department.

Standard Precautions Policy

Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will receive orientation on Standard Precautions as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and any other regulatory agency affiliated with both TSC and the practicum affiliates during HWO.

GUIDELINES:

1. Students will be required to view the following videotapes:
 - a. AIDS precautions / universal precautions
 - b. using protective barriers
 - c. washing hands
 - d. current infection control guidelines for healthcare professionals
2. Students will be evaluated on the following skills:
 - a. handwashing
 - b. proper disposal of needles/sharps
 - c. proper disposal of contaminated linens or objects
 - d. appropriate wear of mask, gown, gloves, etc.

Safety Policy

Students will receive orientation on safety during HWO. Students are advised that as part of the standard routine of performing practicum examinations on patients in medical facilities, exposure to contagious and pathogenic organisms may occur. Students will be required to abide by the safety/regulations that govern the practicum facilities. Safety requirements may include the following:

1. Covering of all cuts.
2. **Wearing of gloves when conducting any examination.**
3. Washing hands after each patient or when leaving the ultrasound lab.

GUIDELINES:

1. Students will view the videotapes addressing:
 - a. Using Correct Body Mechanics
 - b. Sonographic Safety
2. Students will have an overview lecture on general safety tips that include but not limited to:
 - a. wheelchairs
 - b. gurney
 - c. electrical components of sonographic units
 - d. other equipment used at the practicum facilities.

Immunization Policy

Students must obtain a physical exam and submit it to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program office before beginning the Spring semester. Students are required to maintain current immunizations. This includes yearly TB testing, Flu shot, Hep. B vaccine series, tetanus (every 10 yrs.), and other routine childhood immunizations. Students must be current on appropriate immunizations to be allowed in the practicum sites. Students are financially responsible for their personal health care/hospitalization costs incurred while participating in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Dress Code (Uniform Policy)

General Information

1. The appearance of all students must generate confidence and respect from patients, families, and other visitors from the community in all practicum agencies.
2. Students' grooming practices shall make up ample provision for sanitation, safety, and comfort. The student must wear the practicum uniform at all times while at the practicum site. TSC uniforms are **NOT** to be worn when the student is working as an **EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER**.
3. All students shall be required to present a clean and neat appearance. All students shall dress in a manner appropriate for a professional health care environment.

What is appropriate?

1. Uniform must be designated color scrub pants and top; neat, clean, well-fitting and without tears. Uniform must be properly hemmed; not pegged or rolled-up.
2. TSC uniform patches must be permanently affixed to the left upper sleeve of the uniform scrub top.
3. No sweaters are to be worn as uniform tops during labs or practicum rotations.
4. A student's name must be embroidered to the scrub top any time the student is in a practicum area—either in hospital, clinic, or other community site.
6. Uniform shoes must be all white, leather, uniform types, with closed toes and heels, soft-soled, clean, polished, and with clean white shoelaces. No clogs will be allowed.
7. Hospital scrubs will be worn only in designated areas. Students must wear student uniform to hospital on practicum days even if scrubs will be worn during practicum assignment.
8. Hair must be neat, clean, and up off collar or secured in a ponytail, bun, or braid. Hair ornaments must be small and white, navy blue, or neutral in color. Beards and mustaches must be kept trimmed and clean.
9. Nails, whether natural or applied, must be clean, neat, and not excessively long (fingertip length only). Clear, unchipped polish may be worn (no reds, hot pinks, blues, blacks, greens or purples allowed).
10. Student may wear wedding band, simple necklace inside uniform, and stud-type earrings which are ½ inch or smaller in size. Only one pair of earrings is allowed. Loop earrings are not acceptable. No other jewelry is allowed.

11. **Ear piercing is the only body piercing that is allowed in the practicum area.** If one has other obvious piercing (e.g. eyebrow, lip, nose, tongue, etc.); the ring, bar or other ornament must be removed or the area must be covered with a clean bandage.
12. Socks will be worn with uniform shoes: white socks for men and women or skin-colored hose for women.
13. A **white** thermal undershirt may be worn underneath the scrub top during winter or in departmental areas where temperature is very low.
14. Students may wear a wrist watch. Students cannot wear any bracelets on wrist.

