



**SONOGRAPHY  
PROGRAMS  
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

2011-2013



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# Introduction

The Austin Community College Sonography Student Handbook has been compiled by the faculty to provide information pertinent to students enrolled in all the Sonography Programs offered at ACC. The faculty and staff wish you success in the pursuit of your educational goals.

The Sonography Student Handbook provides detailed procedures and policies specific to all of the Sonography Programs offered by ACC. This handbook is used as a supplement to the Austin Community College Student Handbook and serves to bridge the overriding policies of the College with the policies specific to this program. The information, policies and procedures set forth in this handbook are designed to support the success of the student and are provided to the Sonography student during the Sonography Programs Orientation session.

A copy of the Austin Community College Student Handbook is available at each campus's administrative offices or may be downloaded from the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/>. Continuing Sonography students will receive an updated or revised copy of the Sonography Student Handbook at the start of the Academic year (fall semester).

The Sonography Program is just one of the programs within the Division of Health Sciences. The Health Science Division is comprised of the following programs: Associate Degree Nursing, Licensed Vocational Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Radiologic Technology, Emergency Medical Services, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Medical Coding, Medical Laboratory Technology, Surgical Technology, Pharmacy Technician, and Sonography. The Division of Health Sciences is committed to providing quality educational programs for the purpose of developing successful health care professionals. Developing caring, competent health care professionals prepared for diverse contemporary practice requires interactions with patients and patient services, thereby resulting in an educational environment with unique characteristics and requirements.

The Health Sciences programs prohibit discrimination. Access to its programs or activities shall not be limited on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.



# I. Austin Community College Information

The Austin Community College District was established in 1973 by voters in the Austin Independent School District. What began as a single campus offering 30 career and transfer programs has since grown into an eight-campus regional college that provides vital instruction and training to a service area that stretches across 7,000 square miles and eight counties. Today the college enrolls more than 44,000 credit students—along with an additional 15,000 noncredit students each year.

## **Vision | Values | Mission**

### **Vision Statement**

The Austin Community College District will be recognized as the preferred gateway to higher education and training and as the catalyst for social equity, economic development, and personal enrichment.

### **Value Statements**

These are the core values that guide the Austin Community College District's internal and external interactions with each other and our community:

- **C** - Communication: ACC values open, responsible exchange of ideas.
- **A** - Access: ACC values an open door to educational potential.
- **R** - Responsiveness: ACC values targeted actions to address Service Area and internal needs within available resources.
- **E** - Excellence: ACC values commitment to integrity and exemplary standards.
- **S** - Stewardship: ACC values personal and professional ownership that generates accountability.

### **Mission Statement**

The ACC District promotes student success and improves communities by providing affordable access to higher education and workforce training in its eight-county service area. *To fulfill its mission, the college will provide, within its available resources, the mission elements prescribed by the State of Texas:*

- Vocational and technical programs of varying lengths leading to certificates or degrees.
- Freshman- and sophomore-level academic courses leading to an associate degree or serving as the base of a baccalaureate degree program at a four-year institution.
- Continuing adult education for academic, occupational, professional, and cultural enhancement.
- Special instructional programs and tutorial service to assist underprepared students and others who wish special assistance to achieve their educational goals.
- A continuing program of counseling and advising designed to assist students in achieving their individual educational and occupational goals.
- A program of technology, library, media, and testing services to support instruction.
- Contracted instructional programs and services for area employers that promote economic development.

## **ACC Student Services**

Austin Community College provides many student services which include Advising and Counseling, Admissions and Records, Childcare Services, Computer Facilities, Cultural Centers, Financial Aid, Library Services and Media Center, Student Life, and Students with Disabilities. For a detailed list of services provided by ACC Student Services, visit: <http://www.austincc.edu/support/index.php>.

## **Counseling Services**

Full-time professional counselors are on staff at all ACC campuses to provide confidential assistance to students by appointment and on a walk-in basis.

The counselors assist with the most frequently expressed student concerns:

**Academic:** selecting courses, degree planning, and information on transferring ACC credits to other schools

**Career:** job-search strategies, career exploration, skills identification, resume writing, job interviewing, goal setting, and vocational assessment

**Personal:** personal adjustment, time management, relationships, and communication, trust building, and stress management

Counselors also provide an assessment program. Vocational interest inventories identify areas of interest in the work field. Aptitude tests assess skills and abilities. Personality tests clarify areas in personal functioning. Students may check with one of the counselors to set a time for testing, assessment, and interpretation.

To see a Health Sciences Counselor, call 223-5180 (EVC) or 223-0235 (RRC), or Student Services 223-5188 (EVC) or 223-0009 (RRC), or any other Counseling Center at any campus for an appointment or check with the Student Services Office at any campus for walk-in times (<http://www.austincc.edu/support/index.php>). The EVC Health Sciences Counselor is housed in Building 9000 and the RRC Health Sciences Counselor is housed in Building 3000; both are readily accessible to all Health Science students. A student may seek assistance from the HS Counselor or the student may be referred to the HS Counselor if his/her performance in any Sonography or co-requisite course is not meeting stated criteria. If a Counselor cannot provide the information or assistance you need, he/she will be able to provide you with information on services available outside of ACC.

## **Students with Disabilities**

"Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes". Please see [www.austincc.edu/support/osd/index.php](http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/index.php) for more information and instructions. Refer to the Sonography brochure, Sonography website, and Sonography Student Handbook for Technical Standards and Essential Functions for Sonography.

## **Student Financial Aid**

Austin Community College provides financial aid to assist students; the financial aid program includes scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment.

The College expects students to make a maximum effort to assist themselves and provide a portion of their college expenses. Students should view financial aid only as a supplement to their financial resources.

Students must reapply each year for financial aid and mail applications by the suggested dates (see current ACC Student Handbook). Students who plan to attend both fall and spring need apply only once for that academic year. If an application is late, the College awards funds only if funds are available. Please contact any ACC Financial Aid Office for application deadline dates.

### **Library Facilities**

The Libraries at the Eastview and Round Rock Campuses support the Health Sciences programs located at each respective campus. The libraries are staffed to provide library, media, and computer center services for students and faculty.

The Libraries maintain general college-level materials in addition to a health sciences collection which covers the fields of medicine, nursing, allied health, hospitals, public health, and biological, behavioral and physical sciences, with an inventory of approximately 26,000 volumes, 400 current journal subscriptions and appropriate journal index services. (Of these, approximately 8,000 monographs, 200 current journal subscriptions, 4 journal title index services, and 1,200 audiovisual and computer software titles are health-science related.) Material is classified and catalogued according to both the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine systems as appropriate.

### **Materials Selection and Withdrawal**

Library material is selected from patron request, published core collection, review, advertisements, publishers' catalogs and announcements. Ongoing faculty input is solicited to maintain a dynamic, responsive collection. In selection, among the factors considered will be: relevancy to the stated educational objectives of each curriculum of Austin Community College; patient education, timeless and current value; updating, such as adding the latest education of an established work and available financial support.

### **Services of Library**

The Library provides all traditional library services to the students, faculty and staff. Individual study and viewing areas provide a quiet, comfortable atmosphere.

Resource Service is available during all open hours. In addition to open access indexes on CD-ROM, online computerized searches may be run for faculty and students if necessary. ACC subscribes to all DIALOG, BRS, and NLM databases.

The Library Media Center is equipped with videocassette players, filmstrip and slide viewers and audiocassette players in individual carrels. Library Instructional Technology and Instructional Development personnel assist instructors in preparing classroom materials and presentations.

The Library Computer Center provides computers and instructional and productivity software for students, faculty, and staff, along with personnel to assist in the use of these

resources. A faculty Productivity Center is available to the faculty during all hours of operation. Internet access is available in the library and the computer center.

Access to all materials owned by ACC is available via the library automation system. The Library provides terminals throughout the facility upon which the Public Access Catalog may be searched. Periodic listings of new acquisitions are sent to each faculty member.

Books, articles, and audio-visual materials may be placed on reserve in the library by instructors to be used as references or for special assignments. Students may also use any other library at other campuses for checking our materials. Books may be returned to any ACC library, regardless of which campus they are checked out.

For more information about ACC Library Services, please go to:  
<http://library.austincc.edu/gen-info/Services/svc-prog.php>.

## II. Sonography Programs Information

### **Mission Statement**

In keeping with the mission of Austin Community College [www.austincc.edu/cataloghtml/about.php](http://www.austincc.edu/cataloghtml/about.php), the Sonography Programs are committed to providing students with a well-rounded education in the General Learning (Abdominal and Ob/Gyn) or Adult Echocardiography Concentration with optional Vascular Technology Concentration. The Sonography Programs include instruction in sonographic practices and principles and basic to advanced medical imaging skills intended to prepare the student for employment in the field of diagnostic medical ultrasound. The Sonography faculty is committed to assisting the student toward the greatest academic, personal, and professional potential through quality instruction and rigorous coursework.

### **Description**

The Sonography Programs are offered as an Associate of Applied Science Degree (Diagnostic Medical Sonography or Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography) with the Enhanced Skills Certificate – Vascular Technology as an option for current DCS and DMS students. The length of the AAS degree plan programs is 5 semesters excluding the pre-requisite courses. The ESC-VT requires courses to be done concurrently in the fourth and fifth semesters of the AAS degree plan and an additional two courses required in the spring semester following completion of the AAS degree plan. The Sonography Programs are designed to prepare entry-level sonographers for employment in Imaging Departments, Radiology, Cardiology and/or Vascular offices and specialty practices. The Programs utilize state of Texas and nationally published course manuals, standards, and outcomes in the development of sonography courses in the curricula. These reference materials are listed in section V. Sonography Programs Student Resources of this document.

### **Program Accreditation**

The DMS, DCS and ESC-VT programs are accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (1361 Park St. Clearwater, FL 33756; 727.210.2350; [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500 Ellicott City, MD 21043; 443-973-3251; [www.jrcdms.org](http://www.jrcdms.org)).

Accreditation is achieved when a program is designed and conforms to the Standards and Guidelines of an Accredited Program in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The Joint Review Committee on Education has established the Program Standards in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Students are encouraged to review this document, which is available upon request from the Department Chair or at [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org).

Students who successfully complete either the DMS or DCS Program may apply to write the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) certification examinations in Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) during the third semester of their AAS degree plan program. Student will then be able to apply to take the ARDMS exams in their applicable specialty area upon completion of their AAS

Degree Plan DMS or DCS program. Successful completion of the ARDMS exams is required to earn either the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) or Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCCS) credential. Students completing the ESC-VT Program and who earn the RDMS or RDCCS credential prior to successfully completing the ESC-VT Program will be able to apply to take the ARDMS Vascular Technology exams under the ARDMS re-applicant status.

### **Goals**

The goals of the ACC Sonography Programs respond to the expectations of the communities of interest served by the Programs: students, graduates, faculty, employers (institutions and physicians), patients, Austin Community College, and the profession of Sonography. Achievement of these goals is assessed through annual Program outcome data (graduate and employer surveys, ARDMS exam pass rates, and employment rates) which is reviewed relative to the THECB Guidelines for Programs in Workforce Education, the ACC Instructional Program Review and annual Unit Level Effectiveness Assessment Documentation (U-LEAD), and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) Annual Report. The Sonography faculty and Advisory Committees review outcome reports annually and make recommendations for changes to the curricula if outcomes do not meet benchmark levels. On-going assessment of course content and structure is performed by the Sonography faculty through the use of end-of-course evaluations and ACC faculty evaluations. Specific goals include:

1. Maintenance of high academic and professional standards in students and graduates.
2. Meet or exceed CAAHEP Standards for program accreditation.
3. Provide for student retention during the program using a variety of methods and resources.
4. Serve as a resource for the clinical agencies in the Austin area.

### **Discipline Objectives**

At the conclusion of the student's selected course of study, he or she will be

- Prepared as a competent entry-level general or cardiac sonographer, and vascular technologist (as applicable) in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.
- A skilled medical sonographer who actively applies acceptable principles and techniques within the fields of Diagnostic Medical or Cardiac Sonography and Vascular Technology throughout his or her career.
- Eligible to apply, take and pass the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography specialty certification exams immediately upon graduation.

### **SCANS Competencies**

In 1991, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor established the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS). The Commission found that, "Current and future employees will have to read well enough to understand and interpret diagrams, directories, correspondence, manuals, records, charts, graphs, tables, and specifications."

Integration of the SCANS competencies in both academic and vocational/technical classes will help to prepare students to function more effectively in high school, in college, and in the high-level technological workplace. The know-how identified by SCANS is made up of five competencies and a three-part foundation of skills and personal qualities that are needed for solid academic or job performance. SCANS competencies and examples applicable to the Sonography Programs are shown in the following table:

<b>SCANS</b>	<b>Competencies</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>1.0 Resources</b>	1.1 Manages Time	Completes all assignments within specified time frame; maintains appropriate attendance in all courses.
	1.4 Manages Material and Facility Resources	Uses appropriate amounts of supplies in performing sonographic studies.
<b>2.0 Interpersonal</b>	2.1 Participates as a Member of a Team	Participates with the on-site clinical instructor and other members of the health care team to provide optimum patient care.
	2.2 Teaches Others	Provides pre- and post-procedure instructions to patient, explains procedure process to patient, participates in peer-teaching
	2.3 Serves Clients/Customers	The sonography student communicates appropriately and effectively at all times with patients, families, staff, sonographers and physicians in the clinical setting.
	2.6 Works with Cultural Diversity	
<b>3.0 Information</b>	3.1 Acquires and Evaluates Information	Correlates patient history, laboratory data, related studies and surgical procedures to the performance of the ultrasound exam; recognizes incorrect exam orders and alerts staff sonographer.
	3.2 Organizes and Maintains Information	Produce a written technical report of sonographic findings, appearances and/or measurements as required.
<b>4.0 Systems</b>	4.1 Understands Systems	Applies technical settings using ultrasound machine controls to produce diagnostic quality images.
	4.2 Monitors and Corrects performance	Self-critiques images and views; adjusts imaging parameters as needed to produce diagnostic quality exams.
<b>5.0 Technology</b>	5.1 Selects Technology	Selects appropriate transducer and software settings for required sonographic exam.
	5.2 Applies Technology to Talk	Uses appropriate technical and medical terms.
	5.3 Maintains/Troubleshoots Technology	Assess ultrasound unit performance and compensates for technical difficulties during procedure.
<b>6.0 Basic Skills</b>	6.1 Reading	Completes writing assignments and Internet searches of assigned topics.
	6.2 Writing	
	6.4 Mathematics	Able to perform calculations required in ultrasound physics and specialty courses.
	6.5 Listening	Able to interview patient to obtain information and history as related to the sonographic examination.

	6.6 Speaking	Able to provide verbal reports on sonographic findings using clear and concise English language.
<b>7.0 Thinking Skills</b>	7.2 Decision Making 7.3 Problem Solving 7.4 Mental Visualization 7.5 Knowing How to Learn 7.6 Reasoning	Correlates patient information and patient condition with the requirements for the diagnostic ultrasound exam; adjusts scanning techniques as needed.  Correctly identify pathological conditions demonstrated on sonographic images and adapts exam as needed.  Creates a study plan and seeks assistance with educational goals as needed.  Decide which formulas to apply given various parameters.
<b>8 Personal Qualities</b>	8.1 Responsibility 8.2 Self-esteem 8.3 Sociability 8.4 Self-Management 8.5 Integrity/Honesty	Manage personal time and activities as not to interfere with lecture or lab class sessions, assignments or activities.  Identifies and acknowledges scanning strengths and weaknesses.  Displays enthusiasm for profession; displays a pleasant demeanor in all settings.  Maintains confidentiality of personal and clinical information.  Complies with all ACC, Program and Clinical Affiliate policies, procedures and rules.

### **Application and Admission**

Health Sciences admission requirements vary according to program and may include specific testing, prerequisites, immunizations, criminal background check, and screening (including, but not limited to substance abuse screening). Students seeking information for any Health Sciences program should contact the Health Sciences Information and Admissions Office, Eastview Campus, Building 8000, Room 8356; phone (512) 223.5700.

Interested individuals can obtain general and specific information about ACC Health Sciences and the Sonography Programs from the website ([www.austincc.edu/health](http://www.austincc.edu/health)). Additional detailed information is provided in the online Sonography Information session. Application for admission to Austin Community College is a separate process which must be completed prior to applying to a Sonography Program. Please see the ACC website ([www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu)) for the ACC Admission Process.

The number of students accepted into a Sonography Program each year is determined by the number of appropriate clinical sites (sites that meet CAAHEP programmatic accreditation Standards) available for clinical placements throughout the length of the program. Applicants are ranked based on the Total Points score generated on the

Applicant Ranking Worksheet. The number of students accepted may vary from year to year.

- Graduates of the AAS Degree Plan DCS or DMS Programs are not permitted to re-apply for acceptance into the Program which was previously completed. ACC will not award another AAS degree for a repeated Program. The graduate may apply for admission to the other AAS degree plan program. For example, a DCS Program graduate may apply for admission to the DMS Program, but not repeat the DCS Program; a DMS graduate may apply for admission to the DCS Program, but not repeat the DMS Program.

### **Enhanced Skills Certificate – Vascular Technology**

➤ Admission criteria and procedures:

1. Current DMS and DCS students are eligible to submit a letter of interest for the ESC-VT program, due by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
  - a. Graduates of a CAAHEP accredited AAS degree plan cardiac or medical Sonography Program may also apply by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
    - i. Graduate applicants must hold a credential from the ARDMS, CCI, or ARRT (RT-S).
    - ii. Non-ACC graduate applicants must submit an official transcript with the letter of interest
2. The applicant's GPA from all completed Sonography courses will be calculated and must meet a minimum of 2.5 to be ranked in the pool for the ESC-VT Program. Ranking points (GPA X 10) will be assigned to each applicant.
  - a. ACC graduate applicants who applied previously to the ESC-VT and were not accepted will receive 2 points for re-applying.
3. An offer of acceptance will be made to the top ranked applicants. The total number of seats available is directly related to the number of available appropriate clinical sites, therefore enrollment numbers may vary from year to year.
4. The ESC-VT class is selected by May 1 each year; applicants are informed in writing of their acceptance or non-acceptance.
  - a. Classes to be taken include (summer) DSVT 1300, (fall) DSVT 2300, (spring) DSVT 2335 and clinical course (spring) DSVT 2463.
  - b. Accepted graduate applicants must submit the Health Data and Physical Form with current TB testing, a current Immunization form, a copy of his/her current CPR for Healthcare Provider card (American Heart Association), and successfully complete the Criminal Background Check.
  - c. Students must complete all Sonography courses with a minimum grade of 75% to progress to the next semester. A student who is unsuccessful in any Sonography course will be withdrawn from all Sonography Programs.

### **Advanced Placement / Course Challenge Exam Policy**

1. A qualified applicant/student (as outlined in #4 below) may request a challenge exam to receive credit for a Sonography didactic course(s). Sonography clinical courses may not be challenged for credit.
2. To qualify to request a challenge exam for a Sonography didactic course, the applicant/student must produce acceptable documentation (transcript, military

documents, or original letter from previous program director and/or instructor) of formal Sonography training to include one or more of the following:

- a. military service training
  - b. completion of or credit hours in Sonography courses obtained at a regionally accredited college or university OR from a CAAHEP accredited Sonography program;
  - c. foreign Sonography training programs recognized by ACC through its formal transcript evaluation process;
  - d. other class work, as evaluated by the Sonography program faculty prior to determination of eligibility;
  - e. documentation of previous training in a hospital-based Sonography program accredited by CAAHEP.
3. Any prerequisites for a course that the applicant/student is requesting to challenge for credit must be successfully completed prior to the applicant/student requesting the Sonography course challenge.
  4. The student must file a written request for a challenge examination. Forms may be obtained from the Sonography Department Chair and must be filed at least two weeks prior to the test date.
  5. To successfully complete the challenge, the student must pass an exam covering fundamental concepts and demonstrate all competencies required by the course. A minimum grade of 85% ("B") must be achieved in order for credit to be awarded.

