

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Frequently Asked Questions

Start by asking yourself with this question: Do you wish to complete your clinical hours in the Greater Treasure Valley area (Elmore - Fruitland/Ontario)?

If the answer is yes to the above question, use the On Campus DMS Program FAQs as your guide

If the answer is no to the above question, use the Online DMS Program FAQs as your guide

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On Campus DMS Program

Do I have to apply to this program?

Yes.

First you must apply and be accepted to Boise State University. More information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/admissions/apply/>

Then you must apply to the Radiologic Sciences Programs. As of 2023, there are only 8 students accepted to the DMS program each year. Students are encouraged to apply to more than just the DMS program and rather apply to the Radiologic Sciences, Magnetic Resonance and Interventional Cardiology programs if they are interest in working within these other specialty areas.

In the instance you are not selected for one of the highly coveted seats in any of these programs, students are encouraged to apply to the online Advanced Medical Imaging (AMI) programs and secure their own clinical placement outside of the Greater Treasure Valley area (Elmore - Fruitland/Ontario)

What can I do to boost my chances of gaining entry to the program/be a strong applicant?

The selection process is discussed on the Sonography Program Website at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/application-process/>

General tips for success:

- Obtain experience volunteering, shadowing, etc. in a sonography setting by spending time in a hospital, clinic, or on campus in the sonography lab and be sure to discuss these experiences in your application materials and during your interview, if offered
- Ensure you understand and are willing to comply with the SDMS Code of Ethics for Sonographers found: <https://www.sdms.org/about/who-we-are/code-of-ethics>
- Be familiar with the material that can be found on our department website
- Keep your GPA above a 3.0 and complete all prerequisite course work
- Radiographers are given preference in the selection process

What are the course prerequisites for this on campus program?

Please review the information found at this website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/prerequisites/>

Note - If you already hold a clinically based associates or bachelors Degree, review this website. Many of the listed courses will likely not be required of you:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/transfers/transfer-credit-basics/>. Formal degree plans must be built by an advisor and all transcripts must be reviewed by the [registrar's office](#).

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the on campus sonography program?

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/curriculum/>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a certificate from the on campus sonography program?

Reminder, only ARRT certified personnel are eligible for this option. It is rare we graduate students with a certificate and achieving the bachelor's degree is usually only a few credits difference.

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/certificate-of-completion/>

What if I don't have my on campus prerequisite classes completed by March 1st?

You will be applying during the spring semester and may be currently enrolled in the last of your coursework at that time. Students are allowed to complete prerequisite coursework in the summer, but they do receive point deductions in the selection process for not having all prerequisite courses complete by the end of the spring semester. Courses taken over the summer must be completed with a minimum of C letter-grade while maintaining at least your current prerequisite GPA.

What does the on campus program cost?

An estimate of the cost to attend the On Campus DMS program is available at the following website: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/cost-of-attendance-diagnostic-medical-sonography/>

How do on campus program graduates perform on national certification tests?

DMS program graduates are qualified to write the Sonography registry exam offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (<https://www.arrt.org>) and the SPI, Abdomen, and Obstetric & Gynecology exams offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (<https://www.ardms.org>).

Current information about Sonography Program graduate pass-rates on national certification examinations is available on our website under the "Program Outcomes" link. <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/>

Is the Boise State On Campus DMS Program accredited?

The on campus programs are the only currently accredited programs under the sonography umbrella. The online program is currently under review for accreditation (2023).

The Boise State University DMS Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in DMS (JRC-DMS)

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158
Clearwater, FL 33763
Phone: 727-210-2350
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JRC-DMS
6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Boise State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 558-4224
www.nwccu.org

Who should I contact with further questions for the on campus program?

Josette Bell-Bossard is our Pre-Radiologic Sciences Advisor. Josette can be reached at (208) 426-2820 or josettebossard@boisestate.edu, or you can make an appointment to meet with them at josettebell-bossard.youcanbook.me/.

Online DMS Program Questions

Do I have to apply to this online program?

Yes.

First you must apply and be accepted to Boise State University. More information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/online/why-boise-state-online/>

Then you will apply to the Advanced Medical Imaging Programs. You will submit your application, resume, transcripts, and paperwork documenting any associated healthcare credentials you may hold. More information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/admissions/#step-1-apply-to-boise-state-university>

What are the course prerequisites for this online program?

Technically, there are no prerequisite courses for this program however each course within the degree plan does have unique prerequisite requirements. This ensures you take your course work in a logical progression but ensures we do not limit your ability to get started right away.

What does the online program cost?

An estimate of the cost to attend online programs offered at Boise State University are available at the following website: <https://www.boisestate.edu/online/cost/>

Costs specific to your time in the advanced medical imaging program can be estimated using the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/files/2014/05/Cost-Sheet-DMS-Prog20-21.xls.pdf>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the online sonography program?

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/degree-plan/>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a certificate from the online sonography program?

Reminder, only ARRT certified personnel are eligible for this option. It is rare we graduate students with a certificate and achieving the bachelor's degree is usually only a few credits difference.

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/diagnostic-medical-sonography-certificate/>

How do online program graduates perform on national certification tests?

As of 2023, no students have graduated from this program and thus they have not sat for the credentialing examinations.

Is it difficult to obtain your own clinical site?