What is **NOT** appropriate?

1. Oversized uniform which may make you look sloppy.
2. Pant legs stuck into socks.
3. Uniform without appropriate patch and nametag.
4. Hair hanging in front of face or below collar.
5. Untrimmed beards or mustaches.
6. Long fingernails that exceed the required length (fingertip length).
7. Inappropriate jewelry: dangling or earrings too large, heavy and long chains with large pendants or medallions.
8. Canvas shoes, sandals, colored tennis shoes, no street tennis shoes.
9. Wearing any other badges, belts, bows, etc. other than the prescribed accessories.
10. Colored socks (other than white) worn with uniforms.
11. No **cellular telephones** are allowed at the practicum site (not even on vibrate or off mode).
12. Chewing gum, eating food, or drinking beverages while on duty at the practicum site.
13. Reading ANY material NOT related to sonography school studies; i.e., magazines, internet computer sites, etc.
14. Napping while on duty at the clinical site.
16. **Communication or gossip among students, sonographers, or clinical instructors between different practicum sites.**

SURGICAL SCRUBS

Surgical scrubs that belong to the hospital will only be worn by the student who is scheduled to be in a surgical rotation.

If the need arises to leave the surgical suite the individual must put on a coat or other means of cover before stepping out to another department. Upon return to the surgical suit, remove the coat or cover before re-entering the sterile area.

DO NOT leave the hospital premises with hospital scrubs! Hospital security may charge you with theft of hospital property.

Non-Compliance will result in dismissal from practicum and you will be charged with an 8 – hour practicum absence.

Injury Policy (at Practicum Site)_____

It is the intent of the TSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program to promote quality care and safety for clients, students, staff, and faculty.

Needle/Sharps Injury:

1. If a student is stuck or cut by a needle or sharp object, the guidelines set forth by that particular practicum site will be followed.

For example:

- a. bleed the sight, wash thoroughly with soap and water
- b. report to the emergency room or other designated area and report incident that same day
- c. fill out necessary paperwork for the needle puncture or cut you received, and inform Imaging Director, Clinical Instructor, and Clinical Coordinator of the incident

Other Physical Injury to Body:

1. If a student sustains a physical injury, the guidelines set forth by that particular practicum site will be followed.
 - a. if a student becomes injured or ill at the practicum site, care will be provided by the facility
 - b. this does not mean care will be provided free of charge; students are responsible for all medical expenses accrued
 - c. inform the Imaging Director, Clinical Instructor, Clinical Coordinator and document the incident by completing an incident report

Follow-up Procedure after Exposure to blood or bodily fluids:

In the event that a student or faculty member becomes exposed to blood or bodily fluids, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Report exposure to the clinical instructor, program coordinator and program director, authorities in health care agency and document the event
2. Assess the clinical status of the source-client
3. Test the exposed individual and client for evidence of HIV or Hepatitis B as soon as possible after the exposure
4. Retest if negative in 6 weeks, then at 3, 6, and 12-month intervals with a private physician

5. Seek counseling throughout the experience
6. Adhere to the recommendations for the prevention of transmission of any infectious disease during the testing period (90 days)

****Confidentiality of medical records is protected, and information is shared only on the strictest “need to know” basis. Any breaches of confidentiality will be grounds for disciplinary action.**

****Confidential screening for various communicable diseases can be obtained through the Cameron County Health Department.**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Pregnant college students are protected under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal funding. This includes protections for pregnancy and related conditions. Here’s an overview of their rights and protections:

Key Rights and Protections for Pregnant Students:

1. No Discrimination:

- o Colleges and universities cannot discriminate against students based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from these conditions.
- o Pregnant students cannot be excluded from classes, programs, or extracurricular activities due to their condition.

2. No Requirement to Disclose Pregnancy:

- o Pregnant students are not required to inform their school about their pregnancy unless they are requesting accommodations or leave.