#### **Transfer of Course Credit from Other Institutions**

Course work satisfactorily completed at another regionally accredited institution of higher education can be evaluated for transfer and may be applied toward completion of the prerequisite and co-requisite courses of a Sonography Program at Austin Community College. Transfer courses must be accepted by ACC, must be comparable to course content of ACC courses, and must be reviewed by the Sonography Department Chair.

Students may be required to perform a challenge exam to receive credit for Sonography coursework. The student currently enrolled in another Sonography Program must submit a letter of withdrawal in good standing from the previous Program Director along with all other documents required in the Application Process.

#### **Orientation**

Approximately one month prior to the start of the first Sonography semester, newly admitted students are required to attend the Sonography New Student Orientation. The Orientation includes a review of the ACC Student Handbook, the Sonography Student Handbook, registration information, an orientation to first semester courses, completion of the New Student Information and Self-Assessment Forms, as well as other information pertinent to the Program.

The students will deliver their completed Health Data and Physical Exam Form during the Orientation session. At the end of the session, the students will receive their letter of full acceptance into a Sonography Program.

The Student Information and Self-Assessment Form, Sonography Application Form, and transcripts will be reviewed and discussed with each new student during a Post-

Admission Advising session. This session will be scheduled during the first semester. The purpose of this session is to pro-actively identify issues that may affect student success, to provide advice, guidance and resource information, and to ensure that the student completes all required General Education courses of the degree plan in a timely fashion.

### **Curricula/Course Descriptions**

Please see the current ACC Catalog at [www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu). Catalogs are available for a fee from the College Bookstore. Any proposed changes to the Sonography curriculum and/or course descriptions will be posted on the Sonography website ([www.austincc.edu/health/sono](http://www.austincc.edu/health/sono)) at least 6 months prior to publication of the changes in the ACC College Catalog.

### **Costs Estimate**

#### **Tuition and Fees**

For information regarding the College tuition and fees for Sonography courses, please refer to a current ACC Course Schedule (in print or online at [www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu)) or call (512) 223-2274 (Cashier's Office) for assistance. Many Sonography courses (clinical and lecture/lab) carry additional fees for accident and liability insurance. Tuition and fees are subject to change by the College at any time.

Some clinical affiliates require students to submit for Pre-Placement Drug Testing at the student's expense.

#### **Textbooks, Supplies and Uniforms**

Textbook, supplies and/or additional course requirements are listed in each course syllabus. The Sonography textbooks are available in the EVC and RRC Bookstores approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the start of the semester. It is recommended that students retain possession of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and medical terminology texts used in previous courses. Students should also have English language and medical dictionaries for reference.

Students are required to purchase the appropriate clinical and lab attire as specified in Section IV., Required Clinical Attire. The program does not bulk order uniforms or other clinical attire for student purchase. Information on purchasing the required uniforms is provided to the student prior to the start of the first clinical semester.

#### **Computer Access / Email / Skills**

All students must be able to access the ACC online teaching platform, Blackboard, as all Sonography courses utilize Blackboard for instruction and dissemination of information. Certain Sonography courses may be designated as "hybrid" courses with 51% of the content to be completed online and 49% of the content delivered in the on campus setting. Other Sonography courses will be taught completely in an online format. Therefore, all students need access to a computer and, if using their home computer, have adequate internet connectivity speed for online information and assignments.

Students may utilize computers on any ACC campus to check their ACC email accounts and to access Blackboard. Blackboard and email accounts should be

checked frequently for assignments, announcements and/or messages. Students are responsible for obtaining instruction in the use of Blackboard; see course instructor and/or Health Sciences Lab Manager for assistance.

ACC students are assigned an ACC email address at the time of enrollment. All email communication between the Sonography Programs and the student will be conducted using ACC assigned student and faculty email addresses.

Sonography students are required to demonstrate a variety of computer skills throughout the length of the program. Students will access the Internet and perform Web searches, submit all writing assignments as Word documents, and utilize the College on-line teaching platform, Blackboard. Students may be required to develop charts and tables, Power Point presentations, etc. for specific courses (refer to course syllabus for assignments). In addition, Sonography clinical sites utilize computer systems for patient schedules and patient information. All Sonography students must be able to utilize any clinical site's data/patient management system as allowed by the clinical site.

A student who is unfamiliar with using a computer or who has limited computer skills should obtain instruction in computer programs and usage so that he/she will be able to meet the requirements of his/her courses.

### **Announcements**

Program announcements and information will be delivered via Blackboard with an automatic email message to the student generated from the Blackboard course site Announcement. ACC announcements and information are posted on the main ACC webpage and in cases of Emergency, such as weather emergencies, will be delivered via the ACC Emergency Messaging System. Sonography Program students should set their Blackboard course site Announcements to "View All" and should check their ACC email frequently to stay current on any Announcements and/or pertinent information.

### **Course and Exam Schedules**

DMS lecture courses are taught at Eastview Campus, DCS lecture courses are taught at the Round Rock Campus, and ESC-VT lecture courses may be taught at both campuses. Each semester specific course times and room assignments are announced in the ACC Course Schedule. The course instructor may assign alternate or additional laboratory sessions, if needed. Due to campus operating hours, schedules and/or student needs, either Sonography Lab may be utilized during the length of the program. Students will be apprised (Blackboard Announcement, email) of any special schedules for the Sonography Labs.

Assessment (quiz/exam) dates are set by the course instructor and are listed on the Course Calendar as part of the Course Syllabus; instructors may use unannounced graded/ungraded quizzes as an Instructional Method. Within any given course all course activities are scheduled at the discretion of the instructor for that course. Any revisions to the Course Calendar that occur during the semester will be provided to the student in print and will be posted on the Blackboard site for that course; a revision date will be included so that the most current Course Calendar is utilized.

Final Exam dates and times are developed by the Sonography Department Chair in conjunction with each individual course instructor. Final Exam dates and times are included in the course syllabus, and are non-negotiable. In the event of serious illness, injury or emergency that directly affects the student, the student must contact the course instructor prior to the start of the exam. If the Final Exam is missed, the student may be offered a set of options for completing the course. The Sonography Department Chair must approve any arrangement developed and offered to the student for completion of the course requirements.

### **Sonography Programs Grading Scale**

100% - 93% = A  
92% - 85% = B  
84% - 75% = C  
74% - 68% = D\*

\*A course grade of "C" or greater in all Sonography courses is required for progression in the program. Final course grades are rounded up or down to the whole number; example: 74.4 = 74%, 74.5 = 75%.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation from any Sonography Program requires successful completion of all prerequisite courses (by transfer credit, course challenge or course completion) and ALL Sonography courses. The Application for Graduation must be submitted to any ACC Admissions and Records Office by the deadline specified in the College Catalog for the applicable semester: AAS in the Fall semester; ESC-VT in the Spring semester.

### **Student Records**

The Program maintains records for current and recently graduated Sonography students in the Sonography Programs offices; graduate files are stored in the Office of the Dean of Health Science. Current student records are kept in the DCS Program Director's office at the Round Rock Campus and in the Sonography Department Chair's office at the Eastview Campus. The individual Program Clinical Coordinators maintain all current student clinical files for each clinical course. Sonography instructors maintain coursework and grade files for the students enrolled in the courses taught by that instructor. These documents are secured and may be reviewed by making arrangements with the Department Chair and/or individual instructor. Student course grades are maintained by the ACC Admissions and Records office and are available by requesting an official transcript or through Student Online Access. The Sonography Programs follow ACC Administrative Rule 3.03.014 Records Management Program Disposition of College Records for long-term storage of student records.

Many Sonography courses utilize Blackboard for posting grades so that the student is always aware of their grade standing in the course. A student may review his/her grades with the course instructor by appointment. A Student Progress Analysis (appraisal of grade standing) may be completed by an instructor at mid-semester or at any time deemed necessary by the course instructor.

## **Classrooms and Labs**

DMS lecture and lab courses are taught at the Eastview Campus and DCS lecture and lab courses are taught at the Round Rock Campus. ESC-VT courses may be taught at both campuses. Classrooms are assigned by the ACC system for classroom management. All Sonography classrooms and labs are equipped for multi-media presentations.

Sonography Lab resources include ultrasound scanning simulators for DCS, DMS and ESC-VT courses; state-of-the-art ultrasound units purchased in 2009 (4 in the EVC Sonography Lab and 3 in the RRC Sonography Lab); ergonomic workstations for each live scanning room; two state-of-the-art physiologic testing units; student use computers; software for General Sonography, Echocardiography and Vascular Technology (tutorials, testing); TV/VCR and TV/DVD; headphones; Laser Disc tutorials for OB and Vascular applications; case files; textbooks, anatomy/pathology models and posters. Sonography students have access to computer labs located at each ACC campus.

Students have access to the Sonography Labs throughout the length of a Program during assigned times, between on-campus classes, and during Open Lab sessions (if utilized) each semester. Sonography faculty must be present to provide supervision whenever students use the lab during non-assigned times.

## **Didactic Education**

The didactic education portions of the AAS Diagnostic Medical, Cardiac Sonography, and Enhanced Skills Certificate – Vascular Technology Programs consist of theory and principle courses; the sonography principles and instrumentation (physics) courses are central and common to all three Learning Concentrations. All Sonography courses are sequential and specific to the semesters listed in each Program curriculum.

The State of Texas mandated (THECB WECM) objectives for the Sonography didactic courses are included in the syllabus for each individual course; the ACC Sonography courses may include additional objectives for each course. All Sonography students are introduced to the vascular system within the AAS degree plans; the vascular system is addressed in-depth within the optional ESC-VT courses. A detailed study of sonography principles and instrumentation, including Doppler principles and instrumentation and hemodynamics, is an integral part of each AAS degree plan and the ESC-VT courses.

The Sonography Programs utilize the ACC on-line teaching platform, Blackboard, to provide significant course materials and support for all Sonography classroom-based and clinical courses. All didactic courses use a variety of Instructional Methods including all or some of the following: on-line research and/or presentations, homework assignments, and quizzes (announced and un-announced), case presentations, scenarios, lab assignments, exams, and writing assignments to assess the student's knowledge and problem-solving skills. The student is responsible for meeting all course requirements stated in the course syllabus by the deadlines listed in the syllabus or on the Blackboard site for the course.

### **DMSO 1191 Special Topics (Registry Preparation for ARDMS SPI Exam)**

DMSO 1191 Special Topics is required for graduation from the DCS or DMS AAS Degree Program, therefore all DCS and DMS students must register for this course. Although students are able to apply to take the ARDMS SPI exam after completing DMSO 1302 Basic Ultrasound Physics and DSAE 1318 Sonographic Instrumentation, students are encouraged to wait until participation in the DMSO 1191 Special Topics course before attempting the ARDMS SPI exam.

### **Clinical Education**

Clinical education is a crucial component of the program representing the majority of the contact hours within the ACC Sonography Programs. There are four competency based clinical courses and each course has designated competencies that are correlated with The SCAN ® (The Sonography Clinical Assessment Notebook) published by the International Foundation for Sonography Education and Research (IFSER).

All ultrasound exams require the sonographer to use the same critical thinking, scanning and technical skills while following exam protocols that state the minimum images, views, measurements and blood flow assessments required for each organ, structure, vessel or area of the body. During the performance of the sonographic exam, the sonographer must constantly assess and adjust the technical parameters AND assess the region of interest to determine normalcy or presence of pathology in the organs, structure, and blood vessels. The sonographer makes the decision which images/views to acquire, assess, and record; the sonographer is expected to go beyond the minimum protocol to provide a diagnostic ultrasound exam. Proficiency and competency in performing sonographic examinations is a continuous and cumulative process based in the consistent demonstration of accurate scanning skills.

All sonographers must demonstrate appropriate Professional Behavior and patient care skills. The sonographer may spend a significant amount of time with patients and may be the sole care giver in the room while the sonographic exam is performed. Sonographers must be able to deal with a variety of, patient conditions and physical settings where the sonogram is performed. Sonographers must be able to communicate effectively with the patient, family members, physicians, and other medical personnel. Sonographers must be HIPAA compliant at all times and in all settings.

The Sonography clinical courses are sequenced in order of psychomotor skills: from basic scanning techniques and patient interactions, to performance of partial exams with appropriate accuracy, to performance of complete exams with accuracy and in a specified time frame. Final competencies are required to ensure that the Sonography student is prepared to enter the workplace and to take and pass his/her ARDMS exams.

Clinical evaluations are performed in both the Sonography Lab and clinical site settings.

### **Clinical Rotations**

Students are assigned by the Program to clinical rotations at health care facilities that are affiliated with Austin Community College. A student may be assigned to any appropriate clinical facility utilized by the Sonography Programs. Sonography students are not assigned to clinical rotations in departments where they are employed in a patient care capacity and are prohibited from making their own clinical placement

arrangements. Students will not be re-assigned to a clinical site that was previously attended.

Clinical rotations give the Sonography student exposure to various types of learning environments, different volumes/variety of examinations, and opportunities to perform ultrasound examinations on patients in the clinical setting. Facilities range from private offices to acute care imaging departments. The student is responsible for transportation to and from the clinical site and any parking expenses related to the clinical assignment

Every effort is made to secure clinical placements in which the student will have ample access to scanning opportunities, however, the ACC Sonography Programs cannot control the type or volume of cases performed during the hours a student is scheduled to attend a clinical site. Heavy case loads and/or schedules containing advanced procedures may, at times, preclude a Sonography student from participating in scanning patient. The on-site clinical instructor determines the extent of participation based on the student's technical skill level and/or other mitigating factors.

The Clinical Rotation Assignment forms are provided to the student prior to the start of the semester. The student will receive information on the assigned clinical site; name of site, name(s) of clinical instructor(s), directions to site (if applicable), parking information and how to obtain a parking pass if required by the site (some sites require employees and students to park off-site), obtaining a site-specific name badge if required, and any other pertinent information or requirements of the site.

- Clinical agencies (sites) can establish more stringent standards to meet regulatory requirement for their facility at their discretion
- Clinical agencies can conduct additional background checks at their discretion
- Some clinical affiliates may require a preliminary drug screening prior to actual clinical practice in their facility

The student is required to complete the Orientation to the Clinical Site packet within the time frame specified on the forms. Copies of all forms completed by the student to meet the requirements of the clinical site must be provided to the student's Program for inclusion in the student's clinical file.

It is the student's responsibility to complete all site-specific requirements and place an introductory phone call to the clinical instructor prior to the first day of the clinical rotation.

### **Sonography Lab Sessions**

Scheduled Sonography Lab sessions which are part of didactic or clinical courses are designed to provide instruction in the technical and psychomotor skills involved in learning basic and advanced scanning skills, production of sonographic exams, and the analysis and critique of sonographic images and/or exams. Lab sessions may involve case analysis, image critique, video reviews, computer tutorials, hands-on scanning instruction and practice, instruction and practice using the ultrasound training simulator, and other activities as deemed pertinent to the student's learning.

Open Lab sessions may be scheduled; an Open Lab is a designated time for students to practice the techniques and skills taught during the regular Lab Session. Students have

access to the Sonography Labs throughout the length of a Program during assigned times, between on-campus classes, and during Open Lab sessions (if utilized) each semester. Sonography faculty must be present to provide supervision whenever students use the lab. Due to campus operating schedules, the Sonography Labs may not be available on certain days and/or at certain times.

### **Master Assignment Sheet**

The SCAN® Master Assignment Sheet” lists the clinical competencies and evaluation schedule for each Sonography Program for the entire length of the program. This document is composed of all the requirements listed on the Semester Assignment Sheet for each Program (see below) and therefore is reviewed on a regular basis. The Master Assignment Sheet can be found in the Sonography Programs Master Plan of Education and is available for review by the student by appointment with the Department Chair.

### **Semester Assignment Sheet**

The Semester Assignment Sheet is a component of The SCAN® Master Assignment Sheet” and is specific for each clinical course and Program (DCS, DMS, ESC-VT). The Semester Assignment Sheet lists the beginning and end dates of the semester, the Level and column numbers for the semester, all The SCAN® Proficiency, Benchmarks, and Challenge evaluations and the due dates for all requirements for that course.

As formative point-in-time evaluations, The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives document the student’s progress in attaining required sonographic skills and professional behaviors while building towards successful completion of the graded Benchmark and Challenges.

### **Comprehensive Clinical Performance Objectives**

The Comprehensive Clinical Performance Objectives are drawn from and correlate with The SCAN® Performance Objectives for Professional Qualities and each specialty area (Abdomen, Adult Cardiac, OB/Gyn, and Vascular). Upon completion of the Program, the student will meet be able to meet the following criteria:

#### **I. Patient Care and Safety**

Objective: Perform the following procedures with 100% accuracy at all times.

- A. Identify the patient and exam.
- B. Enter patient data/information into the ultrasound unit.
- C. Obtain the patient history and information.
- D. Communicate appropriately with the patient before, during and after the exam.
- E. Provide assistance for the patient before, during and after the exam.
- F. Ensure patient safety and follow Standard Precautions at all times.
- G. Demonstrate sonographer safety by utilizing appropriate ergonomic practices while scanning and interacting with patients.

#### **II. Equipment Usage**

Objective: The student will with 100% accuracy:

- A. Prepare the examination room and sonographic equipment.
- B. Describe the orientation and manipulation of the transducer.

- C. Describe the basic operation, controls and features of the entire sonographic unit.
- D. Demonstrate efficient operation of machine controls.
- E. Demonstrate safe handling and appropriate operation of the ultrasound unit, keyboard, transducer, cables and ancillary equipment.
- F. Cleans transducer, cables and unit using appropriate methods and disinfection solution/wipes.

### **III. Anatomy and Structure Identification**

Objective: The student will with 100% accuracy:

- A. Identify normal anatomical structures as demonstrated by sonography.
- B. Identify acoustic artifacts.
- C. Describe normal structures using correct sonographic terminology.

### **IV. Sonographic Imaging Procedure**

Objective: The student will with 90% accuracy and within allowed time frame:

- A. Describe the preparation necessary for the examination.
- B. Utilize additional transducers and/or transducer frequency to obtain appropriate images.
- C. Locate the required anatomy using standard views and selecting the appropriate scan planes.
- D. Completely scan through the required anatomy.
- E. Evaluate anatomy and pathology as demonstrated by the sonographic exam.
- F. Appropriately center and clearly demonstrate anatomical structures and pathology.
- G. Adjust for artifacts and patient condition; utilize various patient positions as needed.
- H. Perform required measurements using calipers; uses software packages as applicable and/or perform manual calculations.
- I. Select required/documentary images; label images according to standard protocols.

### **V. Recording Images/Views**

Objective: The student will with 100% accuracy:

- A. Ensure images/views are adequately recorded using any and all media available.

