

DIAGNOSTIC CARDIAC SONOGRAPHY

Associate in Applied Science A.A.S.: Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography Degree

This 68 credit-hour program prepares the graduate to be a diagnostic cardiac sonographer. A diagnostic cardiac sonographer is a highly skilled professional who uses specialized ultrasound equipment to record visual images of the heart. They work in hospitals and outpatient settings producing these echocardiograms to assist the physician in diagnosing heart disease. This degree prepares the graduate to secure their American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography credential and entry-level work in the adult echo specialty area. The graduate also receives instruction in basic vascular sonography as well as EKG-related diagnostic testing. A clinical hospital experience in echocardiography is provided.

Because of the nature of clinical experiences and individualized instruction required in this program and specialized technology and the equipment necessary to offer this program, a higher tuition rate is assessed for career-specific courses including courses with the DCS prefix. Tuition for the courses in this program is 200 percent of the standard tuition rate.

Admission Requirements:

Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography is a limited enrollment program. For admission requirements, please contact the Admissions Outreach Office at 847.925.6700 or visit harpercollege.edu. Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are obligated to meet current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance to the program.

F = Fall only course S = Spring only course U = Summer only course

PREREQUISITES:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
BIO 160	Human Anatomy ¹	4	AAS General Education
BIO 161	Human Physiology ¹	4	AAS General Education
ENG 101	Composition	3	AAS General Education
	Mathematics ²	3	AAS General Education
PHY 100	Basic Concepts in Physics ³	3	AAS General Education

FIRST SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 101	Electrocardiography I	2	Program Requirement
DCS 105	Ultrasound Physics/Instrumentation I	2	Program Requirement
DCS 107	Sonography Theory I	2	Program Requirement
DCS 109	Sonography Lab I ⁴	1	Program Requirement
HSC 112	Medical Terminology	2	Program Requirement
HSC 165	Basic Pharmacology	1	Program Requirement

SECOND SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 102	Electrocardiography II	2	Program Requirement
DCS 106	Ultrasound Physics/Instrumentation II	2	Program Requirement
DCS 108	Sonography Theory II	2	Program Requirement
DCS 110	Sonography Lab II ⁴	1	Program Requirement
HSC 104	Health Care Technology and Informatics	2	Program Requirement
HSC 213	Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care	2	Program Requirement

SUMMER SESSION (Optional):

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 112	Sonography Lab III ⁵ (U)	1	Optional Course

THIRD SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 207	Cardiac Sonography Theory I	6	Program Requirement
DCS 209	Cardiac Sonography Lab I ⁴	2	Program Requirement
	Humanities or Social and Behavioral Science+	3	AAS General Education

FOURTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 208	Cardiac Sonography Theory II	6	Program Requirement

DCS 210	Cardiac Sonography Lab II ⁴	2	Program Requirement
DCS 220	Introduction to the Cardiac Sonography Clinical	3	Program Requirement
SPE 101	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3	AAS General Education

SUMMER SESSION:

A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
DCS 230	Cardiac Sonography Clinical ⁶	5	Program Requirement
DCS 260	Advanced Sonography Seminar ⁵	1	Program Requirement

- 1 Must be completed no earlier than five years prior to beginning the DCS program; time requirement may be waived for direct patient care providers with a minimum of a two-year allied health care degree.
- 2 MTH 165 is recommended. MTH 101, MTH 103, or higher with a grade of C or better may be substituted.
- 3 PHY 110 or PHY 121 or higher with a grade of C or better may be substituted.
- 4 Every credit hour of sonography lab requires a minimum of 2 hours per week sonography lab practice.
- 5 This course is optional and not required for graduation.
- + Students need to choose a course to meet this requirement that also fulfills the World Cultures and Diversity graduation requirement. See full list of [AAS General Education Electives](#).
- 6 Assignments will be based on site availability.