DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY - FAQ

1. Is there a website with information?  
http://dacc.nmsu.edu/hps/sonography

2. Who can I talk to about the program?  
Darla Matthew, Program Director, DAHL 190/(575) 528-7047  
Faith Hutson, Clinical Coordinator, DAHL 291A/(575) 528-7063

3. In a nutshell, what does a student need in order to apply?  
Average Cumulative GPA 3.0/Science Core GPA 3.0/TEAS V exam/interview.  
Selection for the program is based on a point system. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to being formally accepted into the program. To be considered for admission, applicants will have a GPA of 3.0 or higher (no more than one final grade of C is allowed).

4. How does repeating prerequisites apply to this program?  
   a. If a student earns a grade of F in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the F? What if the student repeats the course a second time?  
      Only one attempt is allowed to replace grade of F. The second grade is considered as a replacement when considering the pre-requisite GPA.

   b. If a student earns a grade of D in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the D? What if the student repeats the course a second time?  
      Only one attempt is allowed to replace a grade of D. The second grade is considered as a replacement when considering the pre-requisite GPA.

   c. If a student earns a grade of C in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the C? What if the student repeats the course a second time?  
      Only one attempt is allowed to replace a grade of C. The second grade is considered as a replacement when considering the pre-requisite GPA.

   d. Is there a cap on the number of times a student can repeat a course before the student will no longer be considered?  
      Yes, students may replace up to two grades of C or lower; no more than one attempt per course.

   e. Do any prerequisites or other courses have a time expiration?  
      (Example: BIOL 225 must be repeated if taken more than 7 years prior to admission into the program.) If so, what are these courses and how do the new grade(s) work into the selection process?  
      None at this time but applicants should be aware that this could significantly impact their ability to handle the rigors of the program.

   f. How is transfer credit treated?  Do you use the grade from the transcript where they previously attended and consider those grades or just take into consideration the CR, CD, or GR?  
      The original grade is used.

   g. Are students selected based on their prerequisite GPA alone, or a combination of their prerequisite and cumulative GPA?  
      Students earn separate points in each of 4 categories: pre-requisite GPA, overall GPA, TEAS V exam and interview.

5. How does exercising the Adjusted Credit Option (ACO), affect student’s application?  
   Some selective admission programs add or deduct points for exercising the ACO. This program does not. Students and advisors should, however, be aware of the overall consequences of exercising the ACO. The policy is outlined under the Academic Regulations section of the current DACC catalog.

6. What kind of a salary do graduates earn?  
   According to the SDMS Salary and Benefits Report (2005) the median salary for sonographers was $62,000.

7. What kinds of grades are needed in order to graduate?  
   No more than one final grade of C is allowed in any course. This rule does not apply to courses listed under Technical Requirements.

8. Are there any special exams that may be taken upon completion of the program?  
   National Registry Examination by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and/or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)-Sonography Credential
9  Does having a felony/misdemeanor prevent students from applying?
   Potentially closed to those with a criminal record. Students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program are required to complete and pass a variety of background/screening measures that include a security background check, FBI fingerprinting and/or drug screening, in order to participate in the clinical education portion of the program. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the program and gaining employment in the field.

10  Is there an application deadline?
   April 1

11  How many students apply? How many are admitted?
   Average number of students applying  25
   Admitted:  10

12  What is the average GPA of students accepted?
   3.7 Overall Average GPA
   2014 Cohort Range:  3.28 - 3.92 GPA

13  Is the program accredited?
   The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

14  Are there additional program costs?
   See tuition costs in current DACC schedule.
   Books and Supplies:
   Used:  $1,108  New:  $1,538

15  Are there any special proficiencies students need to have?
   None specified

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