### **VI. Discussion and Conclusion**

Objective: The student will with 100% accuracy:

- A. Discuss the images/views with the instructor; verbalize scanning procedure and technique.
- B. Discuss anatomy and pathology on recorded images.
- C. Discuss acoustic artifacts as they relate to diagnosis and image quality.
- D. Complete the technical report using legible writing.

## **Clinical Education Levels AAS Degree Plans**

The Clinical Education Levels provide a format for progressive, competency-based clinical education in which the student attains acceptable clinical skills and behaviors.

### **Level I: Program Semester 2**

#### **Didactic and Clinical (Lab) Instruction**

The Sonography didactic courses at this level focus on specific normal anatomy and physiology, sonographic anatomy and imaging, critical thinking skills, and medical ultrasound physics principles.

The Sonography clinical courses at this Level address basic scanning techniques/methods, scanning ergonomics, patient care skills, clinical procedures and practices, critical thinking skills, and student clinical behaviors and performance expectations. Students practice scanning techniques utilizing the ultrasound training simulator, peer scanning, and/or volunteers under instructor supervision. Lab/Clinical Benchmark, The SCAN® Proficiency, and Challenge evaluations are performed at frequent and regular intervals (stated on the Semester Assignment Sheet). Students should utilize the assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Objectives, Benchmarks and Challenge evaluations for this level to guide his/her practice scanning experiences.

Criteria for successful completion of the requirements are stated in the DMSO 1260 or DSAE 1260 syllabi.

### **Level II: Program Semester 3**

#### **Didactic Instruction**

The didactic courses at this Level address pathophysiology, specific abnormal sonographic appearances, critical thinking skills, scanning techniques and procedures including adaptive scanning techniques, and medical ultrasound physics and instrumentation.

#### **Direct Supervision Clinical Performance**

The student is assigned 24 clinical hours per week at a clinical site affiliated with the Program and/or the ACC lab. The student is allowed to begin scanning patients at the discretion of the on-site Clinical Instructor/sonographer and with the CI/sonographer in the room.

- Per the ACC Affiliation Agreement with all clinical sites, the student is strictly prohibited from performing sonograms without the sonographer in the room or immediately nearby and from submitting acquired images/clips for interpretation and inclusion in the patient record. The supervising sonographer must observe the student scanning and must submit appropriate images/clips for interpretation.

The student should utilize the assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives, Lab/Clinical Benchmarks and Challenge evaluations for this level to guide his/her scanning experiences and should ensure that the on-site clinical instructor/sonographer is aware of his/her clinical course requirements.

The student's rate of progress and ability to gain additional scanning time in the clinical setting is directly dependent upon the student's ability to perform the scanning tasks assigned by the Program and/or Clinical Instructor/sonographer.

The student is required to complete The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Clinical Challenges as assigned on the Semester Assignment Sheet for DMSO 2461 or DSAE 2461. Evaluations for this level may be conducted in both the Sonography Lab and clinical settings. Sonography faculty will discuss the student's progress with the on-site Clinical Instructor(s) and will provide feedback to the student throughout the semester.

### **Level III: Program Semester 4**

#### **Didactic Instruction**

The didactic courses at this Level continue to address specific pathophysiology, specific abnormal sonographic appearances, critical thinking skills, scanning techniques and procedures including adaptive scanning techniques, Doppler physics and instrumentation, and hemodynamics.

#### **Direct/Limited Supervision Clinical Performance**

The student is assigned 24 clinical hours per week at a clinical site affiliated with the Program and/or the ACC lab. The student is allowed to begin scanning patients at the discretion of the on-site Clinical Instructor/sonographer and with the CI/sonographer in the room.

- Per the ACC Affiliation Agreement with all clinical sites, the student is strictly prohibited from performing sonograms without the sonographer in the room or immediately nearby and from submitting acquired images/clips for interpretation and inclusion in the patient record. The supervising sonographer must observe the student scanning and must submit appropriate images/clips for interpretation.

The student should utilize the assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives, Lab/Clinical Benchmarks and Challenge evaluations for this level to guide his/her scanning experiences and should ensure that the on-site clinical instructor/sonographer is aware of his/her clinical course requirements. Exams that are technically difficult or unfamiliar should be attempted by the student.

The student will begin to work on improving his/her scanning speed in order to complete entire exams. The student's rate of progress and ability to gain additional scanning time is directly dependent upon the student's ability to perform the scanning tasks assigned by the Program and/or Clinical Instructor/sonographer.

To ensure that the student maintains learned skills and continues to improve, any procedure previously evaluated may be reassessed at random. The results of the re-evaluation will be discussed and compared to previous evaluations to note improvements and/or deficiencies. If a student is unsuccessful with a re-evaluation, the student will be required to return to directly supervised performance until the instructor determines that the deficiency has been corrected.

The student is required to complete The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Clinical Challenges as assigned on the Semester Assignment Sheet for DMSO 2362 or DSAE 2362. Evaluations for this level may be conducted in both the Sonography Lab and clinical site settings. Sonography faculty will discuss the student's progress with the on-site Clinical Instructor(s) and will provide feedback to the student throughout the semester.

#### **Level IV: Program Semester 5**

##### **Didactic Instruction**

The didactic courses at this Level address advanced sonographic practices and procedures, registry review, and special topics (topics may change from year to year).

##### **Limited Supervision Clinical Performance**

The student is assigned 24 clinical hours per week at a clinical site affiliated with the Program and/or the ACC lab. The on-site Clinical Instructor determines when the student is permitted to perform exams with the CI/sonographer in the room or immediately nearby at all times (clinical affiliate student supervision rules will be followed). The student is expected to demonstrate advanced scanning skills and perform as independently as possible (little or no assistance from the supervising sonographer). The student should attempt any and all exams to improve his/her techniques, scanning speed and skills.

- Per the ACC Affiliation Agreement with all clinical sites, the student is strictly prohibited from performing sonograms without the sonographer in the room or immediately nearby and from submitting acquired images/clips for interpretation and inclusion in the patient record. The supervising sonographer must observe the student scanning and must submit appropriate images/clips for interpretation.

The student should utilize the assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Challenge evaluations for this level to guide his/her scanning experiences and should ensure that the on-site clinical instructor/sonographer is aware of his/her clinical course requirements.

The student's rate of progress and ability to gain additional scanning time is directly dependent upon the student's ability to perform the tasks assigned by the Program and/or Clinical Instructor. At the discretion of the on-site CI/sonographer and/or ACC faculty and to ensure the student maintains learned skills and continues to improve; any procedure previously evaluated may be reassessed at random.

The student is required to complete The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Clinical Challenges as assigned for DMSO 2463 or DSAE 2463. Evaluations for this level are conducted primarily in the clinical site setting but students may be required to perform Challenges in the Sonography Lab setting as well. Sonography faculty will discuss the student's progress with the on-site Clinical Instructor(s) and will provide feedback to the student throughout the semester.

## **Enhanced Skills Certificate – Vascular Technology Education Levels**

The Enhanced Skills Certificate – Vascular Technology (ESC-VT) is an optional certificate program available to current DCS and DMS students. The ESC-VT is a CAAHEP accredited program that includes all competencies required to apply to take the ARDMS Vascular Technology exam. The ESC-VT Program provides the student with a well-rounded education in all facets of vascular imaging and testing, thus the student will have the skills needed to work in any vascular department or lab.

Two didactic courses required for the optional ESC-VT are concurrent with semesters 4 and 5 (Clinical Levels III and IV, respectively) of the AAS degree plan courses. These courses will include in-depth instruction in normal vascular anatomy and hemodynamics, vascular pathophysiology and pathologies, and sonographic applications. Students are assigned to clinical rotations where exposure to vascular exams will occur. Students will record all vascular exams observed and scanned in their Case Logs for their respective DCS and DMS clinical courses during these semesters.

In the Spring semester following completion of the AAS degree plan, the ESC-VT student is required to complete a Vascular didactic course (advanced procedures, registry review) and a Vascular clinical course. Clinical placement will be within departments that perform a significant number and variety of Vascular exams; these placements may be in Vascular labs, Radiology and/or Cardiology departments or office practices.

### **Application Process**

Current DMS and DCS students are eligible to submit a letter of interest for the ESC-VT program, due by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

- a. Graduate applicants must hold a credential from the ARDMS, CCI, or ARRT (RT-S).
- b. Non-ACC graduate applicants must submit an official transcript with the letter of interest

The applicant's GPA from all completed Sonography courses will be calculated and must meet a minimum of 2.5 to be ranked in the pool for the ESC-VT Program. Ranking points (GPA X 10) will be assigned to each applicant.

- a. ACC graduate applicants who applied previously to the ESC-VT and were not accepted will receive 2 points for re-applying.

An offer of acceptance will be made to the top ranked applicants. The total number of seats available is directly related to the number of available appropriate clinical sites, therefore enrollment numbers may vary from year to year.

- a. The ESC-VT class is selected by May 1 each year; applicants are informed in writing of their acceptance or non-acceptance.
  - i. Classes to be taken include (summer) DSVT 1300, (fall) DSVT 2300, (spring) DSVT 2335 and clinical course (spring) DSVT 2463.
  - ii. Accepted graduate applicants must submit the Health Data and Physical Form with current TB testing, a current Immunization form, a copy of his/her current CPR for Healthcare Provider card

(American Heart Association), and successfully complete the Criminal Background Check.

- iii. Students must complete all Sonography courses with a minimum grade of 75% to progress to the next semester. A student who is unsuccessful in any Sonography course will be withdrawn from all Sonography Programs.

### **ESC-VT Clinical Performance concurrent with AAS DCS/DMS Levels III and IV**

The on-site Clinical Instructor determines when the student is permitted to perform exams with the CI/sonographer in the room at all times (direct supervision).

- Per the ACC Affiliation Agreement with all clinical sites, the student is strictly prohibited from performing sonograms without the sonographer in the room or immediately nearby and from submitting acquired images/clips for interpretation and inclusion in the patient record. The supervising sonographer must observe the student scanning and must submit appropriate images/clips for interpretation.

The student should utilize the assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Challenge evaluations for this Level to guide his/her scanning experiences and should ensure that the on-site clinical instructor/sonographer is aware of his/her clinical course requirements. The ESC-VT student is required to document all exams observed or performed during the clinical day, including Vascular, General or Cardiac exams.

The student's rate of progress and ability to gain additional scanning time is directly dependent upon the student's ability to perform the tasks assigned by the Program and/or Clinical Instructor.

- If concurrent enrollment in the ESC-VT Program jeopardizes the student's ability to meet the requirements of the DMS or DCS Program, the student will be apprised of his/her progress in all courses and will be referred to a Health Sciences Counselor for assistance. As stated previously, all courses in any Sonography Program must be completed with a minimum grade of 75%; an ESC-VT student who is unsuccessful in any Sonography course will be withdrawn from all Sonography Programs.

### **Clinical Performance (DSVT 2463)**

The on-site Clinical Instructor determines when the student is permitted to perform exams with the CI/sonographer in the room or immediately available at all times (indirect supervision; clinical affiliate student supervision rules will be followed).

- Per the ACC Affiliation Agreement with all clinical sites, the student is strictly prohibited from performing sonograms without the sonographer in the room or immediately nearby and from submitting acquired images/clips for interpretation and inclusion in the patient record. The supervising sonographer must observe the student scanning and must submit appropriate images/clips for interpretation.

The student should utilize assigned The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Challenge evaluations for this Level to guide his/her scanning experiences and should ensure that the on-site clinical instructor/sonographer is aware of his/her clinical course requirements. The student should work to improve his/her scanning speed to complete entire exams.

The student is expected to demonstrate advanced scanning skills and perform as independently as possible and should attempt any and all exams to improve his/her techniques, scanning speed and skills.

At the discretion of the on-site CI/sonographer and/or ACC faculty and to ensure the student maintains learned skills and continues to improve, any procedure previously evaluated may be reassessed at random.

The student's rate of progress and ability to gain additional scanning time is directly dependent upon the student's ability to perform the tasks assigned by the Clinical Instructor.

The student is required to complete The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives and Clinical Challenges as assigned for DSVT 2463. Evaluations for this Level are conducted primarily in the clinical site setting but students may be required to perform Challenges in the Sonography Lab setting as well. Sonography faculty will discuss the student's progress with the on-site Clinical Instructor(s) and will provide feedback to the student throughout the semester.

### **III. Health Sciences Division Policies and Procedures 2011-2012**

The Austin Community College Health Science Division Policies and Procedures have been compiled by the Health Sciences faculty to provide information pertinent to all students in the Health Science programs.

These policies and procedures should be used as a supplement to the Austin Community College Student Handbook and the program specific student handbook.

The Health Sciences programs prohibit discrimination. Access to its programs or activities shall not be limited on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability

We wish you success in the pursuit of your educational goals.

#### **Policies and Procedures**

Students enrolled in ACC Health Sciences programs are expected to agree to and abide by the Student Discipline Policy and Student Rights and Responsibilities regulations as outlined in the ACC Student Handbook.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is an essential component of professional behavior in Health Sciences programs. Any documented incidences of academic dishonesty may result in an academic penalty up to withdrawal from the specific program.

ACC Health Sciences programs follow the college's general policies on academic integrity as set forth in the ACC Student Handbook. A copy of the student handbook is available at each campus's administrative offices, or may be downloaded from the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook>

Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. For purposes of these regulations, academic work is defined as, but not limited to exams and quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; papers; classroom presentations; and homework. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they shall reference that information in an appropriate manner.

Definition:

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Cheating on an exam or quiz by bringing information to the testing area (no use of cell phones or PDA's for calculation, approved calculators allowed); talking to another student during the test; looking at another student's test during the examination; or removal of privacy screen on computer.
- Plagiarizing - when students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they shall reference that information in an appropriate manner.

- Unauthorized collaboration/collusion with another in preparing outside work for fulfillment of course requirements.
- Unauthorized entry into test banks or examinations.
- Assisting others in academic dishonesty.
- Sharing the details of an examination/competency check-off with other students.
- Having a copy of the examination outside the time and place of test administration or review.

**Program Progression (see page 53 for specific Sonography Programs Progression)**

In order to successfully progress through Health Science programs, the student must at a minimum (Individual programs may have additional requirements):

- Complete pre-requisite courses before progressing in the program.
- Be enrolled in co-requisite courses at the same time.
  - a. Withdrawal from any co-requisite course prior to the college official withdrawal date will result in withdrawal from all other co-requisite courses regardless of the current grade in the course.
  - b. Students who fail a co-requisite course are required to retake all co-requisite courses upon readmission.
- Achieve a minimum grade of “C” in all health science courses.
- Satisfactorily meet course objectives.

**Student Complaint Procedure**

Health science programs follow the college’s policies for student complaints as set forth in the ACC Student Handbook. A copy of the student handbook is available at each campus’s administrative offices, or may be downloaded from the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook>

The purpose of the student complaint procedure is to ensure students due process in the resolution of a complaint. Student complaints may include (but are not limited to) issues regarding classroom instruction or other college services and offices as well as discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, age, national origin, disability or sexual orientation. This procedure does not apply to student disputes about course grades which are resolved under the supervision of the appropriate instructors and instructional administrators. The program will not retaliate against the student as a result of filing a complaint

***Sexual and/or Racial Harassment Complaints***

If a Health Science student has a complaint regarding sexual or racial harassment then the student should refer to the ACC Student Handbook for the policy and procedure related to sexual and racial harassment. <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/policies3.php#sexual>.

**Grade Change Policies and Procedures**

ACC Health science programs follow the college’s policies on grade change as set forth in the ACC Student Handbook. A copy of the student handbook is available at each campus’s administrative offices, or may be downloaded from the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook>.

### ***Assignment of Grades***

The instructor teaching the course shall assign grades. The instructor will provide information to the students at the beginning of the semester regarding the course, including the guidelines for grading. If the student has questions about a grading policy and/or a specific grade, the student must raise the question while enrolled in the course. If the student is unable to resolve the questions or objections with the instructor, the student is to make an appointment with the department chair to discuss the matter or, if the instructor is the department chair, with the dean.

### ***Grade Change Appeal***

If a student believes that an error has been made in the assignment of a grade, he or she should follow the "Procedures to Resolve Grade Disputes" on the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/policies2.php>.

### ***Family Education Rights and Privacy Act***

The following statement concerning student records maintained by the Austin Community College District is published in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The release of information to the public without the consent of the student will be limited to that designated as directory information. Directory information includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in activities, dates of attendance, degrees, certificates and awards, name of the previous educational institution attended, student classification and enrollment status. Any student objecting to the release of all or any portion of such information must notify Admissions and Records within the first 12 class days of the semester. The restriction will remain in effect until revoked by the student.

### **Clinical/Practicum Policies**

#### ***Professional Behavior***

Faculty of Austin Community College and the Health Sciences Programs has an academic, legal and ethical responsibility to protect members of the public and of the health care community from unsafe or unprofessional practices. Health Science students, while representing Austin Community College at any clinical agency, must conduct themselves in an ethical, professional, and safe manner. Students are expected to assume responsibility for their actions and will be held accountable for them. Students will abide by ACC and clinical agency policies during each clinical experience.

Failure to adhere to program specific policies related to professional behavior or safe clinical practice may result in the use of the Progressive Discipline Policy outlined in the (Program) Student Handbook.

#### ***Professional Ethics and Confidentiality***

Students must remember that the information concerning patients is confidential. Students are required to adhere to legal and ethical standards as established by regulatory agencies and professional standards. Failure to comply with the above is cause for immediate dismissal from the program.

## **Safe/Unsafe Clinical/Practicum Practices**

The Health Sciences Programs identify safety as a basic human need. A safety need can be identified as physical, biological, and/or emotional in nature. Safe practices are a requirement of each program.

Unsafe clinical/practicum practice shall be deemed to be behavior demonstrated by the student which threatens or violates the physical, biological, or emotional safety of the patient, caregiver, students, staff or self. Unsafe or unprofessional clinical/practicum practice may result in implementation of the Progressive Discipline Policy outlined in the (Program) Student Handbook.

The following examples serve as guides to these unsafe behaviors, but are not to be considered all-inclusive.

**Physical Safety:** Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- inappropriate use of side rails, wheelchairs, other equipment
- lack of proper protection of the patient which potentiates falls, lacerations, burns, new or further injury
- failure to correctly identify patient(s) prior to initiating care
- failure to perform pre-procedure safety checks of equipment, invasive devices or patient status

**Biological Safety:** Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- failure to recognize violations in aseptic technique
- improper medication administration techniques/choices
- performing actions without appropriate supervision
- failure to seek help when needed
- attending clinical while ill
- failure to properly identify patient(s) prior to treatments

**Emotional Safety:** Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- threatening or making a patient, caregiver, or bystander fearful
- providing inappropriate or incorrect information
- performing actions without appropriate supervision
- failure to seek help when needed, unstable emotional behaviors

**Unprofessional Practice:** Unprofessional behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Verbal or non-verbal language, actions (including but not limited to postings on social media sites), or voice inflections which compromise rapport and working relations with patients, family members, staff, or physicians, may potentially compromise contractual agreements and/or working relations with clinical affiliates, or constitute violations of legal/ethical standards
- Behavior which interferes with or disrupts teaching/learning experiences
- Using or being under the influence of any drug or alcohol that may alter judgment and interfere with safe performance in the clinical or classroom setting
- Breach of confidentiality in any form
- Falsifying data in a patient health record
- Misrepresenting care given, clinical errors, or any action related to the clinical experience

- Recording, taping, taking pictures in the clinical setting without expressed consent
- Leaving the clinical area without notification of faculty and clinical staff or supervisor

### **Progressive Discipline**

Faculty is committed to assisting students to be successful in the program. Therefore, Health Science students who are not meeting courses objectives in class, clinical/practicum or lab will be apprised of their performance status using the progressive discipline process.

