

# Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) A.A.S.

## 2024 Competitive Application Information

**All program prerequisite courses must be completed prior to application to the core part of the program.** Students must have a selective GPA of 2.0 based on the prerequisite courses, and a grade of "C" or better in all prerequisite courses for program eligibility (*a C- is not a passing grade*).

- To make an application to this program you must also be admitted as a student with MSU Billings. You may apply for admission to the college online. If you have questions on the application process, call City College Jacket Student Central at (406) 247-3019.
- This program is a Fall start program which means the core part of the program will start at the beginning of the Fall semester, clinical rotations begin at the end of the first Fall semester, and those students will graduate at the end of their second spring semester.

If you have any questions concerning the program prerequisite courses or registration, contact Jacket Student Central at (406) 247-3019 or [ccadvising@msubillings.edu](mailto:ccadvising@msubillings.edu).

The City College at MSU Billings Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is a **competitive program** and the following selection process will be used to select those students who will continue into the core courses in Diagnostic Medical Sonography starting Fall semester.

### Admission into this program involves two phases:

- Phase One is a point system that will be used to select the top 25 applicants that will progress to Phase Two of the selection process. Details of the point system used for this process are included in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Application.
- Phase Two involves a personal interview with the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Selection Committee. Interviews are usually scheduled to occur in June. Those students selected from Phase Two will start the core classes the subsequent Fall semester. The decision of the selection committee is final.
- Enrollment is limited by the number of available clinical sites. Clinical sites are located throughout Montana and the student will be expected to travel to their assigned clinical site. **Any expenses associated with attending clinicals are the responsibility of the student.**
- City College maintains affiliation agreements with a limited number of clinical facilities across the state. Students who meet the entry requirements and apply with a nonaffiliated qualifying clinical site secured will be given preference in the application process. A current list of affiliated sites may be obtained from the Clinical Coordinator. Email your request to [patricia.perez@msubillings.edu](mailto:patricia.perez@msubillings.edu).
- Individuals attempting to arrange their own site should utilize the Clinical Site Letter and Verification form located on the Diagnostic Medical Sonography homepage. Request that the site complete the form and return it to you. You can then turn it in with your application materials.

## Essay Requirement

Applicants to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will be required to submit an essay. The essay will require students to research the field and explain the multifaceted role of a diagnostic medical sonographer. It should also include how the student believes their personal skills, attributes and aptitudes match up with the role. The committee would also like to know what drives you to pursue this career.

## Site Visit Requirement

It is important that applicants to this program have a good understanding of job responsibilities and what is involved in being a Sonographer. In order to ensure this understanding, as part of the application process you are required to make a site visit to an ultrasound department. You will need to schedule a site visit at one of the Billings hospital ultrasound departments and spend at least eight (8) hours "job shadowing" a Sonographer. Please see the "Procedure for Scheduling a Site Visit" link on the diagnostic medical sonography website.

If you do not live in Billings, you may conduct your site visit at an ultrasound department at a hospital in your area. At the end of your site visit, be sure to have the sonographer sign your **Site Visit Signature Form**. It is recommended that you do your site visit at a larger hospital as you will have a more complete understanding of Sonography as a profession. If you are re-applying to the program, you should plan to make another site visit or discuss this issue with the program director.

If you live within a reasonable driving distance, you are encouraged to schedule your site visit with Patricia Perez at Beartooth Billings Clinic in Red Lodge, MT. She is intimately familiar with the DMS Program and will be able to provide you with valuable insight.

## Patient Care Experience

It is also important that you understand what is involved in providing quality patient care. Patient care, and how you treat your patient, is just as important as the quality of the ultrasound images you produce. Therefore, it is important that you have experience in patient care. This patient care experience can include nursing home or CNA patient care, working with patients in a hospital or clinical setting or a significant amount of volunteer work. This experience should involve **direct clinical** contact with patients. Not everyone is suited for working with ill patients and you need to have some idea if this is really something you want to do.

## Contact Information

Be sure to keep your contact information updated with City College Admissions. If either your permanent or current contact information changes, please contact City College Admissions at [ccadmissions@msubillings.edu](mailto:ccadmissions@msubillings.edu) to update your information. In most cases this site will contain the most complete and up to date information about the application process.

**Application deadlines are strictly adhered to so be sure to be aware of the Competitive Application deadline noted on the website.**

**Applicants that fail to submit all required application documents will not be considered in the competitive application process.**

If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, or the program, please contact Jacket Student Central at 406-247-3019 or [ccadvising@msubillings.edu](mailto:ccadvising@msubillings.edu)

Submit your completed Diagnostic Medical Sonography application by:

Email: [janet.drinkwalter@msubillings.edu](mailto:janet.drinkwalter@msubillings.edu)

or Mail to:

City College at MSU Billings  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography - Janet Drinkwalter  
3803 Central Avenue  
Billings, Montana 59102

***Note: Contents of this site are subject to change.***