

Oregon Institute of Technology
Medical Imaging Technology Department
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Completion
Program Assessment
2011-2012

I. Introduction

The Oregon Tech Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree completion program enables registered professionals in Diagnostic Medical Sonography to further their knowledge and skills necessary for career advancement, to become effective communicators, problem solvers, critical thinkers, responsible managers and leaders, and to value lifelong learning. The Bachelor of Science Degree Completion Program in Diagnostic Medical Sonography is delivered via distance education to Sonographers who are credentialed with American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). Students will complete required course work through Oregon Institute of Technology Distance Education Department. Courses are delivered via Blackboard, which serves as a virtual learning environment. The Sonography Degree Completion program is presented by the Department of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS). The DMS program is in the Department of Medical Imaging Technology (MIT). DMS and MIT are contained within the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences (HAS) at Oregon Tech.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Completion program was implemented in fall 2011 as an online program. Students who are accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Completion program are already registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers working in the field who have passed their national registry exam in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

The distance delivery version began in 2011 and will expect to grow over time. The on campus Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program (DMS) began in 1997 and is one of the five Medical Imaging programs offered on the Klamath Falls campus.

II. Program Purpose, Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

The program faculty adopted the mission, objectives, and student learning outcomes in fall 2010 and submitted them to the Curriculum Planning Commission for approval. The faculty met in the fall of 2011 and agreed to continue with the student learning outcomes as suggested by the programmatic accrediting body known as the “Joint Review Committee of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.” The current version is listed below.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Completion Program Purpose

The purpose of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree Completion Program is to provide ARDMS registered Sonographers a Bachelor of Science degree from a distance education program that furthers the student’s knowledge, clinical practice, and performance of examinations while practicing competent patient care and safety in the advanced modalities of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Program Educational Objectives

The program prepares students to:

1. Employ diagnostic sonographic imaging techniques, critical thinking skills, effective communication skills, and professional judgment.
2. Effectively apply ergonomically correct scanning techniques.
3. Successfully complete nationally recognized credential examinations.
4. Develop a dedication to independent life-long learning and professional contribution.
5. Utilize diagnostic techniques, sound judgment and good decision making to provide patient services.
6. Be leaders in the field of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers who contribute to the field on a local, regional or national level.
7. Think critically, communicate effectively and exemplify professional ethics.
8. Become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates from this program will be able to demonstrate:

1. Effective oral, visual, and written communication skills.
2. The ability to work effectively in teams.
3. The ability to provide basic patient care and comfort while utilizing ethical, professionalism and HIPAA guidelines
4. Knowledge and understanding of human gross and sectional anatomy relative to normal and abnormal sonographic imaging.
5. Knowledge and understanding of human physiology, pathology and pathophysiology.
6. Knowledge and understanding of ultrasound physical principles and instrumentation.
7. Knowledge of sonographic biological effects, proper application of sonographic instrumentation relative to imaging and image quality.
8. Appropriate ergonomic scanning applications.
9. An understanding of diverse cultural and humanistic traditions in the global society.

Other Learning Opportunities

1. Annual professional meetings and conferences for sonography students include:
 - Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS)
 - American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)
 - American College of Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT)
 - Eugene Ultrasound Society (EUS)
 - Other smaller study groups located in San Francisco Bay Area
 - OIT DMS Sonography Advisory Council annual meeting and Continuing Medical Education opportunity (CME)

The location and financial responsibility remain a challenge for DMS students to attend national conferences. These meetings are held during regularly scheduled instructional terms. Students appreciate the networking and educational benefits of attending these meetings.

Competition opportunities are components of the national conferences of SDMS and ACERT. Presently, international trips are unavailable to DMS students.

2. On-line professional learning opportunities for sonography students include:
 - Monthly CME directed readings associated with student SDMS Memberships
 - SDMS Webinars are available to students with SDMS Membership

All DMS students hold student SDMS memberships and are eligible for these opportunities. The DMS faculty encourage students to participate in these offerings not only for educational benefits, but to develop and promote effective life-long learning behaviors.

III. Three-Year Cycle for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The following are the nine main outcomes which will be assessed at a rate of three per year on a three-year cycle, as listed below in Table 1.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Schedule		2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
1.	The student will demonstrate effective oral, visual, and written communication skills		X	
2.	The student will demonstrate the ability to work effectively in teams	X		
3.	A. The student will demonstrate an ability to provide basic patient care and comfort while utilizing ethical, professionalism and HIPAA guidelines	X		
	B. Professionalism	X		
4.	The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of human gross and sectional anatomy relative to normal and abnormal sonographic imaging.			X
5.	The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of human physiology, pathology and pathophysiology.		X	
6.	The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ultrasound physical principles and instrumentation.			X
7.	The student will demonstrate knowledge of sonographic biological effects, proper application of sonographic instrumentation relative to imaging and image quality.			X
8.	The student will demonstrate appropriate ergonomic scanning applications.		X	
9.	The student will demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultural and humanistic traditions in the global society.	X		

Table 1. Diagnostic Medical Sonography Assessment Cycle

IV. Summary of 2011-12 Assessment Activities

The DMS faculty will begin formal assessment of three programmatic student learning outcomes (SLO), and two Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) during the 2012-13 academic year. Assessment was not conducted this year because of low enrollment of students. This is the first year of offering a DE option in DMS.