#### **Step 1: Warning**

The instructor provides the student with a verbal warning or written feedback as to their status. The instructor counsels the student regarding criteria for successful completion of the course and makes recommendations for improvement. Recommendations may include but are not limited to - utilization of peer study groups, tutors, computer-assisted instruction, seeking assistance from ACC counselors.

At the discretion of the instructor and depending on the situation, this step may be skipped and a conference done.

#### **Step 2: Conference**

The student meets with the instructor in a formal conference to review the performance deficit. A written Health Science Conference Report will identify specific course/program objectives not met and a remediation plan/contract, including deadlines for completion, to assist the student to correct the deficit and remain in the program and be successful.

If at any time the student does not comply with all terms outlined in the conference report, the student may be placed on probation or withdrawn from the program

#### **Step 3: Probation**

Probation action is implemented for:

- Unsatisfactory clinical performance
- Unsatisfactory clinical attendance and punctuality
- Inability to maintain physical and mental health necessary to function in the program
- Unethical, unprofessional behavior, and/or unsafe clinical practice
- Refusal to participate with a procedure
- Unsafe or unprofessional clinical practice that compromises patient or staff safety
- Behavior which compromises clinical affiliations
- Failure to comply with all terms outlined in the conference report

Probation is a trial period in which the student must improve or be withdrawn from the program.

The student meets with the instructor and department chair. An ACC counselor may be asked to assist in representing the student. The student and faculty will review and sign a Health Science Probation Report explicitly stating expectations that must be followed during the probationary period and signed.

#### **Step 4: Withdrawal**

If at any time during the probation period, the student fails to meet any of the conditions of the probation contract, the student may be withdrawn from the program. Accordingly, if at the end of the probation period the student has not met the criteria for satisfactory performance outlined in the probation contract, the student will be withdrawn from the program.

A student who is placed on probation for unsafe or unprofessional conduct will be withdrawn from the program for subsequent safety or professional conduct violations at any time during the program. (If the occurrence is past the official college date for withdrawal from a course, the student will receive a performance grade of “F” or “U” as applicable.)

***Some situations do not allow for the progressive discipline process due to the severity of nature or the timing of their occurrence. Incidents of this nature may require the student to be immediately placed on probation or withdrawn from the program. Examples of these include, but are not limited to:***

- *Violations of patient confidentiality*
- *Academic dishonesty*
- *Falsification of documentation*
- *Unprofessional behavior/unsafe behavior that seriously jeopardizes patient, student, staff, or preceptor safety*
- *Unprofessional behavior that seriously jeopardizes clinical affiliations.*

***NOTE: If the occurrence is past the official college date for withdrawal from a course, the student will receive a performance grade of “F” or “U” as applicable.***

- <http://www.austincc.edu/admrule/1.06.003.htm>
- <http://www.austincc.edu/admrule/4.01.002.htm>

## **Health and Safety Information**

### **Professional Risks**

Interactions with patients in the health care system carry inherent risks to both the patient and caregiver, including, but not limited to, communicable diseases. In the curriculum, students will be given information regarding known risks for various diseases and measures to decrease these risks.

All students are expected to provide appropriate care to all assigned patients in any setting. These assignments may include patients with medical diagnoses of tuberculosis; hepatitis A, B, or C; AIDS; or other infectious diseases. Students are expected to implement standard precautions and appropriate barrier protection in the care of all assigned patients.

### ***TB Testing and CPR Requirements***

All Health Sciences students are required to provide the following documentation:

- Initial Tuberculosis Screening validated by the two-step TB screening (Mantoux test) and annual one-step screening thereafter (if TB skin test positive, results of a chest x-ray within the past five years.

Current CPR certification: must meet standards of the American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider.

- All items must be current for the duration of the coming semester. If any item expires during the semester, it must be completed (Redone) prior to the first day of class or earlier as directed by the program.

### ***FLU Vaccine***

To protect patients and provide a safe environment for students, staff, and the public, all students participating in clinical/practicum experiences/courses in any facility may be required to provide documentation of the **seasonal flu vaccine**. Failure to have the immunization may have implications for clinical attendance. Students will be provided additional information when indicated.

### **Health Insurance**

The College does not provide personal health insurance coverage for students. All Health Sciences students are encouraged to carry some type of personal health insurance. Information about health insurance is available at: [www.austincc.edu/ehs/Insurance](http://www.austincc.edu/ehs/Insurance) under Optional Student Health Insurance. Should medical care be required, the student is responsible for all costs of treatment/medical care unless it is an accident covered under the accident insurance policy described below.

### **Accidents/Exposure**

***Medical Professional Liability Insurance***--Medical professional liability insurance is required for each Health Science student enrolled in a clinical course with patient contact. This insurance is purchased automatically through Austin Community College registration fees collected each semester.

**Accident Insurance**--Student accident insurance coverage is required for students participating in certain college sponsored laboratory/clinical activities. The maximum medical benefit is \$10,000 per student with a \$25.00 deductible. The student is responsible for the \$25.00 deductible. For covered classes, the student pays an insurance fee at the time of registration. Student Accident Insurance pays benefits for specific losses from accidents only. Benefits are not paid for loss due to sickness.

The student accident policy provides insurance coverage only while participating in specified laboratory/clinical classes. It does not extend to accidents involving automobiles and incidents outside the laboratory/clinical/classroom. For the most updated information, see [www.austincc.edu/ehs/Insurance](http://www.austincc.edu/ehs/Insurance).

### **Accident Procedures**

1. Provide first aid for the student sufficient to get the situation under control.
2. If the accident occurs on campus, campus police are notified.
3. If the accident occurs in the clinical area, faculty responsible for the course in which the student is injured must be notified immediately of the incident.
4. If it appears that a physician should see the student, he or she may chose to see his/her own physician, go to a minor emergency center, or be transported to a hospital. The student can pay the bill at the time of treatment or assign benefits and request reimbursement from ACC's insurance company.
5. The injured student will use the designated claim form. All applicable components of the claim form must be completed. The completed form must contain the signature of the student/claimant and submission of an itemized medical bill before reimbursement will be made. Reimbursement requests along with completed claim form should be sent to:

**Austin Community College  
Risk Management Department**

9101 Tuscany Way  
Austin, TX 78754

Phone: 223-1015 Fax: 223-1035

6. The student or faculty submits a copy of the completed insurance form, HIPAA, release form, and the Fraud Warning certification to the Assistant Dean of Health Sciences immediately after the incident.
7. The Faculty submits TWO copies of the Supervisor's Injury and Illness Analysis and Prevention Report; one copy to the Department Chair and one copy to the Assistant Dean of Health Sciences within 48 hours of the event.
8. The Assistant Dean of Health Sciences will communicate the official notification of the claim to the Risk Management Department who confirms insurance coverage with the carrier and medical provider.

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FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN PUBLISHED COURSE MATERIALS and on the web  
[http://www3.austincc.edu/it/eforms/forms\\_int/RIIN.004u.pdf](http://www3.austincc.edu/it/eforms/forms_int/RIIN.004u.pdf)  
[http://www3.austincc.edu/it/eforms/forms\\_int/RIIN.003.pdf](http://www3.austincc.edu/it/eforms/forms_int/RIIN.003.pdf)

### **Exposure Response**

Students and faculty members who experience an exposure to any potentially infectious materials (needle stick, mucous membrane, or non-intact skin) or airborne inhalation require specific follow-up. It is the responsibility of the individual to initiate appropriate

first aid and to report the incident as soon as possible (preferably within one hour) to their immediate supervisor or instructor. It is the responsibility of the clinical instructor or supervisor to ensure that the appropriate steps have been taken to provide for the safety of the student. It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to assist the faculty member following an exposure to the student or employee. Faculty will ensure that copies of the Accident/ procedures and appropriate forms will be made available to the students prior to their first clinical experience.

### **Environment of Care**

Austin Community College Health Science Students and faculty will follow procedures outlined in the Seton Safe Environment of Care (EOC) and the St. David's Mandatory Education Module designed by Seton and St. David's and adapted for the use at ACC in order to educate students and faculty in procedures mandated by health care facilities. Additional training modules may also be required for students in specific programs. All of the Seton and St. David's health organizations, in which ACC is affiliated, have agreed to the use of these procedures in order to educate students and faculty prior to their clinical rotations in those facilities.

The purpose of the test is to understand the safety and regulatory requirements related to patient care presented in the Seton Safe EOC Manual and St. David's Mandatory Education Module. The scope of these tests includes general safety, hazardous materials and waste, medical equipment, security, emergency preparedness, life safety and building construction, utility systems, confidentiality and social environment. These tests are primarily multiple-choice with some short answers questions. These exams require the student to self-remediate. The students will not be able to move forward until they have correctly answered each question.

These exams are available at: <http://www.austincc.edu/health/dmt.php> or on departmental home pages. Specific instructions about how to access the test will be given to students by their instructor. When students have completed the test, they will be required to make a copy for themselves and electronically mail a copy to their program. These files must be kept, so that the College can prove compliance with the health care facilities' accreditation requirements.

### **HIPAA**

The Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) Act requires that all protected health information be kept private and secure by all persons that handle, or have access to, that information (see HIPAA Compliance Manual at <http://www.austincc.edu/hipaa/manual.php>). Since health sciences students, faculty, instructors, and staff use protected health information as part of the educational process (i.e. access to client health data to provide care and use of de-identified health data for educational assignments such as case studies and care plans), all health science students must complete an online training module on an annual basis to remain in compliance with HIPAA regulations. Students are not allowed to enter the clinical settings/fieldwork until this training has been completed. Any violations of HIPAA regulations will result in disciplinary actions up to and including withdrawal from the program depending on the severity of the violation. ACC Website: <http://www.austincc.edu/hipaa/training/>

### **Latex Allergy**

Approximately 3 million people in the U.S. are allergic to latex. Latex is used in more than 40,000 industrial, household, and medical products. Exposures to latex may result in skin rashes, hives, flushing, itching; nasal, eye, or sinus symptoms, asthma, and (rarely) shock. Reports of such allergic reactions to latex have increased in recent years—especially among healthcare workers—NIOSH. This statement is provided to notify students of the possible risk of latex allergies. It is important to notify the program if you are or become allergic/sensitive to latex products.

### **Workplace Violence**

Students who are assigned a clinical or practicum experience in a Seton Family of Hospitals facility are required to complete the **Safety Module for Non-Employees: Workplace Violence Module** (<http://www.austincc.edu/health/dmt.php>)

### **Statement of Responsibility**

Students who are assigned a clinical or practicum experience in a St. David's Healthcare Partnership facility will be required to sign a Statement of Responsibility form. (<http://www.austincc.edu/health/dmt.php>)

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

The well-being of patients and clients cared for by our students is of primary concern in all Health Sciences programs and a carefully designed and administered drug and alcohol misuse procedure can reduce accidents. Therefore, the Health Sciences Department has adopted a substance abuse testing program wherein a student who is participating in clinical courses will be tested for drugs when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs, i.e., drugs which are controlled substances under federal law which are not being used under the supervision of a licensed health care professional, or otherwise in accordance with the law.

Students will be asked to submit to drug screening by their ACC clinical instructor at the expense of the college in the following circumstances:

1. Observable indication of actual use or impairment such as slurred speech, lack of coordination, incoherency, marijuana or alcohol odors.
2. Possession of drugs, apparent paraphernalia or alcoholic beverages.
3. Detailed, factual and persistent reports of misuse by multiple colleagues.
4. Abnormal or erratic behaviors such as sudden outbursts, mood swings, hostility or unusual anxiety that suggests possible drug use or alcohol misuse.
5. Involvement in suspicious accidents.
6. Apparent lapses in judgment or memory.
7. Unusual lethargy.

### **Testing Procedure**

1. Document student's behavior. Confer with department chair. If a department chair is the faculty member concerned about the student's behavior or if the department chair is unavailable, the conference will be with the dean or dean's designee.

2. If a student denies being under the influence of unauthorized substances, a request for a drug screen will be initiated.
  - a. The student will sign a consent to undergo drug screening.\*
  - b. If the student refuses to consent to drug screening, the student will be immediately dismissed from the program.
3. Institute a Request for Drug Screen. Provide verbal and written instructions for the testing procedure, including time frames for the test.
4. Arrange for transportation directly to a designated testing center by taxi accompanied by a Health Sciences representative.
5. After the drug screen specimen has been obtained the student will be transported by taxi back to the point of origin or home.
6. Student is excluded from all clinical activities pending results of the drug screen.
7. Drug screen findings will be interpreted by the designated testing center within 24-48 hours.
8. Results will be sent to the Dean of Health Sciences where they will be kept in a confidential, locked file. Results of the drug screen will be released to the department chair on a need to know basis only. Records may be released only to the student or the decision-maker in a lawsuit, grievance or other legal proceeding against the College or its agents arising out of the positive drug test.
9. All positive drug screens will be reviewed by an independent Medical Review Officer. During the review process, the student will have the opportunity to:
  - a. Explain the cause of the positive drug screen.
  - b. Provide the name of the physician authorizing any prescription medications. The Medical Review Officer will contact the attending physician for verification. If verification is obtained, the student will be placed on probation. Any subsequent evidence of substance abuse will result in a recommendation that the student be dismissed from the program. The student may appeal the recommendation using the Student Complaint Procedure in the ACC Student Handbook.
10. If drug screen is positive and unexplained or unverified via the Medical Review Officer, the student will be:
  - a. Dismissed from the program and
  - b. Reported to the state licensing agency, if applicable.
11. A student who tests positive will be referred to a community resource for evaluation by the ACC counselor at the student's expense.
12. If the drug screen is negative, the student will be immediately reinstated in clinical by the department chair and will be provided opportunity to make up assignments. The student will be subject to all other objectives related to safe behavior and care of clients.
13. Readmission to the program is based on program admission policies.
  - \* Please refer to the Consent for Drug Screening form located in the Appendices section at the end of this handbook.  
NOTE: Some clinical affiliates may require a preliminary drug screening prior to actual clinical practice in their facility.

### **Pre Placement Drug Screening (if applicable)**

**Rationale:** Health care providers are entrusted with the health, safety, and welfare of patients/clients. The safety and welfare of patients/clients cared for by our students is of primary concern in all Health Sciences programs and the clinical agencies that provide essential clinical experiences for the students. Clinical rotations are an essential component of Health Sciences programs and the College must meet the contractual obligations contained in affiliation agreements.

**Scope:** ACC currently does not require drug screening as part of the admission process. Clinical agencies can establish more stringent standards for meeting clinical requirements than those imposed as part of the admission process, if they so desire, to ensure compliance with Joint Commission standards and agency regulations pertaining to human resource management. This may include (but is not limited to) additional background checks and/or pre-placement drug and/or alcohol screening.

### **Clinical Placement:**

- **Clinical placements will be made by the program based on the learning objectives of the students; once a placement has been made, students cannot select out of that placement because of the drug screen.**

**Process for Drug Screening:** The following process is to be followed when a clinical agency requires a drug screen prior to placement.

1. Faculty will notify the student of the requirement for a drug screen and the timelines to be in compliance with the clinical agency and provide all necessary consent forms.
  - The student must complete the drug screen within the timelines provided by the program. A drug screen outside that timeline will have to be re-submitted at an additional expense to the student.
2. Program will provide the student with a list of approved vendors to perform the drug screening.
  - **Student must pay the cost of the drug and/or alcohol screening.**
    - Cost is non-refundable
  - Program will designate what level of drug screen is required.
  - Results from any company or government entity other than those designated by Health Sciences will not be accepted.
  - Unless specifically directed, clinical agencies will not conduct the drug screen; they must be performed by approved vendor.
  - For clinical sites that do conduct the drug screening, students must sign an authorization for the clinical site to release positive results to the Compliance Coordinator, the Executive Dean or their designee.
3. Student will sign a HIPAA release giving the lab performing the test permission to provide results to the Executive Dean or the Health Sciences Compliance Coordinator.
4. Student will sign a release giving permission for ACC to release the results of a negative drug screen to the requesting clinical agency if required.
5. **Refusal to consent to the drug screening will result in the student being withdrawn from the program.**

6. Drug screen findings will be interpreted by the designated testing center within 24-48 hours.
7. Results will be sent to the Dean of Health Sciences and/or the Compliance Coordinator where they will be kept in a confidential, locked file. Negative results of the drug screen will be released only to the student or the requesting clinical agency.
8. Verification of a negative drug screen will be provided to the indicated clinical affiliate.
9. All positive drug screens will be reviewed by an independent Medical Review Officer, provided by the vendor. There will be an additional charge if review by the Medical Review Officer is required and the student is responsible for all costs related to this review.

If after review by the Medical Review Officer, there is not a valid medical explanation for the positive screen, the test results will stand.

(If the student refuses/fails to pay for costs associated with the Medical Review, the test results will stand).

- Any appeal right based on a positive screen is solely among the applicant, the Medical Review Officer and the vendor.

#### **Period of Validity**

- Drug screening will generally be honored for the time the student is in the program unless there is a break in enrollment, defined as being out for one full semester. However, students may be required to test on a more frequent basis depending on the requirements of the clinical rotation site in which they are placed to meet their learning objectives.

#### **Positive Drug Screen**

- A positive drug screen is any instance in which a drug screening report shows a positive test for one or more of the drugs on the panel.
- Any student with a positive drug screen will not be given placement in any clinical facility and will be withdrawn from the program.

#### **Confidentiality of Records**

- Drug screening reports and all records pertaining to the results are considered confidential information with restricted access. The results and records are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations.

#### **Readmission**

- Any student withdrawn for a positive drug screen will not be eligible for readmission for a minimum of twelve months from the date of withdrawal.
- If accepted for readmission, the student must provide a negative drug test and satisfactory documentation of successful drug counseling and treatment, at the expense of the student.

## **Criminal Background**

Successful completion of a criminal background check is required for admission and continuation in all Health Sciences Programs. Criminal background requirements are found at <http://www.austincc.edu/health/background.php>

Background checks will be honored for the duration of the student's enrollment in the clinical program if the participating student has not had a break in the enrollment at the college/school. A break in enrollment is defined as nonattendance of one full semester or more.

Once accepted into the program, it is the student's responsibility to immediately notify the Health Sciences Compliance Coordinator in writing of any subsequent changes in criminal history that occur after the admission background check has been completed. Failure to do so may result in immediate withdrawal from the program.

Additionally,

- Successful completion of a criminal background check for a Health Sciences Program does not ensure eligibility for licensure or future employment.
- Clinical agencies can establish more stringent standards, if they so desire, to meet regulatory requirements for their facility.
- Clinical agencies can conduct additional background checks at their discretion.
- If a student is found to be ineligible for clinical placement any time during the program, the student is unable to meet clinical learning objectives and will be withdrawn pending resolution of the situation.

## **Emergency Instructions**

Austin Community College District has procedures in place to help ensure the safety of students during an emergency. Emergency instruction signs are posted in each campus classroom. They indicate evacuation routes, outside rally locations, and indoor shelter-in-place areas. Administrators-in-charge and emergency evacuation coordinators are designated in all facilities to assist students and staff in an emergency. See the ACC Student Handbook or <http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/emergency.php>.

