

Career Information

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Certificate Program

Professional Tasks and Working Environment

Radiologic sciences applies to the science of administering ionizing radiation and other forms of energy to provide technical information and assistance to a physician to diagnose and treat diseases and injuries. The Medical College of Georgia offers certificates in three career paths: nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy and diagnostic medical sonography. Although closely related, each involves special instrumentation, techniques of application, safety practices and patient services. This sheet describes the certificate program in diagnostic medical sonography.

Employment and Career Opportunities

Employment opportunities are abundant and varied for qualified sonographers, including work in hospitals, doctors' offices, public health projects and industrial medical clinics.

Salary Information

Average starting salaries are about \$32,000 to \$49,000, depending on location and job responsibilities.

The fields offer rapid advancement into supervisory, administrative, educational and specialty positions with experience and/or additional education. Opportunities are available for graduate education in radiological health, education, management and other areas.

Programs Offered at MCG

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The 12-month certificate curriculum in diagnostic medical sonography is designed to prepare certified radiographers, certified nuclear medical technologists, registered nurses or other allied health professionals with entry-level patient care competencies in the abdomen and obstetrics/gynecology specialties of diagnostic medical sonography.

After successfully completing the program, graduates are eligible to sit for the certification examinations given by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in ultrasound

physics and the specialty areas of abdomen and obstetrics/gynecology.

Multi-credentialed B.S. Degree

The Department of Biomedical and Radiologic Technologies offers a multi-credentialed plan enabling those with registration or certification in an entry-level technology of radiography, nuclear medicine, or diagnostic medical sonography to obtain a bachelor of science degree by completing the curriculum in a second entry-level technology. The same 60 semester hours of liberal arts credits are required as for the traditional baccalaureate degree. The second entry-level technology (nuclear medicine technology, diagnostic medical sonography, or radiation therapy) is substituted for the 30 semester hours of advanced professional curriculum. Those interested in the multi-credentialed degree should contact the department for information and advisement.

General Admissions Criteria

Admission is based on college grade point averages (minimum overall GPA of 2.30), personal interviews and assessment of motivation and personal qualities needed to successfully complete the program.

Applicants to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography certificate program must have training from a two-year accredited allied health program, including hands-on basic patient care competencies. Specific admission requirements also include eight hours of clinical observation, documented on facility letterhead. Successful applicants must present transferrable college credit in English grammar and composition, college algebra and human anatomy and physiology I and II with labs.

All students must also hold current first aid and CPR certification.

Basic computer programming knowledge is strongly recommended.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores. A minimum score of 550 paper-based (213 computer-based) is required for consideration.

Technical Standards

In addition to demonstrating personal characteristics appropriate for a health professions career, students must satisfy general and specific technical standards



Estimated Full-Time Academic Expenses

	<i>Tuition</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Books/Supplies/Other</i>
Per semester	\$1,819*	293	1,000**

* Non-residents of Georgia pay an additional \$5,457 tuition per semester. Residents of Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina receive a waiver of non-resident tuition.

** Costs vary by major. Please check with your department for details.

(Costs are for 2005-2006. All tuition charges, board, room rent or other charges are subject to change at the end of any academic term.)

Estimated Living Expenses

	<i>On- or off-campus apartment</i>	<i>Commuter</i>
9 months	\$13,869	\$9,864
12 months	18,492	13,152

for this program. Please visit www.mcg.edu/sah/radsci/dmsstandards.html to review these requirements.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial aid and other assistance is available. MCG participates in all federal student aid programs as well as state and private programs. MCG helps students fund their education through grants, scholarships, loans, a service commitment program and/or employment.

Accreditation/Review

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1970
Chicago, IL 60601-2208
(312) 553-9355

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Joint Review Committee on Education
in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
2025 Woodland Drive
St. Paul, MN 55125-2998
(651) 731-1582

When and How to Apply

For best chance of acceptance, application to this program should be made during the fall preceding the fall in which admission is sought to allow adequate time receipt of all required information. All application materials should be RECEIVED in MCG's Office of Academic Admissions by March 1.

Applications completed after this date are considered on a remaining space available basis. Complete applications include the application, references, official academic materials, documentation of shadowing hours, and documentation of professional certifications, if applicable. If accepted to the program, documentation of current CPR and First Aid certification is required upon enrollment.

How to Get an Application

To receive an application for this program, visit www.mcg.edu/admissions, or call or write:

Office of Academic Admissions
170 Kelly Building—Administration
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia 30912

Telephone: (706) 721-2725
1-800-519-3388

E-mail: underadm@mcg.edu

Web site: www.mcg.edu/admissions

**The Medical College
of Georgia is an Equal
Opportunity Educational
Institution.**