



MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS ADVISING GUIDE: *Diagnostic Medical Sonography*

The **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Associate in Science Degree program** provides the knowledge and techniques for specialization in the field of diagnostic medical sonography. Students receive training in producing the ultrasound images used by physicians in the diagnosis of disease and injuries and other medical conditions. The curriculum has a general education component with a concentration in relevant science courses. Students achieve proficiency in sonographic physics and instrumentation, obstetrical, gynecological, abdominal and neurosonography. In addition to classroom work, there is an extensive clinical practicum. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers certification examinations.



This advising guide includes information that will help you to explore your academic and career interests and determine whether the **Diagnostic Medical Sonography Associate in Science Degree program** will support your long-term goals.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS WITH ACADEMIC ADVISING

Throughout each semester, meet with your advisor so that he/she can guide you through a self-exploration process that will help you identify your academic and career interests.

Beginning of Semester:

- ___ Schedule an appointment to meet with your academic advisor during the first few weeks to discuss future plans and how a Business Administration Degree can help you achieve your goals.
- ___ Explore your personal interests by completing Focus2, an online career assessment tool:
<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/focus2.aspx>

Mid-Semester:

- ___ Schedule an appointment with academic advisor review your academic progress, Focus2 results and create an academic plan in Degree Works.

Before Semester Ends:

- ___ Schedule an appointment to discuss and register for the classes you will take the following semester. (Early November for spring, Early April for fall and summer)
- ___ Visit the Academic Career & Transfer Center or call 1-800-818-3434 to schedule an appointment.

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- Exploring Your Options
- Personality Inventory
- Career Path
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DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Function in the health care setting;
- Collect data from charts and patients;
- Interpret patient data;
- Recommend appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures;
- Use sound judgment while functioning in a health care setting;
- Effectively performs a broad range of clinical skills;
- Perform and interpret diagnostic procedures;
- Communicate effectively

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DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CON'T)

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Conduct oneself in an ethical and professional manner
- Function effectively as a team member
- Accepts supervision and works effectively

If you possess some of the traits listed above, go on and complete the following self-exploration activity.



This activity will allow you to assess whether the **Diagnostic Medical Sonography** field fits your personality traits.

PERSONALITY QUESTIONS

YES NO

Are you interested in having a bright future in one of the highest paying jobs in the field of allied health?		
Do you like courses in science, math, physics, health, and computers?		
Do you like working with oscilloscopes, video recorders, and cameras for collecting ultrasound images?		
Are you a confident person who is willing to take constructive criticism daily?		
Are you patient with difficult individuals and medical equipment?		
Do you have the physical stamina to stand for a long periods of time?		
Can you work under stressful cases with patients, (this will require you to pacify the situation by uttering comforting words for the patient)?		
Do you like to take on many responsibilities on a daily basis?		
Do you have a passion and determination to help other people?		
Do you realize that ultrasound is not all pregnant people with babies?		
Do you like communicating daily with doctors, patients, and medical staff?		
Are you willing to assist with biopsy procedures, surgical aspirations, first aid, and CPR to patients? i.e: prostate and breast biopsies, abscess drainage, the sight of blood, body fluids and smells.		
Do you usually complete your school work on time?		
Are you willing to travel/commute to clinical sites with the additional expense of paying for parking?		

Give yourself one point each, if you answered YES to any question above.

- If you scored 10-14 points — A major in sonography may be a good choice for you.
- If you scored 7-9 points — Perhaps a major in sonography is a good choice, but you should also consider other health career options.
- If you scored below 6 points — You may want to reconsider your career choice in health careers.

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IS THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME?

Think about whether you have the following personality traits and abilities that the sonography profession requires:

- Ability to effectively operate complex computerized medical equipment.
- Ability to integrate laboratory results, patient history and medical records.
- Ability to use independent judgment.
- Ability to communicate information to physicians and other health care team.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public and health care team members.
- Ability to maintain a high standard of medical ethics at all times and be self-motivated to increase your level of understanding and knowledge of the field, diseases, and new procedures as they evolve.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety, mental, and physical comfort of patients while they are under your care.
- Ability to follow established hospital procedures as necessary.
- Ability to work efficiently and cope with emergency situations.
- Ability to demonstrate a variety of computer skills through the length of the program, such as keyboard skills, opening PowerPoint assignments and presentations, and online assignments in Blackboard.
- Ability to demonstrate good communication skills with faculty members, fellow students, staff and other health care professional verbally and in a recorded format (writing, typing, etc).
- Ability that he/she can read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Ability to be prepared to demonstrate that they can recognize any condition, whether observed during the ultrasound examination or in patient behavior, which may pose immediate threat to health or life and react appropriately.
- Ability to recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment and situations and be able to proceed safely to reduce risk of injury to patient or self.
- He/she has telephone skills, and can evaluate written requisitions for sonographic procedures.
- He/she has excellent hand-eye coordination skills, has the manual dexterity and good physical coordination to position patients, and operates and transports ultrasound equipment.
- Ability to adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions.
- He/she demonstrates competence in safety concerns for patient such as locking wheelchairs and stretchers, and securing side rails on stretchers.
- He/she must be able to recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language.
- He/she demonstrates that they can follow verbal or written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform procedures.
- Ability to demonstrate that he/she can utilize any clinical site's data/patient management system as allowed by the clinical site.

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THE CAREER PATH

Upon completion of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, students can choose to work in hospitals, clinics, private practice physician offices, public health facilities, laboratories, and other medical settings performing examinations in their areas of specialization. Career advancement exists in education, administration, research, and in commercial companies as educators-application specialists, sales representatives, and technical advisors.

Career Planning Activities:

- ___ Work with career advisor to create resume, cover letter and help improve your interview skills
- ___ Identify internship and volunteer opportunities in your desired field
- ___ Attend career workshops and job fairs

THE TRANSFER PATH



Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has an articulation agreement with Salem State College to pursue a bachelor degree in Liberal Studies.

Transfer Planning Activities:

- ___ Work with an advisor to discuss *MassTransfer*, Articulations and transfer agreements
- ___ Visit your selected campuses in person. Every college looks good online or in a glossy photo, but you can get a better feel when you visit
- ___ Meet with transfer counselor to identify transfer scholarships
- ___ Research admissions requirements and deadlines at four-year colleges and universities

CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION (CORI) CHECKS:

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in an academic, community or clinical program that involves potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly, the student may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check. Students found to have certain criminal convictions or pending criminal actions will be presumed ineligible to participate in such activities.

MCC ADVISING RESOURCES

Career Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices>

Transfer Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer>

MassTransfer:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.aspx>

Financial Aid:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid>

Foundation Scholarships:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships>

College Board Match Maker:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

www.sdms.org

www.ardms.org

www.sonoworld.org

www.sdms.org/positions/scope.asp

- Scope of Practice
- Scope of Clinical

You can find more information about careers and salaries at: www.bls.gov.