### **General Emergencies**

To reach the ACC Police Department dial 222 from any campus phone or 223.7999 from any cell phone, pay phone, or off campus. The ACC Police Department can better determine the student's location and will notify the local police and fire departments.

### **Medical Emergencies**

In the case of severe bleeding, breathing problems, or chest pains, call 911. For other medical emergencies, contact the ACC Police Department by dialing 222 from any campus phone or 223.7999 from any cell phone, pay phone, or off-campus phone.

### **Severe Weather/Outdoor Hazards**

In cases of severe weather or other dangerous conditions outdoors, students will be directed to shelter-in-place areas inside the building. Do not go outside or move to another building. Do not use elevators. Upon being alerted by a public address system,

alarm, or campus administrator, students will move immediately to shelter-in-place areas indicated on the emergency signs posted in each classroom. Shelter-in-place areas are located in the lowest floor possible of the building, in the center of the building, and away from glass.

### **Fire**

Upon hearing a continuous alarm or verbal warning, students should evacuate the building immediately and move to the fire evacuation rally location indicated on the emergency signs posted in each classroom. Do not run. Do not use elevators.

1. Leave the building through the nearest exit.
2. Take personal belongs if they are in the same room.
3. Close all doors behind you. Do not lock them.
4. Report to fire evacuation rally location. You must be accounted for at rally location.
5. Students and staff will be permitted to re-enter the building when the administrator-in-charge or emergency evacuation coordinator gives a verbal "all clear" signal.

### **Gunman on Campus**

Students or staff who see an armed person or receive information that an armed person is on campus should to take the following steps.

1. Contact the ACC Police Dispatch by dialing 222 from any campus phone or 223.7999 from any cell phone, pay phone, or off-campus phone.
2. Turn off lights, close and lock doors.
3. Get on the floor out of the line of fire. Seek available cover.
4. Wait until an "All Clear" given by a police officer or authorized, known voice

### **Contacting a Student in an Emergency**

With thousands of students at different locations, it is **not possible** for staff to contact students on campus except in cases of emergency. Staff members may inquire about the nature of the emergency and decide whether the student should be contacted. In order to contact students, campus staff will need the student's ID number and class schedule.

When students anticipate someone may need to contact them on campus, they should leave the necessary information in the [campus manager's office](#). Under no circumstances will ACC permit persons to search for students on campus.



## IV. Sonography Programs Policies and Procedures

The Sonography student must demonstrate 100% compliance with all College Program, and/or Clinical Affiliate policies, procedures, and rules throughout the length of the program. Non-compliance or violation of any of these policies, procedures, or rules may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. A student may only be placed on Probation once during the length of the program for violation of policy; subsequent non-compliance with any policy, procedure or rule results in Withdrawal of the student from the program.

### **Technical Standards and Essential Functions**

Health Sciences programs establish technical standards and essential functions to insure that students have the abilities required to participate and potentially be successful in all aspects of the respective programs. Students are required to meet technical standards and essential functions for the (Program) as indicated below. If an applicant or student is unable to meet all of the outlined standards, he/she may be withdrawn from the program.

#### **Sonography Program Technical Standards and Essential Functions**

The following technical standards and essential functions outline reasonable expectations of a student in the Sonography Program for the performance of common sonographic imaging functions. The Sonography student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a variety of classroom, lab and/or clinical situations while providing the essential competencies of sonographic imaging. These requirements apply for the purpose of admission and continuation in the program.

<b>Categories of Essential Functions</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Example of Sonography Technical Standard</b>
Observation	Ability to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercise, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend the condition of all clients assigned to him/her for examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Such observation and information usually requires functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.	Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions  Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language  Distinguish audible sounds from both the patient and the ultrasound equipment (Doppler)  Recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb
Communication	Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal and written formats with faculty, other students, clients, families and all members of the healthcare team.	Able to elicit information and assess non-verbal information  Accurately transmit information to patients, staff, fellow students, and other members of the health care

Categories of Essential Functions	Definition	Example of Sonography Technical Standard
		<p>team</p> <p>Receive/comprehend, write, and interpret verbal and written communication in both the academic and clinical settings</p>
Motor	Sufficient motor ability to execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective care and emergency treatment	<p>Lift more than 50 pounds routinely</p> <p>Push and pull, bend and stoop routinely</p> <p>Move, adjust, and position patients and equipment</p> <p>Have full use of both hands, wrists and shoulders</p> <p>Apply up to 40lbs of sustained transducer pressure while scanning</p> <p>Dexterity to manipulate transducer and control panel simultaneously</p> <p>Work standing 80% of the time</p>
Intellectual	Ability to collect, interpret and integrate information and make decisions.	<p>Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records, and professional literature</p> <p>Retain and apply information</p> <p>Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize</p> <p>Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence and within required time frame</p> <p>Apply knowledge and learning to new situations and problem solving scenarios</p>
Behavioral and Social Attributes	Possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients and other members of the health care team.	<p>Manage heavy academic schedules and deadlines</p> <p>Perform in fast paced clinical situations</p> <p>Able to remain calm and focused during instruction for and</p>

Categories of Essential Functions	Definition	Example of Sonography Technical Standard
	<p>Possess the ability to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical settings with patients.</p> <p>Possess compassion, integrity, concern for others, and motivation.</p> <p>Possess the ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and a strong work ethic.</p>	<p>performance of sonographic exams</p> <p>Display flexibility and adaptability</p> <p>Demonstrate professional conduct at all times</p> <p>Comply with all ACC, Sonography Program, and clinical affiliate policies and procedures</p> <p>Comply with the Sonographer Code of Ethics, Clinical Practice Standards, and Scope of Practice (Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography: <a href="http://www.sdms.org">www.sdms.org</a>)</p>

*Qualified applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the program. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Office of Students with Disabilities if they feel they cannot meet one or more of the technical standards listed. Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to complete this process at least three weeks before the start of each semester.*

### **Health Data and Physical Exam Requirements**

Health sciences students must possess the physical abilities and characteristics required to meet the technical standards for their health sciences program. Therefore, all health sciences students are required to have a health assessment performed by a physician or other approved licensed health professional within six months of beginning a health sciences program. The ACC Health Data and Physical Exam Form must be used for this purpose and is available at <http://austincc.edu/health>. Click on “Documents, Modules and Tests”.

### **Professional Behavior**

Faculty of the ACC Sonography Programs has an academic, legal and ethical responsibility to protect members of the public and of the health care community from unsafe or unprofessional practices. Sonography students, while representing Austin Community College and the Sonography Programs at any clinical agency, must conduct themselves in an ethical, professional, and safe manner. Health Science students, including Sonography students, should recognize that high standards are set for those working in Health Care professions.

Professionalism in health care is based on values that include, but are not limited to, moral values (honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness), values specific to Sonography (clinical performance standards, appropriate communication), societal values (commitment to excellence), personal values (self-reflection, maintenance of credentials,

interpersonal skills), and humanistic values (empathy, compassion). Patients are confronting illness, disruption of their normal routines in life, and life-changing events, therefore they are anxious about their current condition and future health. Patients rely on health care professionals to address their needs expertly and professionally.

Students are expected to assume responsibility for their actions and will be held accountable for them. Students will abide by ACC and clinical agency policies during each clinical experience. Failure to adhere to program specific policies related to professional behavior or safe clinical practice may result in the use of the Progressive Discipline Policy outlined in Section III. Health Sciences Division Policies and Procedures 2010-2012 of this Handbook.

### **Sonography Programs Conduct Standards**

- Students will comply with all ACC, Programs and Clinical Affiliate policies, procedures, and rules at all times.
- Appropriate clinical attire must be worn at all times during all clinical courses.
- Students must wear their ACC photo ID at all times during the clinical day; if the clinical site requires an ID, both badges must be showing.
- No food or drink is allowed in any Sonography classroom or lab.
- Personal use of the computers in the ACC Sonography labs is prohibited.
- No disruptive behavior of any type is allowed during lectures, labs, or clinicals.
- A student will communicate privately with the instructor regarding their individual performance and/or any clinical concerns.
- Any student appeals to scoring of specific test questions will be submitted to the instructor in writing within one week of the test and will include a rationale and supporting reference citation. The instructor will respond in writing to all test question appeals within one week and will include the final decisions and referenced rationale. All decisions of the instructor to appealed questions are final.
- Learning styles of classmates are to be respected.
- Students are prohibited from after-hours socializing with ACC Sonography faculty, clinical instructors, sonographers, and staff members during the length of the Program.
- Students must be supervised at all times while scanning in the clinical site and Sonography Lab; students cannot perform the scanning duties of a clinical site staff sonographer.
- In accordance with the ACC Academic Dishonesty Policy, falsifying any clinical records will result in the initiation of the Progressive Discipline Process at Step 3, Probation OR may result in immediate withdrawal of the student from the Program.

### **Sonography Chain of Command**

Students who have questions or disputes regarding lecture, lab or clinical course objectives including evaluations, teaching methods or communications with an instructor must first discuss their concerns with the assigned course instructor. If the instructor is unable to resolve the student's questions and concerns, the student should request an appointment with the Sonography Department Chair who will follow up with the assigned course instructor and investigate the issue. The Department Chair may request a

meeting with the student and the instructor as part of the resolution process. If the issue continues unresolved, the student should follow The Student Complaint Procedure found in the ACC Student Handbook.

Any issues that arise during the clinical day, such as but not limited to: a difference between the scanning methods, techniques, protocols, etc. utilized at the clinical and those taught in the classroom or lab sessions must be handled with extreme diplomacy. The student is never allowed to critique or question the CI/sonographers scanning abilities, choice of images or protocol used to complete an exam. The student may ask the CI/sonographer for clarification of his/her techniques, etc., but any questions regarding the appropriateness of what is observed or discussed in the clinical setting must be addressed to the Sonography faculty and/or Department Chair.

### **Electronic Devices**

The use of any electronic device is strictly prohibited within the ACC Sonography Lab, at the Clinical Site, and during all class sessions. The student is prohibited from having a cell phone or pager on his/her person while in the clinical site and/or the Sonography lab.

Use of computers and recording devices is prohibited during class sessions unless the student obtains written permission from the instructor.

### **Sonography Programs Progression/Retention/Re-Admission**

In order to successfully progress through the DCS or DMS Program, the student must:

- Be enrolled in co-requisite courses of a semester at the same time as the Sonography courses.
  - c. Withdrawal from any co-requisite course prior to the college official withdrawal date will result in withdrawal from all other co-requisite courses regardless of the current grade in the course.
  - d. Students who fail a co-requisite course are required to retake all co-requisite courses upon readmission.
    - General Education Sonography curricula courses must be taken prior to or during the semester listed.
  - e. Achieve a minimum grade of “C” in all Sonography and general education courses of the curricula.
    - Due to the sequence and chronological order of courses within the curricula, Sonography courses are offered once per calendar year.
- Satisfactorily meet course objectives.

The Sonography Programs curricula are not lists of courses that must be completed, but are programs of study in which all Sonography courses within a semester are co-requisites. All Sonography courses in each semester are prerequisites for the next semester courses, therefore, a grade of “D” or lower in any Sonography degree plan course prohibits the student from progressing to the next semester of the Program. Students who are unsuccessful in one or more courses in a semester of the Sonography degree plan are withdrawn from the Sonography Program.

### **Sonography Student Retention**

It is the student's responsibility to monitor his/her progress in all Sonography curriculum courses. All Sonography faculty members utilize the ACC online teaching platform (Blackboard) for didactic courses therefore grades are accessible to the student at all times. Grades for Sonography clinical courses may or may not be posted to Blackboard before the end of the semester; the student must track his/her own grades or request a review of all clinical course evaluations to monitor progress. Students are expected to seek assistance from their instructors and/or the Health Sciences Counselors whenever necessary to maintain a passing grade average in any course.

There is an organized process for keeping students apprised of their grades/professional behavior. The Sonography faculty utilizes a variety of forms to evaluate the student's performance in didactic courses, lab sessions, and clinical courses.

### **Progress Analysis Form**

The Progress Analysis 2-part form is utilized to inform the student of his/her standing in a Sonography didactic or clinical course. A copy of this form is included in the Appendix of the Sonography Student Handbook.

The student is apprised when an exam grade or the course grade average below 75%, but the instructor may complete a Progress Report form at any time during the semester. A copy of Progress Analysis form is provided to the student and a copy is retained by the course instructor. A student may receive a referral to the Health Sciences Counselor with or without the Progress Analysis form.

### **Affective Domain Performance Notification**

The Affective Domain Performance Notification 2-part form is used to inform a student of non-compliant behavior or observed weaknesses during didactic or clinical courses. A copy of this form is included in the Appendix of the Sonography Student Handbook.

The Sonography Program utilizes the Affective Domain Performance Notification tool as both a verbal and written warning. The student is first provided with a verbal warning of a deficiency that has been noted. If the same or similar deficiency is not corrected and/or warrants a stronger initial warning, a written notification is given with recommendations for improvement and/or change in behavior. Issuance of three (3) Affective Domain Performance Notifications during the length of the Program (pattern of behavior) may result in the initiation of the Health Sciences Progressive Discipline Process at Step 2, Conference Report.

### **Re-Admission Policy**

A student is eligible to apply for re-admission to a Sonography Program one time only.

A student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a Program for any reason (personal reasons; failure of one or more Sonography curriculum courses in any semester; health reasons; etc.) is required to complete a Health Sciences Exit Review with the Sonography Department Chair. Examples of withdrawal include, but are not limited to:

*A student successfully completes all but one Sonography course in a given semester. Regardless of the grades in the Sonography courses that are passed, the student is withdrawn from the Program.*

*A student has a serious personal, financial, health problem, cannot meet the Technical Standards and Essential Functions of the Program, or is otherwise unable to meet the learning objectives of his/her course/courses. Regardless of grades up to that point in the Program, the student withdraws or is withdrawn from the Program.*

*A student commits a severe infraction/violation of an Austin Community College and/or Health Sciences and/or Sonography Policy which results in immediate withdrawal (page 34).*

During the Exit Review the student may be given a Division of Health Sciences Offer of Re-entry Eligibility which contains specific details regarding the re-entry process. The Offer of Re-entry Eligibility is not a guarantee that a seat will be available in the semester the student is eligible to return. Students who leave the Program and desire re-entry must sign an agreement detailing the terms under which they will be allowed re-entry into the Program. Unless other arrangements are made in writing by the department, a student must re-enter the program in the next semester in which the appropriate courses are offered. Re-entry is based on space available in the requested semester of re-entry and Verification of Competency. Students requesting re-entry will be ranked using their GPA from their completed Sonography Curriculum courses.

If re-admitted, the student must re-take and pass with a grade of “C” or better all Sonography courses in the semester of re-admission regardless of previous successful completion of those courses. If the student earns a grade of “D” or lower in any repeated Sonography course taken after re-admission to the Program, he/she will be withdrawn from the Program. Please see the Sonography Program Progression information on page 53.

- The ESC-VT program progression requires that the student meet all requirements of his/her AAS (DMS or DCS) degree plan AND all ESC-VT course requirements. If a student demonstrates a lack of progression in either of his/her programs (AAS or ESC-VT), then he or she will be withdrawn from the ESC-VT program so that the student can fully concentrate on successfully completing the AAS degree plan.

### **Re-Verification of Competency**

As previously stated above, all sonography courses within the curriculum are sequenced. Each clinical Level has designated content and assignments; mastery of all Level required skills must be demonstrated for the student to progress to the next Level. A student who is withdrawn from a Sonography Program will not attend any clinical course until the semester of re-admission; therefore Verification of Competency evaluations will be completed prior to the start of the re-entry semester to ensure that the student is scanning appropriately for that Level of the Program.

Re-verification of Competency scanning evaluations will consist of completing a combination of The SCAN® Proficiency and Challenge competencies stated on the Semester Assignment Sheet of the last successfully completed clinical course. The student must earn a minimum passing grade on each evaluation; “1” for Proficiencies and 75% for Challenges.

The student seeking re-entry may request access to the Sonography Lab for practice. Access to the Sonography Lab during a semester is determined by Lab availability; therefore a schedule for Lab use must be developed. The student must present a receipt of payment of the Insurance fee for that semester. At least one Sonography faculty member must be on-campus for the student to utilize the lab. The student will arrange for a scan volunteer in accordance with Sonography Lab Volunteer procedures. The student must abide by all Sonography Lab Rules while using the Lab for practice.

Please refer to the following chart for the re-entry requirements; additional requirements may be assigned to a student seeking re-entry.

Withdrawal Level/Semester	Re-entry Process and Requirements
I (Summer I) II (Fall I)	Re-apply for admission for next admission class.  Concurrent enrollment in any uncompleted General Education courses listed in this semester is required.
III (Spring) IV (Summer II) V (Fall II)	Written request for re-entry must be received by the Sonography Programs no later than 90 days prior to the start of the semester.  All re-entry requirements must be met by the deadline stated in the Offer of Re-entry Eligibility.  Concurrent enrollment in all Sonography and in any uncompleted General Education courses listed in this semester is required regardless of previous successful completion of the Sonography courses.

A student will be readmitted on a space available basis using the following priority guidelines based on reason for withdrawal:

- Priority 1: for health and/or personal reasons. The student was passing all didactic and clinical courses at the time of withdrawal.
- Priority 2: failure of one didactic course with satisfactory completion of all other semester courses.
- Priority 3: failure of two or more semester courses.

If more than one student requests readmission within a Priority category available seats will be offer to the students according to GPA rank derived from performance grades in Sonography courses completed at the time of withdrawal.

**Withdrawal**

Please refer to the ACC Student Handbook for the College policy on student or instructor initiated withdrawal. Please see the above information regarding Program Progression for Sonography students.

**Incomplete**

A student in good standing in a sonography course may request an Incomplete for that course if one of more of the following is determined by Department Chair to be present: serious illness or injury that prevents the student from completing coursework by the end

of the semester. All coursework must be satisfactorily completed prior to the beginning of the next semester as all courses in the Sonography curricula each semester are prerequisites for the next semester's courses.

### **Not Eligible for Re-entry**

During the Exit Review a student may not be eligible for re-entry if a severe infraction/violation occurs. These infractions/violations include, but are not limited to:

- Academic dishonesty
- Falsification of documentation
- Confirmed substance abuse
- Change in criminal history

### **Sonography Programs Attendance**

Lecture, lab and clinical schedules are provided to the student prior to the beginning of each semester. Due to the intense nature of sonography education, missed class or clinical hours may seriously affect a student's ability to complete the requirements of his/her course(s).

Each course syllabus contains information regarding attendance requirements and procedures.

#### ➤ ***Student Work and Educational Schedule***

As in all of the Health Sciences Programs at Austin Community College, working full-time while in a Sonography Program is difficult and not recommended since work schedules generally conflict with class and/or clinical rotations. Any activity that impairs the student's ability to attend class, participate actively in all classroom, lab and clinical sessions, and/or meet the requirements of each course must be avoided. Students are encouraged to visit with the Health Sciences Counselor regarding time management and study skills improvement.

### **Clinical Attendance**

Lecture, lab and clinical schedules are provided to the student prior to the beginning of each semester. A Clinical Site Instructor may adjust or change a student's clinical schedule times by contacting the applicable Clinical Coordinator.

Due to the intense nature of sonography education, missed clinical hours may seriously affect a student's ability to complete the requirements of his/her course(s). See each course syllabus for detailed information regarding attendance requirements and procedures.