3. Equal Access to Education:

- o Pregnant students must have the same access to classes, educational programs, and activities as their peers.
- o Schools cannot force students to participate in special programs or classes for pregnant individuals, but they must offer such programs as a voluntary option.

4. Reasonable Accommodations:

- o Schools must provide reasonable accommodations for pregnancy-related conditions, similar to how they accommodate temporary disabilities.

Examples include:

- ♣ Larger desks
- ♣ Frequent restroom breaks
- ♣ Extensions on assignments
- ♣ Adjusted attendance policies

5. Medical Leave:

- o Schools must excuse absences related to pregnancy or childbirth as long as a doctor deems them medically necessary. Students must be allowed to

return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before their leave.

6. Lactation Support:

- o Schools are encouraged to provide lactation spaces and time for

breastfeeding or pumping. These spaces must be private, not bathrooms, and free from intrusion.

Steps for Students Seeking Support:

- **Request Accommodations:** If a pregnant student needs specific accommodations, they can contact the Title IX coordinator at their school.
- **Keep Documentation:** It's helpful to have a doctor's note for medical leave or specific accommodations.
- **File Complaints:** If a student experiences discrimination or denial of accommodations, they can file a complaint with their school's Title IX office or the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

By law, schools are obligated to support pregnant students to ensure they can continue their education without facing discrimination or unnecessary barriers.

Title IX and Pregnancy Protections

Primary Legal and Regulatory Sources

U.S. Department of Education. (2013, June). *Supporting the academic success of pregnant and parenting students under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*. Office for Civil Rights. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Title IX resource guide*. Office for Civil Rights. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/resource-title-ix-coordinators-guide.pdf>

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (n.d.). *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 overview*. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/title-ix-education-amendments-1972>

U.S. Government Publishing Office. (2024). *Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance, 34 C.F.R. §106.40(b)*. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/part-106/section-106.40>

United States Code. (2018). *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§1681–1688*. <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title20/chapter38>

Supplemental Interpretive and Advocacy Resources

American Association of University Women. (2022). *Know your rights: Title IX and pregnancy discrimination*. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/title-ix-pregnancy/>

National Women's Law Center. (2023). *Pregnant and parenting students' rights under Title IX*. <https://nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-under-title-ix/>

Important Facts:

- **Title IX requires** that institutions prohibit sex discrimination, which by law includes pregnancy and related conditions.
 - Institutions **must** have a Title IX coordinator, grievance procedures, and published nondiscrimination notices.
 - The **U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** expects schools to address pregnancy within their **Title IX framework** (either as part of their general nondiscrimination policy or in a separate section).
- The CAAHEP Standards - Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational**

Programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

V. Fair Practice

A. Publications and Disclosure

3. At least the following must be made known to all students: academic calendar, student grievance procedure, criteria for successful completion of each segment of the curriculum and graduation, policies for student leave of absence, exposure to bloodborne pathogens, communicable diseases, and pregnancy, and policies and processes by which students may

perform clinical work while enrolled in the program.

Below is an acceptable policy that incorporates the references above. One or two board members expressed their view that this would be helpful for the program. Use as you see appropriate. We need to emphasize that the program should consult with its Title IX coordinator for guidance.

Pregnancy and Related Conditions Policy

Students are expected to follow the institution's attendance and tardiness policies as outlined in the college catalog.

Absences due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions will be excused for as long as medically necessary, as determined by the student's healthcare provider. The student will be allowed to return to the same academic and clinical status held before the leave began and will be given the opportunity to make up any missed coursework or clinical hours, consistent with program requirements and Title IX regulations.

Students should notify the Program Director and the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible to arrange for any necessary accommodations or leave. Makeup work and clinical time will be scheduled on an individual basis. If coursework or clinical requirements cannot reasonably be completed within the current semester, the student may receive a grade of "I" (Incomplete) and will be permitted to complete the requirements upon return, in accordance with institutional policy.

Each situation will be reviewed individually to ensure compliance with Title IX and to support the student's academic progression while maintaining program standards.

