

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Frequently Asked Questions

Pro Tip: Use the Ctrl F function to search for key terms in this document. If you are using an apple product, search using the Cmd F function.

Start by asking yourself with this question: Do you wish to complete your clinical hours in the Greater Treasure Valley area (Elmore - Fruitland/Ontario)?

If the answer is yes to the above question, use the On Campus DMS Program FAQs as your redguide

If the answer is no to the above question, use the Online DMS Program FAQs as your guide

If your question is not listed under either category, refer to the General DMS program questions, then reach out to your academic advisor.

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[The Department of Radiologic Sciences does offer a few scholarships annually to students participating in a medical imaging program. Students must meet the FAFSA filing requirements to be considered for need-based scholarships.](#)

[Information about additional financial aid offered through Boise State may be reviewed on the Financial Aid Department's webpage at: <https://financialaid.boisestate.edu/>](#)

[What is the employment rate for Boise State Sonography Program graduates?](#)

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Can I get general/summary information about your imaging programs?

Thank you for your interest in the Boise State Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. We are undergoing some significant changes with our programs at this time and are working to get our website up to date to reflect all of these changes. This email will have loads of information for you that may not be found on the website at this time. We will be running 4 programs starting this Fall, all of which are accredited by CAAHEP/JRC-DMS.

1. A hybrid style on campus, direct entry pathway (no clinical experience required)
 - o Students will be able to complete this program in 2 years time and need to meet the course prerequisites outlined here (please ignore the first bullet requiring clinical experience): <https://www.boisestate.edu/>
 - o Students must apply and be accepted into this program. Application information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/advanced-imaging-application-instructions/>
 - o Josette Bell-Bossard is our Pre-Radiologic Sciences Advisor and will be a good resource for you if you choose to go with option 1 or option 2. Josette can be reached at (208) 426-2820 or josettebossard@boisestate.edu, or you can make an appointment to meet with them at josettebell-bossard.youcanbook.me/.
2. An online, direct entry pathway program. This option will allow students to locate their clinical sites "local" to them, anywhere in the United States that can meet the necessary criteria and complete their didactic education entirely online. Please review this [frequently asked clinical questions](#) sheet to find the answer to your questions surrounding securing your own clinical site. Local students may be able to participate in on campus labs and will be considered for local clinical placement, only if availability permits. On campus students will be given priority for local clinical placement.

- o Students will be able to complete this program in 2 years time in addition to one year of requisite coursework on top of additional courses required to meet the bachelors degree requirements (120 credits) - usually an additional 2 years.
 - o For further information on the online program options peruse this website:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/>
 - o Students must apply and be accepted to this program. Application information can be found here:
<https://admissions.boisestate.edu/register/ami-program-application>.
 - o Becky Clawson is the advisor for the Online Medical Imaging program. She can be reached at beckyclawson@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-5920.
3. A hybrid style on campus advanced placement certificate &/or bachelor degree program, requiring candidates to have earned, or be in the final semester of earning, an associate or bachelor degree in a clinically-based health care field, graduating from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. i.e., Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing, Paramedic, Surgical Technologist, Medical Assistant, and Medical Physician. Additionally, the appropriate national or state certification/ license must have been earned prior to entering the DMS program and be held in good standing throughout the program. Please be aware that we give preference to Radiographers in the selection process. Boise State offers bachelor degree programs in Radiography, Respiratory Care and Nursing. Of course, this education does not need to be completed at BSU, but it must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university in order for credits to be transferred into BSU.
- o Students can complete this program in one year and need to meet these additional prerequisites:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/prerequisites/>
 - o Current costs for this program can be found here:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/files/2014/05/Cost-Sheet-DMS-Prog20-21.xls.pdf>.
 - o Students must apply and be accepted into this program. Application information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/advanced-imaging-application-instructions/>
 - o Josette Bell-Bossard is our Pre-Radiologic Sciences Advisor and will be a good resource for you if you choose to go with option 1 or option 2. Josette can be reached at (208) 426-2820 or josettebossard@boisestate.edu, or you can make an appointment to meet with them at josettebell-bossard.youcanbook.me/.
4. An online advanced placement program that has the same clinical requirement described above but does not require students to have completed the other prerequisites. This option will allow students to locate their clinical sites "local" to them, anywhere in the United States that can meet the necessary criteria and complete their didactic education entirely online. Please review this [frequently asked clinical questions](#) sheet to find the answer to your questions surrounding securing your own clinical site.
- o Students will be able to complete this program in 1 years time such that their previous educational credits can be used to meet the bachelors degree requirements (120 credits).
 - o For further information on the online program options peruse this website:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/>
 - o Students must apply and be accepted to this program. Application information can be found here:
<https://admissions.boisestate.edu/register/ami-program-application>.
 - o Becky Clawson is the advisor for the Online Medical Imaging program. She can be reached at beckyclawson@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-5920.

