



Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Educational Program Questionnaire

There are several important questions to ask before making your decision to apply to an educational program for admission. Definitions of unfamiliar words may be found at the end of this document.

Program Name: Misericordia University

Contact Person/Telephone/Email: Sheryl Goss / 570-674-6790 / sgoss@misericordia.edu

Questions	Notes
<p>1. Is the program accredited by the CAAHEP or CMA? A list of accredited programs is available at:</p> <p>http://www.caahep.org/Find_An_Accredited_Program.aspx</p> <p>http://www.cma.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/50595/la_id/1.htm</p>	<p>Yes, the program received CAAHEP initial accreditation in the general (Abdomen and Obstetrics/ Gynecology) concentration in September 2004. The most recent accreditation review occurred in Spring 2013 with an award maximum term of 10 years. This indicates high program quality achieving outcomes.</p>
<p>2. If the program is not accredited by CAAHEP or CMA, can graduates still apply to take the ARDMS, ARRT or the CCI certification examinations without further clinical experience or education? Eligibility requirements are available at:</p> <p>http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=135 (ARDMS)</p> <p>http://www.rrt.org/index.html?content=certification/certgenelig.htm (ARRT)</p> <p>http://www.cci-online.org/index.html (CCI)</p> <p>If you are uncertain if the educational program you are interested in qualifies you to take the certification exams upon graduation, contact the ARDMS by calling (800) -541-9754 or the ARRT (651) 687-0048 or CCI (800) 326-0268.</p>	<p>Program is CAAHEP accredited; therefore, graduates are able to apply to the ARDMS for eligibility to take the Abdomen exam and Obstetrics and Gynecology exam. Students are eligible to take the Sonography Physics and Instrumentation exam upon completion of an approved physics course. Students who have or will earn a bachelor degree or possess an associate degree are eligible to apply for ARRT Sonography exam</p>
<p>3. How long has the program been graduating students?</p>	<p>The program graduated its first class in 2005.</p>
<p>4. How many students began the program last year and how many graduated?</p>	<p>Attrition varies year to year. The program is in compliance with accreditation. The program strives for minimal attrition.</p>
<p>5. What are the general reasons students have not completed the program?</p>	<p>Most often attrition is due to personal reasons with occasional academic causes. All sonography programs require the students to be able to dedicate several hours</p>

	<p>outside of the scheduled classroom/clinical time to learn and secure the content for success in the program and national credential examinations. It is important for everyone to explore the qualities required of a sonographer and the job description. In addition, individuals must be prepared financially to sustain their living expenses while enrolled in a program.</p>
<p>6. What credentials does the program director hold?</p>	<p>Master's of Science in Organizational Management. She is ARDMS credentialed in Abdominal, OB/GYN, Breast, Neurosonography, Adult, Pediatric and Fetal Echocardiography and Vascular Technology. She also holds the RVS credential from CCI. She brings a wealth of clinical experience in each of these areas. She is also involved nationally which provides a wealth of current trends and practices to the department. She earned Fellow status with the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.</p>
<p>7. What credentials do the faculty members hold?</p>	<p>All faculty minimally possess a Bachelor Degree with several possessing Master's Degree. All faculty minimally possess the RDMS credential in Abdomen and Ob/GYN.</p>
<p>8. What percentage of graduates passed the national certification exams on their first try? Example: If the educational program offers a general concentration in sonography how many students pass the ARDMS exams in Physics (SPI), Abdominal (AB) and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB), respectively?</p>	<p>The program exhibits great success with first time pass rates. First time pass rates for the graduates of the past 5 years are: Physics (SPI) 100% Abdominal 95% Ob/GYN 92% This success is due to the dedication of the program faculty, our clinical affiliate staff and the students who all work very hard. Of all the graduates since the inception of the program, 98% achieved their RDMS credential.</p>
<p>9. What percentage of program graduates became employed in sonography?</p>	<p>Since the inception of the program 95% of the graduates are employed</p>

	as sonographers. Some have become lead supervisors, department manager, educator, or application specialists with equipment manufacturers.
10. What types of job opportunities are available to new graduates?	Most graduates begin by being employed in a hospital or out-patient imaging center, then pursue other opportunities, to include but not limited to, educator, application specialist, lead sonographer, and industry.
11. Can the program provide student or employer testimonials about the quality of the graduates?	Yes – comments from students and graduates indicate very high satisfaction with the attention they receive and how well prepared they felt beginning their new careers.
Additional Questions	Notes
12. What is the number of hours the student is required to spend in an assigned clinical setting?	The program requires about 1300 clinical hours. This allows the graduates to transition quickly into their employment.
13. What is the reputation of the program?	The University and the program has an excellent reputation. The program mentors and expects a consistent display of professionalism. Employers are highly satisfied with graduates of the program.

Terminology Defined

Accredited

- This means a program meets minimum standards and guidelines as defined by an accrediting agency such as the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or the United States Department of Education (USDOE). Colleges and universities have a separate accreditation agency and process than sonography programs, so you need to be sure that it is the sonography “program” that is accredited.

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS)

- A professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams. www.ardms.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

- A professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams. www.arrt.org

Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)

- A professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams.
<https://cci-online.org/>

Credential

- A title recognizing that a certification examination has been passed in a specialty area. For example, The ARDMS offers several credentials which include "RDMS – Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer". Someone who holds this credential has passed certification exams in a specialty area such as abdomen and a physics certification exam. The ARRT credential in sonography is recognized by the abbreviation "ARRT (S)" after one's name that has passed the sonography certification exam administered by the ARRT. The CCI credential is recognized in the field of Cardiovascular Technology. CCI offers several credentials with two being the "RCS" –Registered Cardiac Sonographer and the "RVS" – Registered Vascular Sonographer.

Credentialed

- Used in reference to an individual who has passed certification examinations administered by a national certifying agency such as the ARDMS, ARRT or CCI.

Registered

- Applies to an individual who has obtained one or more sonography credentials and their name is listed (registered) with the credentialing agency such as the ARDMS, ARRT, or CCI.