Title IX Compliance: Pregnant & Parenting Students in Clinical Programs

Equal Access

- Cannot be excluded from the classroom, lab, or clinical education
- Clinical rotations remain available unless the student requests a change

Medical Documentation

- Doctor's notes are not required **unless required for all medical conditions**
- Policies applied consistently

Absences & Leave

- Excuse pregnancy-related absences per the physician
- Return to the **same academic & clinical status**
- Provide make-up opportunities for coursework/clinical hours

Reasonable Adjustments

- Flexible clinical scheduling
- Maternity scrubs / larger lead aprons
- Breaks (food, hydration, restroom)
- Alternative duties if safety risks

Supportive Environment

- Inform students of rights in writing
- Share **Title IX Coordinator contact**
- Train faculty & preceptors to prevent bias

No Retaliation

- Protect students from retaliation or subtle bias
- Ensure fair patient opportunities in clinicals

Reference:

34 C.F.R. § 106.40 • OCR Guidance • thepregnantscholar.org

Sonography Student Title IX Pregnancy Policy

Texas Southmost College does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions. Pregnant students have rights under both Title IX and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A female student is given the option of whether or not to inform program officials of her pregnancy. If the student chooses to voluntarily inform officials of her pregnancy, it must be in writing. In the absence of this voluntary written disclosure, a student cannot be considered pregnant. However, due to the sensitivity of the unborn child to radiation, it is necessary to inform female applicants of the possible health risks involved as a result of occupational exposure during pregnancy.

The following shall be followed:

1. Pregnant students are encouraged to notify the Program Director as soon as pregnancy is suspected/determined so that appropriate radiation safety measures can be implemented. As soon as pregnancy is determined, a physician's statement verifying the pregnancy will be submitted by the student. This statement must include a medical release, which allows the student to continue the program without interruption. If, for medical or personal reasons, the student is unable to complete the clinical assignments, she may:
 - a. Work with the Program Director to develop a plan on how she will make up the work; or
 - b. Initiate a request for authorization of an "I" (incomplete) or "W" (withdrawal) grade. The student must subsequently remove the "I" grade following the regulations of the College. However, impediments to completing course requirements in any of the clinical practicums may be attributable to the lack of clinical space for the student to complete such requirements of removing an "I" grade from the student's records. Should the student choose to withdraw from a clinical course, the "W" guidelines in the College's policies and procedures must be met. Please contact Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at (956) 295-3550 for further information regarding withdrawal and incompleteness.

2. If pregnancy occurs during the first semester of the program and the student is unable to fulfill the required clinical objectives, the student may withdraw from the program, if so desired. As in all withdrawal scenarios, the student will be subject to reapplication of the DMS program.

Other Rights and Responsibilities:

- Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's medical provider and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work.
- Medically necessary absences for pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, abortion, or recovery must be excused regardless of a standard absence policy.
- Students may not be penalized for leave and the student must be allowed to return in the same status.
- Students are not required to complete academic work while on leave.

Students needing assistance can seek accommodations from the Office of Counseling and Student Accessibility Resources or may contact Human Resources at (956) 295-3771.

Student Record Book Policy_____

Upon the first day of practicum, **the student will be required to record every exam participated in or performed. It is very important that the student records all examinations in this book since each student is required to have adequate exposure and participation in a broad variety of sonograms.** The student must abbreviate for observed, limited supervision, and evaluation on each exam. The student must record the date of exam; the types of exam performed and have it signed by the sonographer or clinical instructor who is credentialed in the specialty of exam. All incomplete record books will be returned to the student for corrections and will be considered late. A late penalty of 5 points will be assessed to the overall clinical grade. Please make all corrections by drawing a line through the error and write your initials (do not white-out) as they are permanent practicum records and must be legible at all times. Record Books are to **remain in the practicum settings** in the designated area at all times.