Regardless of a student's choice to complete on campus or online didactic education, students who wish to complete their clinical hours locally (the Treasure Valley area) will be required to apply and be evaluated against on campus students. These slots are highly coveted and only 8 students can be offered local clinical placement each year. That being said, students can seek out their own clinical sites, outside of the Treasure Valley area that are not currently in use by the Boise State Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. Assuming this outside facility can meet a specific set of criteria, students can complete their clinical hours at these outside facilities of their choosing.

We also offer Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) Programs. For more information regarding these programs, contact Monica Breedlove: monicabreedlove@boisestate.edu/(208) 426-1328.

We also offer Interventional Radiology (IR) & Interventional Cardiology (IC) Programs. For more information regarding these programs, contact Natalie Maurant: nataliemaurant@boisestate.edu/208-426-1913

If you are interested in investigating our Radiography Program you will find their webpage link at the Programs link above. This program can currently accept 32 students per year and is only offered on campus at this time. If you still seek clarification regarding the Radiologic Sciences program, reach out to Catherine Masters: (208) 426-3285/catherinemasters@boisestate.edu or Travis Armstrong: (208) 426-2503/TravisArmstrong@boisestate.edu.

All transcripts from outside institutions must be evaluated by the registrar's office:
<https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/contact-us/>

After you have read through the above information, please review this informational sheet with [frequently asked programmatic questions](#) (this resource is different from the FAQ provided for distance clinical placement included above). Then you may reach out via email with any additional questions. The best person to talk to at this time is the advisor for the program you wish to participate in, that is listed above.

On Campus DMS Program

Do I have to apply to this program?

Yes.

First you must apply and be accepted to Boise State University. More information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/admissions/apply/>

Then you must apply to the Radiologic Sciences Programs. As of 2023, there are only 8 students accepted to the DMS program each year. Students are encouraged to apply to more than just the DMS program and rather apply to the Radiologic Sciences, Magnetic Resonance and Interventional Cardiology programs if they are interest in working within these other specialty areas.

In the instance you are not selected for one of the highly coveted seats in any of these programs, students are encouraged to apply to the online Advanced Medical Imaging (AMI) programs and secure their own clinical placement outside of the Greater Treasure Valley area (Elmore - Fruitland/Ontario)

What can I do to boost my chances of gaining entry to the program/be a strong applicant?

The selection process is discussed on the Sonography Program Website at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/application-process/>

General tips for success:

- Obtain experience volunteering, shadowing, etc. in a sonography setting by spending time in a hospital, clinic, or on campus in the sonography lab and be sure to discuss these experiences in your application materials and during your interview, if offered

- Obtain experience working in healthcare (CNA, MA, Scribe, etc.) to garner foundational skills and an understanding of what it means to be a healthcare professional and serve patients
- Radiographers are given preference in the selection process
- Ensure you understand and are willing to comply with the SDMS Code of Ethics for Sonographers found: <https://www.sdms.org/about/who-we-are/code-of-ethics>
- Be familiar with the material that can be found on our department website
- Keep your GPA above a 3.5
- Complete all prerequisite coursework and ensure you are on track to meet outstanding [University Foundational Graduation Requirements](#) and/or, if you are a transfer student/have completed an associates level of education, that you have been deemed [Core Certified](#)
- When writing your statement of purpose, please indicate your interest in and reasons for selecting DMS as a field of study. Please include your professional interests, plans or goals after certification. Discuss your research into the profession as well as your personal strengths that would make you the best candidate for program selection.