The student will record his/her exact start and end times for the clinical day, including the assigned lab session. Each week the total number of hours is recorded on the bi-monthly Attendance record and on the Attendance Total Hours page. The instructor must initial all start and end times.

### **Call-In Procedure for Clinical Absence**

The student is required to notify the Sonography Clinical Coordinator and the clinical site by phone (email messages are not acceptable) at least 30 minutes before his/her shift start time if he/she will be absent.

- When calling the Sonography Clinical Coordinator, the student should state whether or not the clinical site has been called and if he/she left a message on the answering system or with a person.
- The student will document the name of the person taking their message of absence for that day.
- The Absence Form must be completed by the student and given to the Clinical Coordinator during the next on campus day.
- Failure to follow this communication procedure will initiate the Progressive Discipline Process.

The clinical day is 8 hours in length with a minimum ½ hour lunch break; on-campus lab session hours are as assigned. The Clinical Assignment form states the specific time the student is required to report to his/her clinical site. The student must contact the Sonography Program Clinical Coordinator or other faculty for permission to leave the lab and/or clinical site before the assigned end time of the day/session.

Any adjustments or changes to the student's regular clinical schedule must be submitted on the appropriate form to the applicable Clinical Coordinator in advance of the adjustment.

### **Reporting of Serious Illness/Injury or Communicable Disease**

A student having an injury or communicable disease must report the condition to the appropriate Program Clinical Coordinator, Program Director, and/or the Sonography Department Chair. The fact that a student has an injury or communicable disease may prevent the student from performing safely in the clinical area; however, the student is not relieved of the course requirements, including completing the assigned clinical hours. All reasonable efforts will be made to protect the student's right to confidentiality.

The student must submit the Medical Clearance: Return to Clinical Form to return to clinical rotations after diagnosis of serious injury and/or communicable disease. This form must be completed by the student's physician or health care professional.

All students are to follow Standard Precautions in the clinical area for the protection of patients and themselves as outlined in the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

### **Sonography Clinical Rules**

1. Students must comply with all ACC, Sonography Program and Clinical Affiliate policies, procedures, and requirements at all times.
2. The student must always introduce his/herself to staff and patients as an Austin Community College Sonography or Echocardiography or Vascular Technology student.
3. The SCAN® binder records must be completed accurately, legibly and appropriately. All records must be up-to-date each and every clinical day.
4. Students must comply with the Appropriate Clinical Attire requirements during all clinical rotations (on-campus and off-campus sites).

5. Students are allowed to use the on-campus Sonography department/lab computers for sonography activities only. Students are allowed to use the clinical site computers for clinical activities only and under the direction of the clinical instructor. Personal use of these computers is strictly prohibited.
6. No food or drink is allowed in the Sonography Labs and at the off-campus clinical site departments.
  - *Students may have snacks and/or water in sealed containers in the storage cubby provided in the lab for use during short breaks during the on-campus clinical session. Food and drink must be consumed outside of the Sonography Lab.*
  - The student should inform the CI or sonographer if leaving the department for any reason.
7. Cell phones and pagers are prohibited.
  - *The student may not have a cell phone or pager on his/her person while in the Lab or while at the clinical site. Provide your family, childcare providers or other necessary individuals with Sonography and Clinical department contact numbers.)*
8. Arrive on time and be present, attentive and eager to participate as much as possible in all exams during the clinical rotation.
9. Students must demonstrate professional conduct at all times. Any non-professional conduct or disruptive behavior will cause the student to be dismissed from the on-campus or off-campus clinical site and will result in a disciplinary action.
10. The student should ask questions and have discussions with the CI/sonographer at appropriate times; maintain HIPAA confidentiality at all times; discuss any concerns with his/her instructors in private.
11. Whenever the student utilizes the Sonography Lab or attends a clinical site, he/she is responsible for
  - a. preparation of the scan room/station
  - b. careful, safe and ergonomic use of the furniture and equipment in the scan room/lab/department; dims lighting as necessary
  - c. providing appropriate patient care before, during, and after the scan
  - d. accurately entering the patient data/information into the ultrasound unit
  - e. obtaining all images/clips required of the exam/scan being performed
  - f. requesting feedback on his/her scanning and patient interaction skills after the exam/scan is concluded
  - g. cleaning the transducer, ultrasound unit, scan table and ancillary equipment after scanning and at the end of the lab session
  - h. returning the scan table and chair to the lowest settings
  - i. completing all self-assessment of scanning as required
  - j. all duties assigned by the faculty member and/or clinical instructor

12. When a patient (all persons scanned by the student in any setting are considered to be patients) is to be scanned, the student will
  - a. introduce themselves appropriately to the patient
  - b. take the patient to the scan room and confirm the patient's name
  - c. explain the exam/scan process and procedure
  - d. obtain appropriate patient history for the exam/scan to be performed
  - e. conclude the exam/scan appropriately
  - f. maintain HIPAA compliance at all times
  
13. Students do not perform sonographic scans/exams without the CI or staff sonographer present; the CI or staff sonographer must scan the patient and submit the required documentary images/clips. If asked to perform an exam independently and submit your images for interpretation, the student is expected to decline and explain that he/she is not allowed to perform as a staff sonographer. If needed, contact the Sonography Program faculty for assistance and/or clarification of this restriction.
  
14. Children are not allowed in the Sonography Lab; children are allowed to wait in the area/hallway outside of the Sonography Lab if they are supervised by an adult (not a Sonography student). Older children/teens may wait unattended.

### **Required Clinical Attire**

Student's grooming practices shall make ample provision for sanitation, safety, and comfort and shall not draw unnecessary attention to the student so that all can focus their attention on their work and our collective efforts to serve patients. All students shall be required to present a clean, neat, and professional appearance and to dress in a manner appropriate for a professional health care environment. Extreme styles, recreational clothing (in place of or worn with required scrubs), excessive jewelry, and perfumes/colognes or excessive make-up are not acceptable work attire (see below). The On-Site Clinical Instructor or Sonography faculty member may dismiss the student from the clinical day or lab if his/her appearance is not acceptable.

Questions as to the appropriateness of any uniform clothing are answered by previewing the clothing/shoes for the Sonography faculty. The following requirements and rules apply to on-campus and off-campus clinical settings.

Uniform requirements and rules include:

- 1) Wearing appropriately fitting solid Teal for all on-campus and off-campus clinical rotation assignments
  - scrub top in any style (a white T-shirt may be worn under the top if needed)
  - scrub pant in any style
  - long-sleeved scrub jacket
    - jacket must be worn when leaving the on-campus or off-campus Sonography department/lab to prevent the spread of disease
    - if the student wears the jacket while scanning, he/she must remove the jacket when leaving the on-campus or off-campus Sonography department/lab to prevent the spread of disease
  
- 2) Wearing appropriate undergarments which cannot be visible at any time.

- 3) Wearing standard ACC photo ID and name pin at all times in the Sonography Lab and in all clinical areas; the name pin should be at least 1" by 3" in size, white with black letters and rounded corners, first name only. If a clinical affiliate requires the student to wear the affiliates ID badge then both the ACC and clinical affiliate badges must be visible at all times.
- 4) Wearing clean all white leather walking or clog shoes white appropriately colored socks (white, or coordinated with Teal scrubs); no cloth or shoes with air holes on the top (such as "Crocs").
- 5) Wearing jewelry such as engagement rings, wedding rings, graduation rings, small post or hoop earrings, and wristwatches. No other jewelry or body piercing materials may be visible while in any clinical setting. Lanyards are not permitted due to hygiene and safety issues.
- 6) Wearing natural-appearing make-up; natural-to-pale nail polish, and keeping fingernails clean, trimmed and short. Nail polish must be free of chips and students are not allowed to wear finger nail extensions.
- 7) Styling hair neatly so that it does not interfere with patient care or the performance of job:
  - Hair cannot be in the face, in or over the eyes or hang forward over the shoulders;
  - Hair longer than shoulder length should be styled or arranged to avoid violation of the principles of medical asepsis (I.e.: pulled back in a clip, in a pony tail);
  - Hair-colored or white clips, pins or other hair holders may be worn in the hair to have a neatly controlled appearance;
  - Beards and mustaches are acceptable if kept clean and neat (closely trimmed);
  - No fad designs or colors are allowed.
- 8) Covering body tattoos at all times when in the clinical and clinical lab settings.
- 9) Wearing appropriate surgical caps and masks to completely cover head and facial hair if working in Surgery or any other area where a surgical procedure is taking place.
- 10) Wearing a form of personal insignia such as armbands, buttons, hats, etc. is strictly prohibited in order to minimize distraction and preserve professionalism.

### **The SCAN® Binder**

The Sonography student is required to maintain his/her The SCAN® binder appropriately:

1. Students will receive instruction in the correct use and record keeping for The SCAN® in DMSO or DSAE 1260.
2. All documentation must be recorded accurately and legibly using black or blue ink; the student's name must be on each page where required.
3. The student is not allowed to re-arrange the sections of the binder and must not store unrelated paperwork or items in the binder; the binder must be kept confidential and professional in appearance at all times.
4. Questions regarding The SCAN® documentation and record keeping will be addressed by the Sonography Clinical Coordinator or the course instructor. The student should not rely on the opinions or directions given by other students in completing his/her documentation.
5. Attendance and Case Logs must be accurately recorded daily; recording cases observed and/or scanned must be HIPAA compliant.
6. The student marks the Pathology record sheet when pathology is observed and/or scanned in each semester.
7. The student is required to place the required The SCAN® Proficiencies, Benchmark, and Challenge evaluation forms for each evaluation segment immediately after the Semester Assignment Sheet.
8. The Semester Assignment Sheet lists the evaluation requirements for each 5 week segment of the clinical course and documents the student's completion of the evaluations. This document remains in the student's The SCAN® until the completion of the semester.
9. Students are required to complete a Clinical Site Evaluation Form and total their Case Logs at the end of each rotation/semester.
10. All clinical course evaluations and notations are private and should be treated as such by the student; sharing and/or comparing evaluations or scores demonstrates a lack of professionalism on the part of the student.

## **Case Logs**

The student is expected to document all exams/scans (liver and Sim) observed or scanned during scheduled labs, clinical days and Open Lab sessions. The student will document the type of experience, whether the exam was observed or scanned in the Lab (L) or Clinic (C), and for some courses, the number of images taken and the specific organs scanned.

Only one mark per row per column is made:

**Observed:** The student only observes a sonographic exam/procedure and does not scan the patient.

**Limited Scan:** The student observes the sonographer while he/she is scanning then is allowed to scan before or after the sonographer.

**Independent:** The student scans the majority of the exam without assistance. Independent scanning does not mean that the student is allowed to perform sonographic exams as a staff member or without any supervision.

Independent scanning may occur in the second clinical course, will occur in the third clinical course, and must occur in the fourth clinical course. All Benchmark and Challenge evaluations performed in the on-campus and off-campus clinical sites should be marked in the Independent column.

Case Log pages must be totaled when each page is completed and the entire Case Logs section must be totaled at the end of the semester.

No patient names, record numbers or any other identifying data should be included on the Case Log pages (HIPAA). Pages of the student's pocket note book or other notes regarding the number and type of cases observed and/or scanned during the day **MUST** be recorded in the Case Logs and those note pages must be destroyed before leaving the clinical site.

All images/exams recorded by the student using live ultrasound equipment in the Sonography Lab must remain within the lab setting or in the student's clinical course records to maintain compliance with HIPAA.

## **Required Scanning Experiences**

Students will be required to record all exams/scans (live and Sim) that they have participated in or performed during lab, clinical or open lab hours. It is very important that all exams are recorded as this document will be used to track the total number of exams completed while in the Program.

ACC Sonography students are required to obtain a minimum number of hands-on scanning experiences throughout the length of a Sonography Program; this number is correlated to each Level of the Program. Please see individual clinical course syllabi for the required number of hands-on scanning experiences required for that course. Five (5) points will be deducted from the final course grade if a student does not achieve the minimum number of scanning experiences for the course.

Students obtain their hands-on scanning experiences in the Sonography Lab and clinical settings. If a student cannot meet the required number of scanning experiences assigned for each week or otherwise specified time period, he/she is required to confer with the course instructor for guidance.

Scanning experiences are central to demonstrating expected progression and attainment of sonographic skills that allow for increased hands-on scanning experiences throughout the length of a Sonography Program, and for mastery of the technical skills required of ACC Sonography Program students and graduates. Therefore it is incumbent upon the student to obtain as many hands-on scanning experiences as possible using all resources that are available to Sonography students in both the clinical and lab settings. A student may be allowed additional access to a Sonography lab to meet the requirements of the clinical course.

### **Clinical Evaluations**

The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives, Benchmarks, and Challenge assignments vary by Level according to the Program Master Assignment Sheet. Level specific The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives, Benchmark, and Challenge assignments and accompanying due dates are provided to the student at the beginning of each semester.

Students are responsible for completing all clinical course requirements by the due dates stated on the Semester Assignment Sheet; the Case Log Totals, Attendance Total, and Clinical Site Evaluation forms are completed at the end of each rotation/semester.

### **Evaluation Tools**

Clinical evaluation tools (The SCAN® Proficiencies, Benchmarks, and Challenges) utilized by the Sonography Programs are found in the student's The SCAN® binder, in the Sonography Clinical Coordinator's office and, for select forms, in the Sonography Lab and the clinical site (Sonography Programs Clinical Binder). The Affective Domain Performance Notification, Progress Analysis, and Affective Domain forms may also be utilized. The student is responsible for familiarizing his/herself with all Evaluation Tools.

### **The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives**

The student will place The SCAN® Proficiencies required for each designated Level immediately after the Semester Assignment Sheet under tab 4 of The SCAN® binder. The student will highlight the required column, or portions of that column, for that 5 week evaluation period. Completion of The SCAN® Proficiency Performance Objectives may require the student to scan one or more volunteers or patients; the Proficiency will be dated as complete when all required Performance Objectives are marked. The instructor may make comments on the reverse side of the Proficiency page(s). Once the Proficiency is completed, the student will return the page(s) to their correct location within The SCAN®.

The student is apprised of his/her areas that need improvement and where acceptable performance has been demonstrated. Once a Proficiency Objective has been scored at least a "1" the student is expected to continue to Meet Expectations for that Proficiency Objective.

The Proficiency Objectives are marked as “0” – Needs Improvement; “1” – Meets Expectations; “2” – Exceeds Expectations.

### **Benchmark**

Benchmarks are detailed evaluations of specific skills that must be completed according to the due dates stated on the Semester Assignment Sheet. The student should review and be familiar with the criteria of each Benchmark.

The student will place the Benchmarks required for each designated clinical evaluation segment immediately after the Semester Assignment Sheet under tab 4 of The SCAN® binder.

All Benchmark evaluations are performed unassisted by the instructor. A minimum score is required to pass the Benchmark; the student is allowed two attempts to pass a Benchmark. Three or more criteria marked “0” on the first attempt equals a grade of “0” and a second attempt is required. A score less than 75% on the first attempt equals a grade of “0” and a second attempt is required. The second attempt score stands as the grade for the evaluation; the highest score awarded on the second attempt is 75%.

The student is required to sign the Benchmark and is encouraged to write comments regarding his/her performance. A student who has demonstrated successful completion of a Benchmark is expected to retain and apply those skills throughout the remainder of the Program. A student with low or non-passing grades on required Benchmarks will be required to demonstrate successful completion of the Benchmark (score earned does not replace the second attempt score) before attempting a Challenge of the same exam/organ or by the end of the semester.

Benchmark criteria are marked as “0” = No; 1 = Somewhat; 2 = Yes.

### **Challenge**

Challenge evaluations are designated sonographic exams that must be completed by the due dates stated on the Semester Assignment Sheet.

The completed Challenge evaluation documents the student’s ability to perform/acquire specific sonographic images, views and/or exams in a clinical setting and within a designated time frame. The evaluation criteria address all the skills required of a sonographer in the performance of sonographic studies (see the Program and Level specific forms). The Challenge evaluation grade average is a significant part of the grading distribution for the clinical course. The student is expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of each of the criteria in the Challenge, how those criteria relate to the required Challenge assignment, and the due dates for the Challenge assignments.

The student will place the Challenges required for each designated clinical evaluation segment immediately after the Semester Assignment Sheet under tab 4 of The SCAN® binder.

The Sonography student must inform the Clinical Instructor/sonographer that he/she is requesting a Challenge evaluation at the beginning of the clinical day or lab session.

The student is not allowed to decline a patient for the Challenge based on age, sex, body habitus, or condition. The CI/sonographer indicates on the Challenge form the length of time the student is allowed for completing the Challenge exam. The student should review the Challenge evaluation with the CI/sonographer and is required to sign the Challenge form.

All Challenge evaluations are performed unassisted by the instructor. A minimum score is required to pass the Challenge; the student is allowed two attempts to pass a Challenge. Three or more criteria marked "0" on the first attempt equals a grade of "0" and a second attempt is required. A score less than 75% on the first attempt equals a grade of "0" and a second attempt is required. The second attempt score stands as the grade for the evaluation; the highest score awarded on the second attempt is 75%.

The student is required to sign the Challenge and is encouraged to write comments regarding his/her performance. A student who has demonstrated successful completion of a Challenge is expected to retain and apply those skills throughout the remainder of the Program.

**Off-campus Clinical Challenges:** Completed Challenge forms are sealed in an envelope by the CI/sonographer and are retained at the clinical site until retrieved by an ACC Sonography faculty member or delivered to the Program. An incomplete Challenge evaluation form will be returned to the on-site clinical instructor for completion before the grade is entered for the student. Tampering with or falsification of the Challenge form is considered Academic Dishonesty and may result in the student's immediate dismissal from the Program.

The Clinical Challenge criteria are marked as "0" – No; "1" – Somewhat; "2" – Yes.

### **Sonography On-Campus Clinical Labs**

Students are expected to participate fully in all scheduled clinical lab activities as assigned by the instructor. During the assigned on-campus clinical lab session, a student may request a short restroom break. Students should not leave the lab for long periods of time or without informing a faculty member; eating and drinking are not allowed in the lab.

Due to time constraints, evaluations in the On-Campus Lab may be scheduled outside of the regular assigned lab session. A student's evaluation will be scheduled by his/her lab instructor.

Sonography students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to utilize the Sonography Lab and its resources. Open Lab sessions may be scheduled; an Open Lab is a designated time for students to practice the techniques and skills taught during the regular Lab Session. Students also have access to the Sonography Lab before, between and after on-campus lecture courses. Due to variability in campus operating hours, access to a Sonography Lab may not be possible on certain days and times. Please see faculty regarding lab availability.

### **Open Lab Sessions**

Open Lab is a designated time for students to practice the techniques and skills taught during the regular Lab Session. A Sonography faculty member must be present to provide general supervision of the lab. The student will sign in and out and record which scan room he/she utilized during the scanning session.

The student must arrange for his/her volunteer for practice scanning. All volunteers must sign the Volunteer Waiver form which must be witnessed and signed by the ACC faculty member present during the Open Lab session.

Students may reserve a time during an Open Lab on the sign-up schedule posted outside the Sonography Lab and/or by contacting the course instructor for a reservation. If the student is not able to utilize the selected time period, he/she may trade the reserved time with another student or not attend lab at that time.

Open Lab is optional but encouraged. Scanning during Open Lab does not replace lab instruction and/or clinical hours. Due to variability in campus operating hours, access to a Sonography Lab may not be possible on certain days and times. Please see faculty regarding lab availability.