Practicum Site Telephone Calls Policy_____

NO PERSONAL TELEPHONE calls will be **MADE** or **RECEIVED** unless:

1. it is a verifiable emergency (family emergency)
2. it is a verifiable call from the Program Director/ Clinical Coordinator/ TSC Faculty

Incident Report /Counseling Policy_____

The intent of this incident form is to provide reporting of a student's personal, professional, or behavioral conduct occurrences within the practicum setting. (See incident report/counseling form)

GUIDELINES:

1. Faculty, clinical instructor(s) or sonographer(s) will fill out an incident report form.
2. When filling out the form, the following information must be included in the description of the incident:
 - a. date/time of incident
 - b. names of individual(s) involved
 - c. short summary describing the incident
3. The appropriate channels of reporting are:
 - a. Clinical Instructor → Faculty → Clinical Coordinator → Program Director
4. This form will be filed in the student's practicum file.
5. The student will be asked to provide comments concerning the incident.

Note: The following are a few examples of the types of offenses documented:

- a. malicious treatment/harassment
- b. threatening or intimidating another individual
- c. assault/sexual assault
- d. unauthorized use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, weapons, or explosives
- e. theft or falsification of records or information
- f. disruptive activities
- g. negligence in regard to the patient's safety and welfare
- h. negligence in regard to the use and operation of sonographic equipment
- i. breaching of confidentiality (patients records, diagnosis, etc...)
- j. **not following practicum policies/guidelines**
- k. **napping** while on practicum duty

* Depending on the severity of the offense, the college will take the necessary disciplinary action against a student for an offense with a minimum penalty of suspension to a more serious penalty of dismissal from the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Criteria For Unsafe Practicum Performance

Since sonography students are legally responsible for their own acts, commission and/or omission, and the sonography instructors are responsible for any acts of their students in the practicum sites, it is necessary to define unsafe behavior.

Unsafe practicum performance is demonstrated when the student:

Safety

Examples

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Violates or threatens <u>physical</u> safety of the patient | Fails to properly position patient, carry out medical sonographic orders, appropriately utilize side rails/restraints |
| B. Violates or threatens the <u>psychosocial</u> safety of the patient | Attacks/degrades the individual's beliefs or values |
| C. Violates or threatens <u>micro-biological</u> safety of the patient | Fails to recognize and correct violations of aseptic technique |
| D. Violates or threatens <u>chemical</u> safety of the patient
IV infusions | Violates the "6 Rights" in administering contrast media, fails to accurately monitor |

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Process

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Inadequately and/or inaccurately <u>assesses</u> the patient | Unable to identify basic human need through assessment; makes repeated faulty judgement/decisions resulting in ineffective patient care; fails to observe/report critical patient data; comes to the practicum unprepared |
| B. Inadequately or inaccurately <u>plans</u> care of the patient | |
| C. Inadequately or inaccurately <u>implements</u> patient care | |
| D. Inadequately or inaccurately <u>evaluates</u> patient care | |

Skills

- A. Violates previously mastered principles/objectives in carrying out sonographic examinations and/or delegated medical functions

Examples

sophomore students unable to perform learning examinations with indirect supervision, freshman student fails to perform examinations previously covered in lab and/or class

Student Employment Policy

It is not the policy or the intent of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program to act as an employment agency or to participate in any facet of employment. The program will remain a separate entity from the employment status of the sonography student.

CPR, Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing Policy

CPR: A valid American Heart Association BLS Course C CPR card is required to register for Clinical Practicum. You will be asked to produce such a card each semester you are in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. The student has the option of taking the American Heart Association BLS Course C through TSC for academic credit, through TSC for continuing education or from another source of the student's choice. Red Cross CPR will not be honored.

CBGC and DT: A criminal background check and drug testing for Allied Health students and faculty was initiated in the Fall of 2005 in response to the new requirements of clinical facilities. At the time of application, all students are provided information that, if selected, they will be admitted only upon completion of a criminal background check and drug testing through a TSC approved vendor. The applicant is responsible for the fees which are currently approximately \$92.00 (includes immunization tracker, criminal background check, and drug testing).

*Positive criminal histories will be reviewed anonymously by the Consortium for Health Professional Education (CHPE). CHPE is made up of high-ranking personnel from TSC and area hospitals. The CHPE reviews each case individually and determines whether that applicant will be allowed to attend clinical practicum. Students may not complete the program without attending clinical practicum.