Sometimes! If you are already working in a healthcare facility and have clinical connections in your local area, this process may be easier for you. If you are new to healthcare, surrounded by local ultrasound programs, or located in a small city, this process may be more difficult for you. Once accepted to our programs we will provide you with tips for successfully obtaining a clinical site however ultimately, procuring clinical sites will be the responsibility of each student.

Students will need to find a facility that has adequate exposure to both Abdominal and Obstetric/Gynecologic (OB/GYN) studies. This may mean that students within the DMS program will need one hospital based facility and one dedicated female imaging center to supplement their OBGYN exam exposure. This determination will be made by the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator.

Is the Boise State Online DMS Program accredited?

The on campus programs are the only currently accredited programs under the sonography umbrella. The online program is currently under review for accreditation (2023).

Boise State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

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8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
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(425) 558-4224
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Who should I contact with further questions about this online program?

Becky Clawson is the advisor for the Online Medical Imaging program. She can be reached at beckyclawson@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-5920.

General DMS Program Questions

What specialties are taught at Boise State University?

Abdominal, Obstetric & Gynecologic. There will be discussion surrounding Musculoskeletal, Breast, & Vascular Sonography however students would need to complete additional clinical time and structure education to be eligible for these certification examinations.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone!

How long is the DMS Program?

It depends on your background. Almost all of our students choose the bachelor's degree pathway, completing 120 credits, which usually takes 4 years to complete. The first 2-3 years of this pathway are spent completing general education, prerequisite and entry level healthcare course work.

Are you not a credentialed healthcare provider?

You are eligible for the primary bachelors degree program route. You will take two years (Year 1 - Fall, Spring, Year 2 - Fall, Spring, Summer) of dedicated healthcare and medical imaging coursework.

Are you a credentialed healthcare provider? (see more on this question below)

You are eligible for the post primary bachelor's degree program route. Likely, this will take 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, & Summer) to accomplish.

Was that credential awarded by the ARRT or ARDMS?

You are eligible for the certificate route. This will take 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, & Summer) to accomplish.

What does it mean to be a credentialed healthcare provider?

Credentialed, clinically-based health care providers graduate from regionally accredited institutions of higher education and hold a minimum of an AAS/AS degree. These programs are at least 2 years in length (24 full time consecutive calendar months) and are patient care related. Applicants must hold an active registration and/or be licensed in good standing with the appropriate state and/or national agency. Examples of this type of education include: Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing, etc. Please recognize that preference will be given to radiographers in the selection process.

Applicants may be completing the final semester of their direct patient care education at the time of application.

Acceptance into the Program will be contingent upon successfully passing the appropriate national examination by August 1 of the year accepted.

I have a degree in [x], can I bypass the clinical prerequisite and complete the program more quickly as a result?

No. This clinical requirement comes straight from our national accrediting body. Students must have proved their competency via credentialing in areas such as: insertion of a urinary catheter, starting an I.V., providing stoma care, giving an enema, setting a sterile tray, performing a procedural timeout, etc. Credentialed means you have sat or will sit for an exam proctored at a state or national level to prove your competency in your respective clinical field.

Example AAS/AS/BS degrees can that fall into this category can be in the following fields: Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing, Medical Assistant, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Surgical Technologist, Dental Hygienist, Optometrist Technician, etc.

Students holding a credential of lower levels of clinically based education such as CNA, LPN, EMT, ER Tech, or Army Medic will be considered on a one on one basis based on otherwise held prior work and educational experience. Students may be asked to apply to the program before being fully considered.

Unfortunately, bachelors degrees in Health Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Social Work, or Psychology do not meet this requirement, however you have likely taken many of the necessary courses that are necessary to earn this degree, thanks to this experience.

Does Boise State offer clinically-based health care provider programs that meet the Sonography Program prerequisite?

Boise State offers bachelor of science degrees in Diagnostic Radiography, Respiratory Care and Nursing that meet the “clinically-based health care provider” prerequisite for the sonography program. Note that radiographers are given preference in the sonography program selection process.

Further information about these programs is available online at:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/healthsciences/programs/>

How will my course work from another college transfer to BSU?

All transcripts must be received and evaluated by the registrar's office.

BSU has a transfer guide on-line that may be helpful to find a transfer equivalent class. The web address is: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/transfers/> If the transfer equivalency guide doesn't provide you with an acceptable course you may call the registrar's office to speak with a transcript evaluator at: 208-426-4249. You should look at similar classes in your current school's catalog & find a couple of potential candidates for transfer. Do not expect the transcript evaluator to search your school's catalog for an equivalent class for you. BSU course descriptions are available in the current undergraduate catalog at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar-catalog/>

Is financial aid available?

The Department of Radiologic Sciences does offer a few scholarships annually to students participating in a medical imaging program. Students must meet the FAFSA filing requirements to be considered for need-based scholarships.

Information about additional financial aid offered through Boise State may be reviewed on the Financial Aid Department's webpage at: <https://financialaid.boisestate.edu/>

What is the employment rate for Boise State Sonography Program graduates?

Current information about Sonography Program graduate employment is available on our website under the “Program Outcomes” link. <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/>

What is the employment outlook for Sonographers?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides information about potential employment outlook in their Occupational Outlook Handbook available online at:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm>

Is this a physically challenging career field?

Yes! Working in Medical Imaging requires you to be able to respond to your patients in the case of an emergency. As such, our students need to meet the following Technical Standards in accordance with our clinical affiliation agreements: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/technical-standards-3/>