### **Sonography Student Peer Scanning**

The ACC Sonography student is encouraged to volunteer to be scanned by other program students during the course of the Sonography program. The Sonography faculty believes it is important for each and every student to experience the role of a patient in the sonography department. Student scan labs are the primary location for student's to obtain hands-on instruction throughout the length of the program. Scanning of peers or volunteers is not allowed unless a Sonography faculty member is physically present to monitor the use of the Sonography Lab.

Each student that wishes to volunteer for peer scanning is required to sign the Student Waiver Form (Section III). The procedure for student peer scanning is detailed on the waiver form. The signed form will be kept in the student's file and will be in effect throughout the length of the program unless the student signs a Peer Scanning Declination Form. Students that decline to volunteer for peer scanning throughout the length of the program will sign the Peer Scanning Declination Form.

The Sonography Program faculty recognizes and respects the student's decision not to participate in peer scanning. A declination of peer scanning will not impact the student's grades or standing in the program.

Sonography students that are or become pregnant during the course of a Program MAY NOT be scanned by any student or faculty member unless the pregnant student meets the requirements stipulated for all obstetric volunteers (see Student Lab – Volunteer Scheduling Procedure).

### **Sonography On-Campus Volunteer Scheduling**

The Sonography Programs accept volunteers wishing to assist Sonography students with attaining hands-on scanning skills and competencies. Volunteers are accepted for the DMS Labs (abdominal organs and vessels, pelvic organs and structures, thyroid, and obstetrical), DCS Labs (heart), and ESC-VT Labs (blood vessels throughout the

body). These individuals must contact the Sonography Clinical Coordinator to obtain information about volunteer requirements and to schedule the appointment(s).

All student scan lab sessions are 100% supervised by an ARDMS credentialed Sonography Faculty member. All volunteers must be in good health; those individuals seeking medical care or diagnosis are not accepted as volunteers and are directed to contact their health care provider for assistance. The Clinical Coordinator and/or faculty inform all potential callers of the criteria to volunteer for a Sonography lab session. All volunteers must sign the Volunteer Waiver Form. Volunteers for obstetrical scans must obtain written permission from their health care provider and must meet the criteria of the DMS Program for gestational age and pregnancy status.

All OB volunteers must be scheduled by the DMS Program for scheduled Clinical Lab and Open Lab sessions. Contact the DMS Clinical Coordinator for OB volunteer scheduling criteria and process.

### **Sonography Off-Campus Clinical Volunteer Scanning**

During the clinical day the staff and/or sonographers at the student's clinical site may agree to volunteer for student practice scanning when time and the clinical schedule allows. The staff and/or sonographers are not obligated by the Sonography Programs to provide this type of scanning opportunity and the student should respect the wishes of the staff and/or sonographers regarding practice scanning.

Pregnant staff and/or sonographers will not be scanned by the student at the clinical site unless a standard exam is scheduled. The pregnant staff member or sonographer must provide the Program with written permission from the health care provider before the student will be allowed to practice scan the pregnancy.

### **Recorded Images/Exams - Sonography On-Campus Lab**

Students will record images/exams for instructional purposes during scheduled and Open Lab sessions. Images/exams, regardless of recording method utilized, and any accompanying documents must remain within the ACC Sonography Department to maintain compliance with HIPAA.

### **Donated Case Study**

If a clinical affiliate site wishes to donate sonographic images or video clips, the sonographer at the site must contact the Sonography Programs directly to initiate the donation. The Sonography student is prohibited from initiating the donation process and may not accept or remove from the site any images/video clips, reports, or copies of the patient records regardless of level of de-identification of the patient record or information.

In compliance with ACC HIPAA procedures regarding the use of donated de-identified patient information (sonographic teaching case studies), the following procedure must be followed:

All films, videos, clips must be de-identified prior to the study leaving the clinical site. This may be done electronically (deleting the patient name and MR number from the study) or physically (cutting the patient name and MR number out of the films). Films,

videos and clips that cannot be de-identified prior to the case leaving the donating clinical site cannot be used by the program and will not be accepted.

Failure to follow the above procedure will result in disciplinary actions for the student and the faculty.

De-identified case studies donated to the Sonography Programs will be logged into the appropriate section of the Donated Case Log and the studies will be labeled according to the type (Abdominal, Adult Echo, etc.) and number assigned to the case. For example, an Upper Abdominal studies will be labeled A1, A2, etc. Adult Echocardiography studies will be labeled AE1, AE2, etc. The Donated Case Log will also record which course the study will be utilized for teaching during the curriculum.

It is the responsibility of the Sonography faculty to appropriately log and label each donated case. The Donated Case Log will be maintained in the Sonography Clinical Coordinator office and will be available for inspection by the HIPAA Task Force at any time.

### **Sonography Student Pregnancy Policy**

Because there is no ionizing radiation involved in ultrasound, a student can participate in all program activities contingent upon the student's physician approval. The Program will require the student to inform the Department Chair if pregnancy is confirmed. Since Ultrasound Department/facilities are frequently in close proximity to Radiology Departments, the program may provide the pregnant student with a radiology dosimeter to monitor her while she is in clinic, if applicable. Additionally, it will be required that the student provide a letter from her physician indicating she can participate in program activities.

Although pregnancy is not an illness, the student's ability to meet all course requirements during her pregnancy may be affected. The student is not excused from any course requirements including attendance requirements. When a student informs the Department Chair of her pregnancy and expected due date, the Department Chair and Health Sciences Counselor will apprise the student of all the remaining requirements of the degree plan courses. Missed clinical hours and/or lecture/lab courses may be made up during the Level in which the student has missed clinical time or lecture/lab activities; if the absences equal more than 1 week for clinical hours or two lecture/lab class sessions it may not be possible for the student to make up the lost time. Should the pregnancy come to term while the student is in Level V, the student may be given an "Incomplete" and allowed to make up the missed activities/classes during the intersession or the next semester.

At any point during the Program, if the pregnant student's previous performance in the Program has been acceptable, she may elect to withdraw in good standing from the program and she will be allowed to return to the Program the following year on a space available basis.

### **Sonography Student Working as Staff**

Students in the Sonography program will not be substituted for regular staff even though they may be competent in certain aspects of sonography. Should a student be employed in any ultrasound facility that is an affiliate of the program, they may do so only during times where it does not involve or conflict with program activities. Additionally, should a student be employed by a facility where clinical rotation is normally conducted; they may not use any “employer time” to substitute for program clinical requirements.

### **Sonography Student Visiting the Clinical Site (non-assigned)**

Students are prohibited from visiting any clinical site (unless employed by the site or as a patient treated at the site) utilized by the program outside of assigned clinical education hours or as required by the program (pre-rotation visit).

### **Sonography Student Use of Ultrasound Equipment (non-assigned)**

Students enrolled in an ACC Sonography Program may have access to ultrasound departments or equipment in their place of employment. During scheduled and assigned clinical education hours, the ACC student is expected to participate in scanning and is covered by the ACC Liability Insurance. However, students using ultrasound equipment in the workplace for practice is not required, expected, or condoned by the ACC Sonography Program. Use of ultrasound equipment in this manner is unethical.

An employer who allows a student to utilize ultrasound equipment on employee time and outside the assigned ACC Sonography Program clinical rotation is required to acknowledge in writing that the employee (student) is not required to accrue scan time outside of assigned clinical hours and that the employer has given approval of use of ultrasound equipment by an ACC Sonography student during employment hours.

## V. Sonography Programs Student Resources

Sonography students should refer to the ACC website ([www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu)), the ACC Student Handbook ([www.austincc.edu/handbook/](http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/)), contact the Admissions Office (any campus), or any ACC counselor at any campus for general college information.

### Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 222 from any ACC phone; 223-7999 from any phone

ACC Health Sciences Admission and Information Office: (512) 223-5700

Sonography EVC Administrative Assistant: (512) 223-5941

Sonography Department Chair/DMS Program Director: (512) 223-5944

DCS Program Director: (512) 223-0295

ESC-VT Program Director: (512) 223-5943

Clinical Coordinators: DMS/ESC-VT (512) 223-5945; DCS (512) 223-0294

Sonography Lab: EVC (512) 223-5942; RRC (512) 223-0294

Fax: EVC (secure): (512) 223-5890; RRC (secure): (512) 223-0911

### ACC Student Services

Austin Community College provides many student services which include Advising and Counseling, Admissions and Records, Childcare Services, Computer Facilities, Cultural Centers, Financial Aid, Library Services and Media Center, Student Life, and Students with Disabilities. For a detailed list of services provided by ACC Student Services, visit: <http://www.austincc.edu/support/index.php>.

### **Counseling Services**

Full-time professional counselors are on staff at all ACC campuses to provide confidential assistance to students by appointment and on a walk-in basis.

To see a Health Sciences Counselor, call 223-5180 (EVC) or 223-0235 (RRC), or Student Services 223-5188 (EVC) or 223-0009 (RRC), or any other Counseling Center at any campus for an appointment or check with the Student Services Office at any campus for walk-in times (<http://www.austincc.edu/support/index.php>). The EVC Health Sciences Counselor is housed in Building 9000 and the RRC Health Sciences Counselor is housed in Building 3000; both are readily accessible to all Health Science students. A student may seek assistance from the HS Counselor or the student may be referred to the HS Counselor if his/her performance in any Sonography or co-requisite course is not

meeting stated criteria. If a Counselor cannot provide the information or assistance you need, he/she will be able to provide you with information on services available outside of ACC.

### **Students with Disabilities**

“Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes”. Please see [www.austincc.edu/support/osd/index.php](http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/index.php) for more information and instructions. Refer to the Sonography brochure, Sonography website, and Sonography Student Handbook for Technical Standards and Essential Functions for Sonography.

### **Student Financial Aid**

Austin Community College provides financial aid to assist students; the financial aid program includes scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment.

The College expects students to make a maximum effort to assist themselves and provide a portion of their college expenses. Students should view financial aid only as a supplement to their financial resources.

Students must reapply each year for financial aid and mail applications by the suggested dates (see current ACC Student Handbook). Students who plan to attend both fall and spring need apply only once for that academic year. If an application is late, the College awards funds only if funds are available. Please contact any ACC Financial Aid Office for application deadline dates.

### **Library Facilities**

The Libraries at the Eastview and Round Rock Campuses support the Health Sciences programs located at each respective campus. The libraries are staffed to provide library, media, and computer center services for students and faculty.

## Sonography Profession Resources

Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), [www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org), is a resource for Sonography Code of Ethics, Clinical Practice Standards, the National Minimum Standards for Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals, Sonography Career information, Model Job Description, sonographer safety and other information. The SDMS Foundation provides scholarships and grants for students and sonographers for educational purposes. Many educational publications (Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography), webinars, and conferences are available to all SDMS members. Please contact your Program Director for information on the scholarships and grants offered by the SDMS. Student membership at a reduced rate is available.

American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), [www.asecho.org](http://www.asecho.org), provides resources for practitioners and students of Cardiac Sonography. The ASE publishes a journal and many other educational products, some of which are online, that members receive as a benefit of membership. The ASE conducts an annual conference that is available for all members. Student membership is available at a reduced rate and the ASE offers scholarships and grants to students for educational purposes. Please see the DCS Program Director for information on student membership, scholarships, and grants offered by ASE.

Society of Vascular Technology (SVU), [www.svunet.org](http://www.svunet.org), represents vascular technologists, vascular physicians, vascular lab managers, nurses, and other allied medical ultrasound professionals. Since its founding the SVU has been dedicated to the advancement of noninvasive vascular technology used in the diagnosis of vascular disease, through education programs, publications, and certification. The SVU offers student membership at reduced rates and many online resources for vascular technologists/sonographers and students. Please see the ESC-VT Program Director for information on SVU student membership and other student benefits.

## Sonographer Credentialing

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org), offers exams in Abdominal and Superficial Structures, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Adult and Pediatric Echocardiography, Vascular Technology, Neurosonology, Breast, and Musculoskeletal Sonography. The ARDMS Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam is required for all credentials; an individual seeking to obtain ARDMS credentials must take the SPI and at least one of the specialty exams to earn the applicable credential.

ACC AAS DCS and DMS Sonography Program graduates are able to apply to take the ARDMS exams under Prerequisite #2. Students are able to apply to take the ARDMS SPI exam after completing DMSO 1302, DSAE 1318, and DMSO 1191.

Other credentialing organizations offer Sonography exams, but the ARDMS remains the “gold standard” for sonographer credentialing. The ACC Sonography Programs follow the ARDMS exam content outlines so that students and graduates are prepared to sit for the ARDMS exams.

## Program Development and Content Resources

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Standards and Guideline for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (<http://www.caahep.org>)

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (exam content outlines) (<http://www.ardms.org>)

Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, and Clinical Practice Standards) (<http://www.sdms.org/positions/default.asp>)

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Sonography National Education Curriculum; Programmatic Accreditation Site Visit Summary form) (<http://www.jrcdms.org>)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Workforce Education Course Manual (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/AAR/UndergraduateEd/WorkforceEd/>)

## Sonography Student Practices

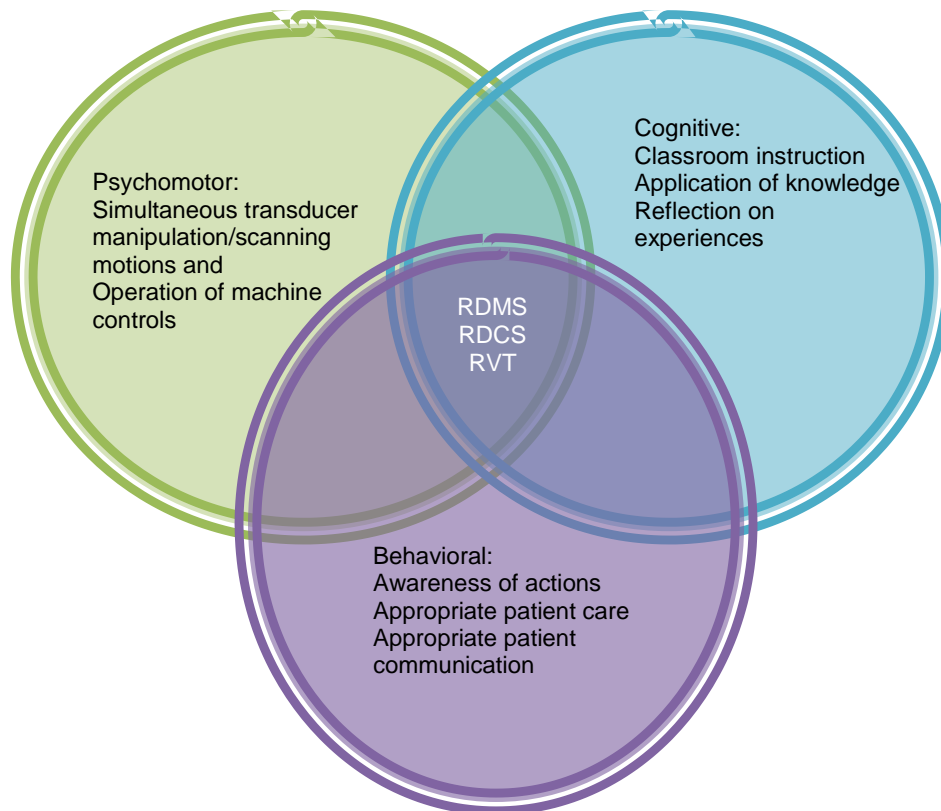
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will accept responsibility for his/her own learning and seeks assistance to improve his/her grade whenever necessary.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will comply with all Program and course requirements, policies, and procedures.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will take advantage of Open Lab times and any tutoring and feedback that is given to improve grade standing.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will appropriately utilize The SCAN ®, course syllabi, ACC Student Handbook, Sonography Student Handbook, the course site on Blackboard as resource documents for success in a Sonography Program.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will exhibit professional demeanor and qualities during didactic and clinical courses.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will initiate activities that promote an in-depth study of sonography practices and principles by assertive participation in challenging exams, review of interesting cases, discussions with physician interpreter, research of unusual cases, etc.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will remain calm under a variety of situations the ability to focus and multi-task, comprehend and follow verbal and written instructions, apply didactic knowledge to clinical practice and retain previously learned information/skills.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will recognize that performing sonographic exams/procedures requires development of specialized skills including hand-eye coordination and mental visualization of 3-dimensional anatomy, critical thinking skills and an in-depth knowledge of normal and pathologic conditions and sonographic appearances.
- ❖ The successful Sonography Student will recognize that even if given appropriate instruction in scanning techniques, critical thinking processes, clinical skills and normal/pathologic sonographic appearances, the aptitude to perform sonographic exams rests solely with the student's inherent abilities.

## Learning Within the Sonography Programs

**Learning is the lifelong process of transforming information and experience into knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes.**

Sonographers are lifelong learners because ultrasound technology changes (sometimes rapidly!), new exams/procedures are developed, and each patient scanned is unique! Sonographers must be: adaptable, flexible, highly motivated, intent on improving knowledge and skills, able to process and retain large amounts of information, able to apply knowledge to clinical practice, and able to provide good customer (patient care) service in all settings.

The learning domains in Sonography with examples:



The rest of this section of the Sonography Student Handbook is devoted to links and information from those links on Study Skills, Test Taking, Time Management, and other helpful tips/techniques for improving your learning in Sonography.

- **Study Skills and Test Taking Resources Frequently Asked Questions**

*How Can I Get Everything Done? There's Not Enough Time and there's So Much to Study!*

From: <http://www.campbellpharmacy.net/students/academic-support/time-management.html>

**How to Manage Time and Set Priorities:**

What Are the 3 Rules for Effective Time Management?

1. **Don't Create Impossible Situations.** Don't get trapped into doing too much. Don't try to work full time and take a full load. Don't take too many lab classes. Use time to create success, not failure. Be realistic about school. For most classes, plan to study 2 hours for every 1 hour of class. ***Make time your friend not your enemy.*** Identify your first priority classes and do whatever it takes to succeed. Drop second priority classes or reduce work hours if necessary.
2. **Define Your Priorities Using the 3-List Method.** All time management begins with planning. Use lists to set priorities, plan activities and measure progress. One approach is the 3-list method.

**List #1 - The weekly calendar.**

Create a weekly calendar. Make it your basic time budgeting guide. List your courses, work, study time, recreation, meals, TV, relaxation, etc. Plan to study first priority classes when you work best. Be flexible; adapt your schedule to changing needs. Keep your schedule handy and refer to it often. If it doesn't work, change it.

**List #2 - The daily "Things to Do".**

Write down all the things that you want to do today. Note homework due or tests or subjects you want to emphasize. Include shopping and personal calls, etc. This list is a reminder. Use it to set daily priorities and to reduce decision-making and worry. If time is tight, move items to your long-term list. Rewrite this list each morning. Use visualization to help you focus on what to do. This list is also a measure of your day-to-day success. Check off items as you finish them and praise yourself for each accomplishment.

**List #3 - Goals and other things.**

This can be one or two lists, a monthly list and or a long-term list. Put down your goals and things you have to do. What do you want to accomplish over the next month or year? What do you need to buy? Use this list to keep track of all your commitments. If you're worried about something, put it on this list. The purpose of this list is to develop long-term goals and to free your mind to concentrate on today.

3. **Avoid Distractions and Lack of Focus.**

Time is precious. Yet many people waste time by getting stuck in one or more of the following habits.