*Students should be advised that application for state licensure will again involve a review of criminal history by the state licensure board, which may or may not be approved independently of the CHPE finding.

Drug Testing Policy

In accordance with the TSC student handbook, and the profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program upholds a drug-free environment. This applies to all college campuses and any extension of the college (college- sponsored events, clinical sites). All costs associated with testing are the responsibility of the student. Clinical affiliates require written documentation that students have been screened for and are free of drugs. A non- negative (positive) drug screen for a student is defined under the procedure of the drug testing company and indicates the student tested outside the acceptable range set by the testing company for that substance, and with the Medical Review Officer not determining the test should be negative.

1. Students are required to complete a drug test at the designated time by the Clinical Coordinator:
 - a. No more than 30 days prior to the first clinical day in level 1
 - b. If they have had a break in enrollment (one full semester) in clinical courses
 - c. Any date designated by the Clinical Coordinator
 - d. Suspicion of a student under the influence of drug or alcohol abuse will be required to submit to an immediate substance screening.
2. Any student found in violation of this procedure will be subject to penalties described in the TSC Student Handbook, as well as dismissed from the DMS program.
3. The student will sign a Consent to Drug Testing and Authorization for Release of Tests Results prior to admission in the program.
4. Once a drug screen is announced, whether it is routine, random, or for cause drug screen, if a student leaves the immediate presence of the faculty, staff, or administration escorting students to the drug screen environment, your results will be treated as non-negative (positive).
5. A Medical Review Officer, who specializes in the interpretation of questionable results, will review all non-negative drug screen results. The students will bear any additional costs that incur in this process if needed. The results from the Medical Review Officer are final.
6. Strict confidentiality is maintained regarding the outcome of the test. Students are notified immediately of any non-negative results.
7. Non-negative results will deem the student immediately ineligible for continuation in the Sonography program. Students will be reported to the Student Conduct Administration at TSC for substance use while

on campus for further action.

8. Students with a non-negative drug screen are ineligible for re-admission to the DMS program for 12 months and will need to follow the re-admission procedure.
9. A student who wishes to return to the Sonography Program after 12 months' time, will need to meet all application requirements, provide documentation of successful treatment and consent to and undergo a retest, through a testing company selected by TSC, and at the expense of the student. This does not guarantee re-admission, and decisions will be made on a case-by case basis

For Cause Drug Testing Procedure

The term “for cause” indicates the student is demonstrating behaviors that place the student under suspicion for the use of a substance impairing student behaviors (illegal drugs, alcohol, inhalants, or any other substance). If a faculty member suspects substance use by a student, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The faculty suspecting a student of substance abuse behavior will immediately get a witness to the student behavior and document the student behavior in writing.
2. The student will be immediately removed from the current environment and advise the student he/she will be immediately drug tested.
3. The incident will be reported to the DMS Program Director or Clinical Coordinator to assist in facilitating the process to obtain the specimen for drug testing.
4. Any transportation to a drug testing facility will be at the expense of the student. Student suspected of impairment due to substance abuse will not be allowed to drive themselves.
5. The student is suspended from all classes pending drug screen results. Following the review of the drug screen results, the student will report to the Student Affairs Committee regarding the student's ongoing participation in the DMS program.
6. If the results are a non-negative, the student is reported to the TSC Student Conduct Administration and dismissed from the DMS program.

SECTION VI APPENDICES

Incident Report/Counseling Form

Advisement Referral Form

TSC Incident Form

TSC Medical Malpractice Liability Insurance

Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Incident Report Form

Name:_____ **Location:**_____

Date:_____ **Type of Record: Verbal or Written:**_____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STUDENT COMMENTS:

Student Signature

Clinical Coordinator

Program Director

Clinical Instructor

**Texas Southmost College Diagnostic Medical
Sonography Program
Advisement /Counseling Form**

Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Date: _____

Instructor: _____

Type of Advisement:

☐ Academic

☐ Financial

☐ Behavioral

☐ Practicum

Identify type of referral if necessary:

☐ Academic, referral to _____

☐ Behavioral, referral to _____

☐ Practicum, referral to _____

DESCRIPTION OF ADVISEMENT/REFERRAL:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. _____

2. _____

STUDENT COMMENTS:

APPENDIX A: INCIDENT FORM

Form Section

Section A: Information

Step 1

Name of Department/Program: _____

Date: _____

Name

Title

Section B: Incident Description/Injury Information

Step 1 and Step 2

- 1) Name and Age of Injured Individual: _____
Individual's first language: _____
Status (Employee & Title or Student): _____
Activity at time of injury: _____
If employee, then: ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time ☐ Temporary ☐ Seasonal ☐ Other: _____
If employee, length of employment: _____
If employee, Length in current position at the time of the incident: _____
Description and severity of injury: _____
- 2) Date and time of incident: _____
- 3) Location of Incident: _____

NOTE: Items 4, 5, and 6 are used for both Step 1 and Step 2

- 4) Detailed description of incident: Include relevant events leading up to, during, and after the incident. *(It is preferred that the information is provided by the injured employee.)*

Use additional pages if needed

- 5) Description of incident from eye witnesses, including relevant events leading up to, during and after the incident. Include names of persons interviewed, job titles and date/time of interviews.

Use additional pages if needed

- 6) Description of incident from additional employees with knowledge, including relevant events leading up to, during and after the incident. Include names of persons interviewed, job titles and date/time of interviews.

Use additional pages if needed

Section C: Identify the Root Causes: What Caused or Allowed the Incident to Happen? *Step 3*

The Root Causes are the underlying reasons the incident occurred, and are the factors that need to be addressed to prevent future incidents. If safety procedures were not being followed, **why were they not being followed?** If a machine was faulty or a safety device failed, **why did it fail?** It is common to find factors that contributed to the incident in several of these areas: equipment/machinery, tools, procedures, training or lack of training, and work environment. If these factors are identified, you must determine why these factors were not addressed before the incident.

Use additional pages if needed

Section D: Recommended Corrective Actions to Prevent Future Incidents***Step 4***

Use additional pages if needed

Section E: Corrective Actions Taken/ Root Causes Addressed***Step 4***

Use additional pages if needed

TSC Medical Malpractice Liability Insurance

TSC provides Medical Malpractice Liability insurance for all students, but does not cover accident or injury at the clinical site.

Students injured at clinical sites should be treated according to the policy of the clinical site. Students will be responsible for any charges incurred at facilities.

In any situation where the student is being treated for an injury received during a clinical experience, it is important that the treating facility understand that the injury is related to an instructional experience and is not employment related. Per contract, student injuries occurring during clinical experiences are not covered by Worker's Compensation.

Students shall be responsible for arranging for the personal medical care and/or treatment, if necessary, including transportation in case of illness or injury while participating in clinical experiences.



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Waiver of Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (PL93-380), commonly referred to as FERPA, provides that all records pertaining to a student that are maintained by the College must be available for inspection, review, and amendment by the student and requires, in most instances, prior consent from the student for disclosure of such records to third parties. The consent to waive privacy at Texas Southmost College must be made in writing, signed and dated by the student, and must specify the names of the parties to whom records will be released. The act applies to all persons formerly and currently enrolled at an educational institution. No exclusion is made for non-U.S. citizen students. However, the act does not apply to a person who has applied for admission, but who never actually enrolled in or attended the institution or deceased persons. Meningitis vaccination records are protected by FERPA, and are not subject to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) privacy rules.

I hereby give permission for Texas Southmost College personnel to provide information concerning all my education records to the person(s) identified below. This form must be completed in order for Texas Southmost College to comply with the request. Faxed requests cannot be accepted.

Student Information

Student's Name _____

Student's TSC ID Number _____

Street Address _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Mobile Number _____

Email Address _____

Student's Signature _____

Person(s) to Whom Information May Be Released

Name _____

Relationship to Student _____

Street Address _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Mobile Number _____

Email Address _____

Date _____

4 Digit Pin Number _____

Save a trip to the Admissions & Records Office by submitting the complete form from
your TSC e-mail account to admissions@tsc.edu

Waiver will be in effect for one calendar year from date of signature.