What are the course prerequisites for this on campus program?

Please review the information found at this website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/prerequisites/>

Note - If you already hold a clinically based associates or bachelors Degree, review this website. Many of the listed courses will likely not be required of you:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/transfers/transfer-credit-basics/>. Formal degree plans must be built by an advisor and all transcripts must be reviewed by the [registrar's office](#).

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the on campus sonography program?

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/curriculum/>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a certificate from the on campus sonography program?

Reminder, only ARRT certified personnel are eligible for this option. It is rare we graduate students with a certificate and achieving the bachelor's degree is usually only a few credits difference.

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/certificate-of-completion/>

What if I don't have my on campus prerequisite classes completed by March 1st?

You will be applying during the spring semester and may be currently enrolled in the last of your coursework at that time. Students are allowed to complete prerequisite coursework in the summer, but they do receive point deductions in the selection process for not having all prerequisite courses complete by the end of the spring semester. Courses taken over the summer must be completed with a minimum of C letter-grade while maintaining at least your current prerequisite GPA.

What does the on campus program cost?

An estimate of the cost to attend the On Campus DMS program is available at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/cost-of-attendance-diagnostic-medical-sonography/>

How do on campus program graduates perform on national certification tests?

DMS program graduates are qualified to write the Sonography registry exam offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (<https://www.arrt.org>) and the SPI, Abdomen, and Obstetric & Gynecology exams offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (<https://www.ardms.org>).

Current information about Sonography Program graduate pass-rates on national certification examinations is available on our website under the "Program Outcomes" link.

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/sonography/>

Is the Boise State On Campus DMS Program accredited?

Both of our programs (online and on campus) are fully accredited.

The Boise State University DMS Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in DMS (JRC-DMS)

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158
Clearwater, FL 33763
Phone: 727-210-2350
Fax: 727-210-2354

JRC-DMS
6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Boise State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 558-4224
www.nwccu.org

Who should I contact with further questions for the on campus program?

Josette Bell-Bossard is our Pre-Radiologic Sciences Advisor. Josette can be reached at (208) 426-2820 or josettebossard@boisestate.edu, or you can make an appointment to meet with them at josettebell-bossard.youcanbook.me/.

Online DMS Program Questions

Do I have to apply to this online program?

Yes.

First you must apply and be accepted to Boise State University. More information can be found here: <https://www.boisestate.edu/online/why-boise-state-online/>

Then you will apply to the Advanced Medical Imaging Programs. You will submit your application, resume, transcripts, and paperwork documenting any associated healthcare credentials you may hold. More information can be found here:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/admissions/#step-1-apply-to-boise-state-university>

What are the course prerequisites for this online program?

Technically, there are no prerequisite courses for this program however each course within the degree plan does have unique prerequisite requirements. This ensures you take your course work in a logical progression but ensures we do not limit your ability to get started right away.

What does the online program cost?

An estimate of the cost to attend online programs offered at Boise State University are available at the following website: <https://www.boisestate.edu/online/cost/>

Costs specific to your time in the advanced medical imaging program can be estimated using the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/files/2014/05/Cost-Sheet-DMS-Prog20-21.xls.pdf>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the online sonography program?

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/advanced-medical-imaging/degree-plan/>

What are all of the courses I will take to graduate with a certificate from the online sonography program?

Reminder, only ARRT certified personnel are eligible for this option. It is rare we graduate students with a certificate and achieving the bachelor's degree is usually only a few credits difference.

Review the detailed curriculum at the following website:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/online/diagnostic-medical-sonography-certificate/>

How do online program graduates perform on national certification tests?

The first class of graduates from the online program is scheduled for August 2025, so we currently (November 13, 2024) have no data on their success in credentialing examinations.

Is it difficult to obtain your own clinical site?