- a. **Procrastination** - putting off important jobs.
- b. **Crises management** - being overwhelmed by the current crisis. No time for routine matters.
- c. **Switching and floundering** - lack of concentration and focus on one job.
- d. **Television, telephones and friends** - these are all ways of avoiding work.

e. **Emotional blocks** - boredom, daydreaming, stress, guilt, anger and frustration reduce concentration.

f. **Sickness** - getting sick and blowing your schedule.

In all of these cases, the first step is to recognize the problem and resolve to improve. Use priority lists to focus attention. Try positive self-talk. To avoid distractions, find a quiet place to study, the library or a study hall. Get an answering machine.

*I don't think my study skills are working for this course!*

**5 Powerful Study Tips** From: <http://www.classesandcareers.net/2008/02/21/5-powerful-study-tips/>

College is a ceaseless barrage of assignments, deadlines, and papers. Somehow, between running to classes and pounding out essays, you have to actually absorb the deluge of information being thrown your way, to say nothing of maintaining your sanity and sense of normalcy.

Although learning styles differ, it has been found that certain techniques almost universally help students learn and retain knowledge better and faster. Check out the following **five ways to improve your study skills**:

**1. Repetition. Repetition. Repetition.** Did I mention repetition? That's probably because "*repetition is the mother of knowledge.*" It was true when you were a newborn babe, and it's true now. Humans learn by being exposed to things again and again and again. Research has found that humans, on average, must encounter information seven times before they commit it to long-term memory. Other research has found that frequently returning to the same information greatly increases retention.

How does this apply to you? It means that attending lecture isn't enough. It means that you need to increase the number of times you see and think about the things you are learning. This may be as simple as reviewing your lecture notes the next day, reviewing material in a study group, or doing assigned homework exercises. The more you return to the information, the greater your chances that the information will be in your head when you need it.

**2. Take notes.** Something magical happens in the brain in the process of taking spoken information into the ears and translating them into words on the page. The brain has to

process the information once when it hears it and then once more when it sends the signals to the hand to write it. The result: your brain thinks twice about information it is receiving, which is a good thing!

So, don't substitute the digital recorder for taking good notes. Notes go a long way toward increasing retention. Returning to your notes can recall important memories of lectures and intuitive links made during those lectures. They are an essential companion to repetition.

To increase the power of note-taking, don't just write down rote what the professor has on the board. Change up the wording. Put it in language you can understand and will easily recall later. This adds one more opportunity for your brain to process the information before moving on to the next item.

**3. Diagram it.** Before letters and words came along, man started his communications career using pictures to convey feelings, stories, and information. It seems the human brain is just hardwired to understand the world through pictures. So, you might as well use this unique ability to get through school.

When studying complex concepts, try sketching out diagrams that explain them in succinct but correct ways. Put these diagrams in the margins of your notes, over your Gene Simmons poster, or somewhere else where you will see them often. You will be amazed at how these diagrams pop right back into your head during exams or even later during crucial job interviews- instead of, say, pictures of Gene Simmons.

**4. Create a space.** Maybe as important as how you study is where you study. Places with lots of noise or activity create traffic jams in your brain with only limited amounts of desired information making it to your memory banks. On the other hand, places with lots of room and peace and quiet let you focus solely on the information before you and ensure maximum retention.

Experts recommend that you find your temple of study, a place that you can return to again and again with the sole purpose of studying. Look for a place with the following characteristics: good lighting, good ventilation, a comfortable (but not too comfortable) chair, and a desk large enough to spread out your materials. Some things you want to avoid: a

view of activities that you want to be involved in, a telephone, a loud stereo, a TV, and a talkative friend. Pretty much anywhere in your dorm is a bad place to study.

Remember, you're trying to train your brain to go into study mode every time you enter this space. So, don't do anything else in your study temple but study. Some good candidates for study temples: libraries, wilderness areas, and study rooms/carrels.

**5. Budget your time.** Adequate study takes time and won't usually happen accidentally. This means you've got to keep a planner, schedule in times to study, and stick to your schedule.

Having a consistent study schedule, like having a consistent study temple, helps your brain get used to studying intensely at certain times. This makes it easier for your brain to absorb maximum amounts of information.

*What can I do to improve my test-taking?*

### **Five Test-Taking Strategies for Online University Students**

From: <http://www.wgu.edu/blogpost/five-test-taking-strategies-online-university-students>

(Although the majority of your courses in the ACC Sonography Programs are hybrid or campus-based courses, the testing is done via Blackboard. Therefore, the suggestions below can be applied to on-campus, computer testing.)

Online university exams can be daunting, but there are a few simple strategies you can use to ensure the best score. Take advantage of these tips to create an efficient test-taking process.

1. **Re-read directions and word problems.** This may be an obvious statement, but many students lose test points because they misunderstand the questions. Take time to reread your directions before choosing your answers.
2. **Don't waste time.** If you are stuck on a test question, keep going and come back to it. Maintaining a steady rhythm is important when taking a test with time constraints. Answering easy questions first allows you to build confidence and get an overview of the test material.

3. **Eliminate answers.** When answering a multiple choice question, one or two answers can usually be eliminated right away. These answers are typically very similar in content or just don't fit. Disregard the incorrect answers and focus on your remaining choices.
4. **Condense the content.** Test questions can sometimes be long and complicated. If you are having trouble finding the answer with the supplied language, summarize the question in your own words to better relate to the content.
5. **Review, review, review.** Before turning in your test, make sure you review your work by:
  - Verifying your answers are correct
  - Making sure no questions are left blank
  - Linking related questions to ensure your answers are consistent
  - Proofreading essay questions to correct for spelling and grammar

Look for the best answer of the options given.

Avoid over-reading or under-reading the question; the question is what it is on the paper or on the monitor.

Trust your subconscious to have the right answer the first time!

### How do I seek assistance with coursework?

- 1) Contact your instructor first with questions you have developed from your study. You can contact your instructor via email, by phone, or in person during the instructor's office hours or by appointment.
  - a. Know all of your instructor's contact information and office hours (syllabus, Blackboard)
  - b. ACC Sonography instructors are never too busy to answer your questions, but may request to discuss your questions when he/she can give you the time you need
  - c. Your instructor may suggest that you review the text and/or course notes to see if you can discern the answer to a question on your own to help you learn how to utilize the resources available (builds valuable workplace skills)
  - d. Your instructor may recommend that you visit with a Health Sciences Counselor and/or the Learning Lab for assistance
  - e. Your instructor may recommend additional practice time in the Sonography Lab if you need assistance with a scanning skill
- 2) Identify specific areas of lecture material or evaluations and request focused assistance

- a. Research test questions to see if you can clarify your understanding yourself
  - b. Contact your instructor regarding your questions about the course material or test questions
    - i. Discuss ways to improve your understanding
  - c. Seek assistance from a classmate who understands the area where you are confused; be sure that you both have a strong reference for your conclusions
- 3) Complete all posted practice activities such as Self Studies or Soft Chalk lessons
- 4) Self-Assess and request feedback on all clinical skills
- a. **Reflective Practice** is "the capacity to reflect on action so as to engage in a process of continuous learning", which, according to the originator of the term, is "one of the defining characteristics of professional practice".  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflective\\_practice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflective_practice)
  - b. The act of reflection is seen as a way of promoting the development of autonomous, qualified and self-directed professionals. Engaging in Reflective Practice is associated with the improvement of the quality of care, stimulating personal and professional growth and closing the gap between theory and practice.  
<http://www.virtualcurriculum.com/N4120/REFLECTION.pdf>
  - c. **Reflective practice** for the Sonography student encompasses **thinking** about what you did (took notes in class, took a test in class, performed a scan), **evaluating** your experience (my notes are thorough, I missed several questions on the test, I couldn't get all the images for the scan but the technical settings were good), and **taking the next step** (keep taking notes in the same fashion, researching missed questions and requesting review of the test with the instructor, additional scanning practice in the lab and requesting assistance and feedback from the instructor) to improve or maintain skills.

*How do I know what is expected of me while I am a student in an ACC Sonography Program?*

The Sonography Programs have created numerous documents and publications for your reference and to help you succeed. These are not handbooks and forms to just carry around...read them, know them, and use them!

Check Blackboard and your ACC email account daily. If you have a question about a process, rule, regulation, procedure, check the above resources!

Why do some Sonography courses make me feel like I am outside my “comfort zone”?

It is important to have the desire and willingness to learn and stretch past your comfort zone. This stretching will expand your knowledge base and strengthen your critical thinking skills especially if you apply hands on learning. It can be scary to climb out of one’s box “comfort zone” and view the world with new eyes and ears. However, it is exciting!

The ACC Sonography Programs are designed to prepare you to work as a Sonographer, a challenging career in which you will be required to demonstrate self-starter, organizational, and motivational skills in the workplace. Sonographers do not wait to be told what to do but complete the exams requested at the time of request and/or develop a schedule to accomplish the requested exams during the work day.

ACC student Sonographers develop these skills by:

- reading the text and reviewing any course materials posted on Blackboard prior to each lecture session
- creating a study schedule/calendar
- planning extra study time/sessions for exams
- creating a plan for accomplishing Proficiencies, Benchmarks, and Challenges listed on the Semester Assignment Sheet

Why are all of these requirements, policies and procedures in place?

The requirements, policies, and procedures of ACC, the Health Sciences Division, and the Sonography Programs are in place to help you develop workplace skills expected by employers and to ensure that students have access to college, division, and program information and processes while enrolled at ACC. Many of the policies and procedures of ACC Health Sciences and the Sonography Programs mirror employee rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of health care facilities.

For example, all Sonographers must:

- 1) Maintain professional ethics and behavior in all settings to ensure high quality patient care and to represent themselves, the profession, and their employer appropriately
  - a. ACC Sonography students have the same requirements and expectations when representing ACC, the Sonography programs, the profession, and themselves in all settings
  - b. ACC Sonography students must demonstrate ethical behavior in submitting their assignments
- 2) Maintain accurate patient records efficiently and in a timely manner

- a. ACC Sonography students must maintain their The SCAN® binder documents accurately and in a timely manner
  - b. ACC Sonography students must complete all assignments by the stated due dates
- 3) Perform the requested exams according to department protocols producing diagnostic quality sonographic exams within the time allotted
  - a. ACC Sonography students must complete assigned Proficiencies, Benchmarks, and Challenges with the goal of producing diagnostic quality sonograms
  - b. ACC Sonography students must complete assigned sonographic exams within the time allotted
- 4) Submit a Technical Report for the interpreting physician
  - a. ACC Sonography students must complete Technical Reports using ACC DCS, DMS, or ESC-VT forms

Additionally, ACC Health Sciences, Sonography Programs, and Sonography course policies and procedures address the behavior of students while on campus, compliance with Standard Precautions and other infection control procedures, dress codes/professional appearance, HIPAA, and other policies and procedures regarding safety and chain of command. You are held accountable for your actions and/or lack of compliance.

*Why do I need to practice scanning and sonographic exams so many times?*

The only places a Sonography student can practice clinical scanning skills is in the Sonography Lab and at the off-campus clinical site. Scanning practice at your off-campus clinical site can be limited due to the types of exams performed, the case load, and/or your level of scanning skill. Therefore, your best opportunity to practice scanning skills is in the Sonography Lab, especially taking advantage of any Open Lab sessions. It takes time and practice to develop psychomotor skills such as sonographic scanning. The more different body types you scan, the more challenging the anatomy is to scan, and the more frequently you scan all serve to build your skills.

You will not acquire appropriate scanning skills (produce diagnostic quality images/video clips/measurements) without factual feedback from your instructors. You should seek feedback from your instructors every time you scan. Your ACC faculty instructors are experienced seasoned professionals who have very high standards for the performance of sonographic exams. Your instructors will not tell you what you want to hear, but what you need to hear to improve. Although learning to perform sonographic exams is challenging, you should not fall back on "difficult to scan" when you do not obtain appropriate images, video clips, or measurements.

You should seek to learn the subtleties of scanning, how to acquire appropriate scan windows, how to critically think when you are not able to obtain the desired imaging, and how to recognize when you do have the anatomy demonstrated as clearly as possible! Feedback given on your images/video clips of a patient may not be applicable to the next patient. Learn the appropriate presentation and sonographic appearances of the anatomy you are seeking to evaluate and demonstrate. If you cannot recognize an appropriate image or view, you'll get a poor image or view and then try to convince your instructor that the image/view is good.

Sonographers are not picture takers, but are professionals who think about "What I am I seeing on the monitor?", "What does the sonographic appearance mean?", and "What should I do next?" during the entire scan. Acquiring the above skills is a complex process which requires you to practice, practice, and practice some more! Once you have satisfactorily demonstrated a skill, you then need to practice on as many different body types as possible and continue to improve your skills. Take advantage of any opportunity to practice your scanning skills: Open Labs, between classes, at the clinical site, and during scheduled on-campus clinical lab sessions.

*Why is there so much to cover in such a short period of time?*  
*Why is everything so fast-paced and timed?*

Sonography is a fast-paced medical specialty in which the Sonographer must manage to perform diagnostic quality sonographic exams in sometimes very difficult environments. It is not unusual for a Sonographer to be interrupted multiple times during the sonogram by other medical personnel seeking information, requesting results, asking for another exam to be performed, or for several other reasons. Physicians and other health care personnel give the Sonographer verbal instructions or information related to the sonographic exam or for an exam to be done later in the day.

The Sonographer must think constantly while performing the sonogram, noting whether or not the sonographic appearances/findings are normal or an abnormality is present. The practicing Sonographer must retain new information and skills gained by the ever increasing numbers of scans/sonographic exams that he/she performs so that future patients will benefit from the Sonographer's experience.

Just like the Sonography workplace, the pace of the Sonography Programs is "fast" due to the volume of information must be covered and the multiple skills must be learned to ensure graduates are ready for the workplace (entry-level). The Sonography Student will develop these valuable workplace skills by remaining calm and maintaining focus during the process of learning the psychomotor skill of transducer manipulation and machine operation to

produce adequate imaging of the patient. Becoming frustrated, distracted, and overly critical of yourself because you can't obtain the image you desire is non-productive. Learning to scan and obtain diagnostic images is a process of obtaining this skill which doesn't happen quickly. Staying focused and calm will improve your learning experience.

In the Sonography Lab and at the clinical site you will be expected to follow verbal instructions to assist the instructor and/or staff sonographer. You are expected to follow the written information, forms and instructions provided in your course materials. You will need to retain and apply the information from your didactic (lecture) classes to the clinical setting; didactic and clinical education are linked throughout the length of the program.

*I thought I was demonstrating appropriate behavior. What's the big deal?*

Behaviors and actions suited to leisure activities, sports, etc. are not appropriate in the classroom and clinical settings. Behaviors that were appropriate in your previous employment setting(s) may not be acceptable for you to demonstrate while you are an ACC Sonography student and when you become a working Sonographer. Demonstrating a professional demeanor is not necessarily an inherent trait. Your instructors demonstrate professional behaviors for you to emulate and incorporate as you develop yourself into a professional Sonographer.

It is important to your education in Sonography to know when professional behavior is required and when you can be less formal in your interactions with others. You should be aware of what you say, how you say it, when you say it and to whom you say it. You should be aware of how your behavior is received and interpreted by others and how you impact others. If needed, seek assistance from your instructors to improve your professional behavior and interpersonal skills in the classroom and clinical settings. Ask for feedback on your communication and behavioral skills and apply any recommendations given.

*How are the scanning skills taught?*

Your instructors have several methods for teaching sonographic skills. One teaching method is for the instructor to place his/her hand on your hand while you are scanning to guide you to a better window, image, or view. Another method is to demonstrate a skill/image to a small group and allow each student to try to reproduce the skill or image. Often an instructor will demonstrate the technique for acquiring a view of the anatomy or a particular image to one or two students then allow each student several minutes to scan to obtain the view or image without providing assistance.

Then the instructor will review the student's scanning technique and/or images with the student.

Your instructors will expect you to make decisions early on about the windows you are using to scan, the assessment of the organ/structure you are performing, the image(s) you are acquiring, and the technical settings of the ultrasound unit. These expectations build your workplace skills and ability to adapt and learn new ultrasound machines and applications.



## **Appendix**

This section contains forms are used by the Sonography Programs to inform students of their standing in their coursework, copies of all completed and signed Clinical Documents or Forms as required by ACC Health Sciences, the Sonography Programs and the student's assigned clinical facility and the Accident Forms which are not completed unless utilized by the student or Program.



# SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM AFFECTIVE DOMAIN PERFORMANCE NOTIFICATION

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

This form is issued because you continue to demonstrate one or more of the following:

**Non-compliance with college, Program, and/or Clinical Affiliate policies and procedures:**

Clinical Site and Sonography Lab Rules and Procedure # \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Safety: \_\_\_\_\_

Biological Safety: \_\_\_\_\_

Emotional Safety: \_\_\_\_\_

Unprofessional Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance of SCAN® binder: \_\_\_\_\_

HIPAA violation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Today you were not:**

prepared to scan: \_\_\_\_\_

able to follow verbal instructions to improve scanning performance: \_\_\_\_\_

able to demonstrate retention of knowledge of previously learned procedures: \_\_\_\_\_

able to apply didactic knowledge to clinical practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_



# SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM STUDENT PROGRESS ANALYSIS

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Student:

This information should help in your efforts to successfully complete this course. Please contact me in person (by appointment) or in writing if you have questions, concerns or comments.

**Your current grade/status is \_\_\_\_\_; based on:**

Test scores _____	Assignment grades _____
Quiz scores _____	Lab evaluations _____
Participation _____	Affective Domain _____
Clinical Challenges _____	Attendance _____

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

- You are progressing well.
- Your performance is improving; continue your efforts.
- Your progress is weak.
- You lack focus and organization.
- Your test scores are jeopardizing your grade.
- You are in danger of failing this course.
- Refer to attached Didactic Affective Domain.
- Your interpersonal skills are lacking.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendations:**

- Improve your study skills.
- Improve your test taking skills.
- Seek assistance to improve your interpersonal skills and communication.
- Your vocabulary/math/critical thinking skills are weak.
- Consult with me by \_\_\_\_\_; see syllabus for office hours.
- Seek assistance from an ACC counselor by \_\_\_\_\_ (referral attached).
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_



# Student Signature Sheet

Please read each statement below. Initial each statement in the space indicated and provide your name, signature, and date below.

1. \_\_\_ I have read and agree to, and will comply with the student policies as outlined in the ACC and Sonography Student Handbooks. Furthermore, I will agree to and will comply with the course requirements as listed in the Syllabus and Student Policies of the Sonography Program.
2. \_\_\_ I understand that while performing my regularly assigned duties, I may be exposed to blood, body fluids, or tissues. I will use the appropriate personal protective equipment required when there is an inherent potential for mucous membrane or skin contact with blood, body fluids or tissues, or a potential for spills or splashes of them. Appropriate protection may include the use of gloves, gowns, masks, face shields, eye protection, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, and other protective equipment. I understand that if I fail to use available personal protective equipment, I may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. \_\_\_ I have been informed regarding the inherent health/safety hazards in the health care field and release ACC from any liability for such hazards.
4. \_\_\_ I have read and agree to the "Substance Abuse Administrative Policy."
5. \_\_\_ I agree to criminal background checks and agree to immediately notify the Dean of Health Sciences in writing of any subsequent changes in criminal history that occur after the admission background check has been completed.
6. \_\_\_ I will complete all clinical educational training modules and submit signed documentation to the Program as required.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_