Texas Southmost College is an Equal Opportunity/equal access institution

Testing Policy

All semester exams dates/times are located on the semester calendars and loaded into CANVAS by the first day of each semester. Exams will begin promptly at the beginning of the scheduled time. Students should be in their seats and ready to begin the scheduled examination on time. Students will take either computer or written exams

During exam periods students will follow the following rules:

1. No personal belongings are allowed in the testing room, including food and drinks.
2. Faculty reserve the right to check student glasses and wrist watches prior to the exam to ensure they are not capable of recording or connecting to external electronic sources.
3. If testing on a personal laptop, students must use TSC student Wi-Fi. If TSC student Wi-Fi is unavailable, faculty will provide Wi-Fi connectivity instruction. If testing on a TSC computer, students must not turn on Wi-Fi and use the Local Area Network (LAN) port set up with TSC internet access. Faculty reserve the right to check student Wi-Fi connection prior to or during testing.
4. All cell phones and smart devices (watches, glasses, tablets), or anything that connects to the internet, excluding the test taking device must be turned **OFF** and placed at designated area in the classroom with the screen facing out. If a cell phone, watch, smart glasses, or other electronic devices other than what is being used during the exam is heard or found on during the exam, the owner will be dismissed from class and receive an automatic zero on the exam.
5. Students will be permitted one writing utensil and a piece of scratch paper. Students will place their name and date on the scratch paper and turn in the paper at the end of the exam, even if it is blank. Failure to turn in a signed scratch paper will reflect in a zero for the exam. If available a dry erase board and marker will be provided for the exam instead of paper/pencil.
6. No head coverings (scarves, caps, visors, etc.) will be allowed during an exam (unless there is a religious reason). The proctor may provide ear plugs if requested by student, however no headphones or personal ear buds are permitted. No sweaters are permitted during testing. A student is allowed to wear long sleeves however the instructor may ask student to roll up sleeves to elbows.
7. Should a student need to use the bathroom during an examination, a faculty person may escort that student. It is strongly encouraged to use the bathroom PRIOR to the exam, as leaving during the exam is discouraged. Exams will not be on "pause" during this time, and all exams must be completed during the scheduled time frame.
8. Once a student has completed the exam, they are to leave the classroom quietly. Please be respectful of other students still testing.
9. If you are going to be absent, you must contact the instructor by email **AND** the Director of Sonography by phone or email **PRIOR** to the start of the examination.
10. Students who enter an exam late will receive a 5-point deduction off the exam score for the first tardy and, any subsequent tardies will receive a 10-point deduction to the exam score. Students who arrive late must still finish the exam within the allotted examination time period.
11. If a student in the class has completed the examination, then no student will be allowed to enter the exam room late.

12. Academic Dishonesty procedures will be followed for any suspected cheating on exams. If a student is found to be dishonesty, they will receive a Zero and maybe dismissed from Sonography Program.
13. Time allotted for each exam will equate to 1 minute per question. If a student fails to complete an exam during allotted time, unanswered questions will be counted incorrect.
14. Students are responsible for ensuring their exam was exited correctly at the completion of the exam, when using computerized exams. Failure to ensure this process occurs can result in a zero on your exam.
15. Faculty will post exam scores within 7 business days. All exams are statistically analyzed prior to returning final exam scores to students. Exam grades will only be posted in CANVAS. Faculty will not text or email exam grades. Students are encouraged to meet with program faculty after exam grades are posted for clarification of any material. All students earning less than 75% **must** meet with their faculty advisor within 7 business days of receiving their exam grade.

Course exam averages **MUST** meet 75% prior to any other course material being averaged into the course final score.

Exam Review Policy

After exam grades are posted and statistical analysis is complete, faculty may provide a general list of key concepts for students to review. Students are **NOT** permitted to review the actual exam questions once the exam is submitted. However, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to discuss test-taking strategies and studying techniques and meet with content experts/faculty for exam topics or content areas they had difficulty answering on the exam.