

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the Sonography program accredited?

Yes. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at BRCC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). For information about CAAHEP accreditation, please visit the CAAHEP website at <http://www.caahep.org>

“CAAHEP is a programmatic postsecondary accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and carries out its accrediting activities in cooperation with 23 review committees (Committees on Accreditation). CAAHEP currently accredits over 2100 entry level education programs in 28 health science professions.”

Contact CAAHEP at 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763 Phone: 727-210-2350

### What are prerequisites?

Prerequisites are courses that must be completed before another course can be taken. For example, BIOL 231 has a prerequisite of BIOL 230, so you must complete BIOL 230 prior to taking BIOL 231.

### What prerequisite courses are required for Sonography?

Nine prerequisite courses are required to apply for admission to the Sonography program:

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours
MATH 1113 or 1213	College Algebra	3
ENGL 1013	English Composition I	3
PSYC 2013	Introduction to Psychology	3
BIOL 2214	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 2224	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PHYS 1013	Introduction to Concepts in Physics	3
HLSC 1103	Medical Terminology	3
PHIL 2253	Biomedical Ethics	3
HUMN	Humanities Elective*	3
	Total Hours	29

\* Must be a SACS approved Humanities course – see current BRCC Catalog

### What grade must I have in my prerequisite courses?

Sonography program applicants must have a grade of “C” or higher in each of the prerequisite courses.

### When can I apply to the Sonography program?

Applications will be available once a year. We are currently accepting applications during the Fall semester and classes will begin in the Spring. It is important for applicants to attend a Sonography informational / advising session.

### What does “selective admissions” mean?

Baton Rouge Community College’s (BRCC) Sonography program seeks highly qualified students. Students with higher GPAs in the prerequisite courses, best entrance exam and interview scores will be ranked higher in the applicant pool. Keep in mind that a student who meets the minimum requirements must compete against a student who exceeds the minimum requirements. However, no student is guaranteed admission.

### How will my GPA be calculated?

Only the required prerequisite courses are used to calculate each applicant’s composite GPA. Since admission is competitive, the higher the composite GPA, the better the chance of admission.

**How much will it cost to complete the Sonography courses in the program?**

The cost of prerequisite courses and clinical related travel expenses (auto mileage) are not included below. The remaining expenses are estimates only and subject to change. See BRCC Financial Aid Office for additional financial aid information [www.mybrcc.edu](http://www.mybrcc.edu).

ESTIMATED COST		
<b>Pre-Admission</b>		
	College Admission Application	<a href="#">click here</a>
	Prerequisite Courses (29 credit hours)	
<b>First Semester (Spring)</b>		
	Tuition and Fees (9 credit hours)	<a href="#">click here</a>
	Physical Examination and Drug Screen	500.00 estimate
	Fingerprints and Criminal Background Check	36.00
	Student Liability Insurance	36.00 / year
	American Heart Association CPR for HCP	50.00
	Textbooks	441.00
	Uniforms	90.00
	Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Student Membership	40.00
<b>Second Semester (Summer)</b>		
	Tuition and Fees (6 credit hours)	<a href="#">click here</a>
<b>Third Semester (Fall)</b>		
	Tuition and Fees (10 credit hours)	<a href="#">click here</a>
	ARDMS SPI Examination	200.00
<b>Fourth Semester (Spring)</b>		
	Tuition and Fees (8 credit hours)	<a href="#">click here</a>
DUE AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM		
	ARDMS OB/GYN Specialty Examination	250.00
	ARDMS Abdomen Specialty Examination	250.00

**Is there an entrance exam? Is there a study guide?**

The Sonography entrance exam is a standardized aptitude test that is computer-based and administered on BRCC's campus. The test is the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills). A minimum passing score of 60 is required. A study guide for the test is available. Study materials may be purchased directly from the ATI website: [http://www.atitesting.com/ati\\_store/product.aspx?zpid=1493](http://www.atitesting.com/ati_store/product.aspx?zpid=1493)

**How many applicants will be selected for admission?**

Several factors will determine the actual number of students admitted:

- availability of faculty
- availability of clinical sites
- availability of classroom and lab space

**What are the core performance standards for a sonographer?**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on these requirements the following list of "Core Performance Standards" has been developed. Each standard has an example of an activity which a student will be required to perform while enrolled in the Sonography Program. These standards are a part of each Sonography course and of the professional role expectation of a Sonographer.