Sometimes! If you are already working in a healthcare facility and have clinical connections in your local area, this process may be easier for you. If you are new to healthcare, surrounded by local ultrasound programs, or located in a small city, this process may be more difficult for you. Once accepted to our programs we will provide you with tips for successfully obtaining a clinical site however ultimately, procuring clinical sites will be the responsibility of each student.

Students will need to find a facility that has adequate exposure to both Abdominal and Obstetric/Gynecologic (OB/GYN) studies. This may mean that students within the DMS program will need one hospital based facility and one dedicated female imaging center to supplement their OBGYN exam exposure. This determination will be made by the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator.

Review this resource as it contains answers to many [Frequently Asked Questions Pertaining to Distance Clinical Placement](#).

Is the Boise State Online DMS Program accredited?

Both of our programs (online and on campus) are fully accredited.

When you access the CAAHEP accredited program course site (<https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>), if you input the search criteria of "Accredited Distance Education" Program, Boise State will not populate on the list. This is a result of the way in which CAAHEP defines "Full Distance Education Delivery" which is as follows; "Method of delivery in which all didactic and laboratory instruction within a program is provided through distance education, meaning that the instructor and student are physically separated and using technology to interact. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous. This includes any instructor, regardless of whether they are a program instructor or a clinical instructor/technologist. If the student is performing the labs in-person with a clinical instructor, it is not considered distance education according to the definition."

Our simulated lab experience requires that students are performing their assignments under the guidance of a clinical instructor or other credentialed, working technologist within their clinical facility, using technology in the labs located in their clinical facilities, local to them, meaning that our distance education program actually falls under the accreditation of our on campus program. The CAAHEP Distance Education Task Force has been reviewing the policy related to how CAAHEP is categorizing programs as distance on the CAAHEP website listing and will be revisiting it again in the near future, however, for now, this is how Boise State's DMS Online Program has earned its accreditation status.

The Boise State University DMS Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in DMS (JRC-DMS)

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
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Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100

Redmond, WA 98052

(425) 558-4224

www.nwccu.org

Who should I contact with further questions about this online program?

Becky Clawson is the advisor for the Online Medical Imaging program. She can be reached at beckyclawson@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-5920.

General DMS Program Questions

What specialties are taught at Boise State University?

Abdominal, Obstetric & Gynecologic. There will be discussion surrounding Musculoskeletal, Breast, & Vascular Sonography however students would need to complete additional clinical time and structure education to be eligible for these certification examinations.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone!

How long is the DMS Program?

It depends on your background. Almost all of our students choose the bachelor's degree pathway, completing 120 credits, which usually takes 4 years to complete. The first 2-3 years of this pathway are spent completing general education, prerequisite and entry level healthcare course work.

Are you not a credentialed healthcare provider?

You are eligible for the primary bachelors degree program route. You will take two years (Year 1 - Fall, Spring, Year 2 - Fall, Spring, Summer) of dedicated healthcare and medical imaging coursework.

Are you a credentialed healthcare provider? (see more on this question below)

You are eligible for the post primary bachelor's degree program route. Likely, this will take 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, & Summer) to accomplish.

Was that credential awarded by the ARRT or ARDMS?

You are eligible for the certificate route. This will take 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, & Summer) to accomplish.

What does it mean to be a credentialed healthcare provider?

Credentialed, clinically-based health care providers graduate from regionally accredited institutions of higher education and hold a minimum of an AAS/AS degree. These programs are at least 2 years in length (24 full time consecutive calendar months) and are patient care related. Applicants must hold an active registration and/or be licensed in good standing with the appropriate state and/or national agency. Examples of this type of education include: Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing, etc. Please recognize that preference will be given to radiographers in the selection process.

Applicants may be completing the final semester of their direct patient care education at the time of application.

Acceptance into the Program will be contingent upon successfully passing the appropriate national examination by August 1 of the year accepted.

I have a degree in [x], can I bypass the clinical prerequisite and complete the program more quickly as a result?