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)</b>
<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	Critical thinking ability sufficient for safe clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations.  Evaluate sonograms to ascertain that they contain proper identification and are of diagnostic value. Select exposure factors and accessory devices for all Sonographic procedures with consideration of patient size, age, and extent of disease. Assess patient's condition and needs from a distance of at least 20 feet. Initiate proper emergency care protocols, including CPR, based on assessment data.
<b>INTERPERSONAL</b>	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with patients, families, and colleagues.  Display compassion, empathy and concern for others  Demonstrate a high degree of patience.  Work with other healthcare providers in stressful situations
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Communicate in English to the patient in order to: converse, instruct the patient, relieve anxiety, gain their cooperation during procedures, understand the patient when communicating symptoms of a medical emergency.  Read the patient's medical chart and/or physician's orders.

		Legibly write patient history. Document own actions and patient responses as indicated.
<b>MOBILITY</b>	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Assist all patients, according to individual needs and abilities, in moving, turning, transferring from transportation devices to the scanning table. Be able to push, pull, and lift 50 pounds. Push a stretcher, wheelchair or other transportation device without injury to self, patient, or others. Push an ultrasound machine (approximately 500 lbs.) from one location to another, including turning corners, getting on and off of an elevator, and manipulating it in a patient's room.
<b>MOTOR SKILLS</b>	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	Ability to maintain prolonged arm positions necessary for scanning. Accurately draw up sterile contrast media and other solutions without contaminating the syringe and/or needle, etc. Physically be able to administer emergency care including performing CPR. Be able to stand for periods as long as 2 hours and to walk a distance of 2 miles during a normal work day. Ability to seize, grasp, grip, hold, turn, or otherwise work with hands. Work fingers to manipulate switches, dials, and other equipment controls. Input data into computer
<b>HEARING</b>	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs, and to provide a safe environment.	Hear a patient talk in a normal tone from a distance of 20 feet. Hear monitor alarm, emergency signals, and cries for help.
<b>VISUAL</b>	Visual ability sufficient for observation and Assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and care of patients.	Observe the patient in order to assess the patient's condition and/or needs from a distance of at least 20 feet. Can see numbers, letters, calibrations, etc. of varying sizes located on equipment utilized by a sonographer.
<b>TACTILE</b>	Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment and operation of equipment.	Perform palpation, tactile assessment, and manipulation of body parts to insure proper body placement and alignment. Manipulate dials, buttons, and switches.

**Do you have a waiting list?**

No, we do not have a waiting list. Applicants who are not admitted must maintain their eligibility and reapply to the Sonography program during the next application cycle.

**Can I go to school part-time?**

It is possible to complete prerequisite courses on a part-time schedule. However, the Sonography program is full-time.

**How long is the program?**

Four (4) full-time academic semesters of Sonography courses (spring, summer, fall, spring).

**Will transfer credit be accepted?**

Credit may be accepted for non-Sonography courses transferred from an accredited college or university. For details, check with BRCC's Enrollment Office. Transfer credit *will not* be granted for any Sonography courses.

**How can I set up an appointment for advisement?**

Group advisement sessions are held to advise students. The advisement schedule is posted online.

**What time will courses be offered?**

The prerequisite courses and general education courses in the Sonography curriculum may be offered during the day, evening, or weekend. Sonography courses, labs and practicums are offered Monday through Friday, 9am until 5pm, and must be taken in the prescribed sequence.

**Does BRCC offer childcare?**

Not at the present time.

**Which hospitals will students go to for clinical learning experiences?**

Clinical learning experiences may be scheduled at any of the area healthcare entities we are contractually affiliated with.

**Can I continue to work during enrollment in the Sonography program?**

It is strongly recommended that students do not work during the academic semester. The program is very demanding. Those who do work must be able to schedule evenings and weekends.

**Are student loans available? Will financial aid apply?**

BRCC offers student loans. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 1-866-217-9823

**Why do I have to submit to a criminal background check?**

Certain criminal activity, as evident by criminal background check, may disqualify a student from admission to clinical entities as determined by affiliation agreements. The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) may take action against an Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant in the case of conviction, plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere to any crime (<http://www.ardms.org>).

**Do you provide transportation to the clinical sites?**

No. Reliable transportation to and from clinical sites is the student's responsibility.

**How may I obtain additional information about the program or its requirements?**

During regular BRCC business hours you may call the office of Nursing and Allied Health and request to speak with an adviser. The phone number is (225) 216 - 8044. You may email the Sonography Program Manager at [beaufordm@mybrcc.edu](mailto:beaufordm@mybrcc.edu)