No. This clinical requirement comes straight from our national accrediting body. Students must have proved their competency via credentialing in areas such as: insertion of a urinary catheter, starting an I.V., providing stoma care, giving an enema, setting a sterile tray, performing a procedural timeout, etc. Credentialed means you have sat or will sit for an exam proctored at a state or national level to prove your competency in your respective clinical field.

Example AAS/AS/BS degrees can that fall into this category can be in the following fields: Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing, Medical Assistant, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Surgical Technologist, Dental Hygienist, Optometrist Technician, etc.

Students holding a credential of lower levels of clinically based education such as CNA, LPN, EMT, ER Tech, or Army Medic will be considered on a one on one basis based on otherwise held prior work and educational experience. Students may be asked to apply to the program before being fully considered.

Unfortunately, bachelors degrees in Health Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Social Work, or Psychology do not meet this requirement, however you have likely taken many of the necessary courses that are necessary to earn this degree, thanks to this experience.

Does Boise State offer clinically-based health care provider programs that meet the Sonography Program prerequisite?

Boise State offers bachelor of science degrees in Diagnostic Radiography, Respiratory Care and Nursing that meet the “clinically-based health care provider” prerequisite for the sonography program. Note that radiographers are given preference in the sonography program selection process.

Further information about these programs is available online at:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/healthsciences/programs/>

How will my course work from another college transfer to BSU?

All transcripts must be received and evaluated by the registrar's office.

BSU has a transfer guide on-line that may be helpful to find a transfer equivalent class. The web address is: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar/transfers/> If the transfer equivalency guide doesn't provide you with an acceptable course you may call the registrar's office to speak with a transcript evaluator at: 208-426-4249. You should look at similar classes in your current school's catalog & find a couple of potential candidates for transfer. Do not expect the transcript evaluator to search your school's catalog for an equivalent class for you. BSU course descriptions are available in the current undergraduate catalog at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/registrar-catalog/>

Is financial aid available?

The Department of Radiologic Sciences does offer a few scholarships annually to students participating in a medical imaging program. Students must meet the FAFSA filing requirements to be considered for need-based scholarships.

Information about additional financial aid offered through Boise State may be reviewed on the Financial Aid Department's webpage at: <https://financialaid.boisestate.edu/>

What is the employment rate for Boise State Sonography Program graduates?

Current information about Sonography Program graduate employment is available on our website under the "Program Outcomes" link. <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsscience/sonography/>

What is the employment outlook for Sonographers?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides information about potential employment outlook in their Occupational Outlook Handbook available online at: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm>

Is this a physically challenging career field?

Yes! Working in Medical Imaging requires you to be able to respond to your patients in the case of an emergency. As such, our students need to meet the following Technical Standards in accordance with our clinical affiliation agreements: <https://www.boisestate.edu/radiologicsciences/technical-standards-3/>

Is it challenging to be a biological Male and work in the OB/GYN specialty?

We asked a biologic male student and technologist to answer this for us. See the results of their questionnaire here: [The Male Experience as an US Tech/Student in an OB/GYN Specialty](#)

Are you able to work while enrolled in this program?

Full time work is not possible while enrolled in this program. In the final year of the program (as Seniors), didactic study is scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with asynchronous and synchronous online or on campus opportunities slated for these days. This portion of the program is extremely challenging, fast paced, and employs a flipped classroom/hybrid experience in which students complete a large portion of their degree in an online/recorded format. Students are expected to dedicate approximately 19 hours per week to each course they are enrolled in, in order to be successful, with 2-3 classes being taken at one time. In your final year of the program, in the Fall and Spring semesters students will spend 8 hours per day, on Monday, Wednesday & Friday in the clinical sites. In the Summer semester, of your final year of the program, you will be in clinic for 40 hours per week. These may be scheduled as 5 8-hour days or 4 10-hour days based however this depends on where you are placed clinically (rotations are announced before the start of each semester) and preference cannot be guaranteed to students. In total, students are dedicating approximately 80 hours per week to successfully completing this program, thus, as you can imagine, it is extremely difficult to work, even part time.