Welcome to the Sonography Programs Information Session. This presentation will cover basic information about the Sonography profession and the role of the Sonographer in the health care team, Program application and admission processes, and resources for Sonography applicants and Health Science students. We are pleased that you are seeking information on Sonography and our Sonography Programs.

ACC offers two Sonography Programs: Diagnostic Medical-Vascular Sonography and Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography. Each Program consists of two awards, an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and an Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC). Each Program contains coursework designed to prepare graduates to apply to take the related credentialing exams through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and to have the entry-level skills required for the workplace.

You can obtain the Sonography degree plans from the ACC College Catalog (in print and on-line), from the Health Sciences Information Office, and from the Sonography website (see links on left side of the screen). We recommend that you have a copy of the curricula plans (Medical-Vascular and Cardiovascular) with you while viewing this presentation. In addition, we recommend that you print out a copy of the Application Checklist from the Sonography website Admission Process section (see link on left side of screen).

Significant information will be provided on the slides and in the notes, so you may want to view this presentation several times to ensure that you have all the information you need to apply for admission to a Sonography Program.
At the end of this information session you will complete the Verification post-test (last tab of the Information Session section) to ensure that you have achieved the objectives of this presentation.

Please note that the application process is the same for both Sonography Programs offered by ACC. You must choose either the Medical-Vascular or Cardiovascular Program at the time of application.
Detailed information on topics covered in this presentation can be found by clicking on the links at the left of the screen. If you have questions during the presentation, click on the pause button at the bottom of the slide, write down your question, then check the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Sonography website or contact the Sonography Programs directly for questions concerning Sonography or the Sonography Programs.

The Health Sciences Admission and Information Office is your resource for questions about Immunizations, Drug Screen, Criminal Background Check, general ACC Admissions, and Health Sciences Policies and Procedures.

Contact information for the Health Sciences Division and the Sonography Programs is found at the end of this presentation.
You may think that you can answer the question, “What is Sonography?” because you have had a sonogram or have seen a sonogram performed on TV shows. However, there is a lot of misinformation and confusion about the profession of Sonography. Diagnostic medical sonography is just one imaging modality that can be used by a physician to investigate a patient’s symptoms and signs of illness. Most people think of pregnancy sonograms when sonography is discussed, but fetal sonography is only one application of ultrasound technology. Specialty areas or applications include adult, pediatric and fetal echocardiography; adult abdominal, superficial structures, gynecologic, and obstetric sonography; and vascular sonography/technology.

Echocardiography focuses on the structures and function of the heart and thoracic vessels. Medical Sonography, sometimes called General Sonography, includes evaluations of the digestive and urinary systems, abdominal vessels and muscles. Superficial structures include the thyroid, breast, testicular, and superficial soft tissues of the body. Gynecology evaluates the female reproductive organs and obstetrics evaluates the unborn fetus and maternal organs during pregnancy.

Vascular sonography/technology evaluates blood vessels throughout the body including the abdomen, reproductive organs, neck, head, and extremities. All Sonographers utilize Doppler ultrasound technology in the completion of sonographic scans, so an in-depth knowledge of Doppler assessment of blood flow throughout the body is required in all specialties.

Additional focused specialties include musculoskeletal and pediatric abdomen, pelvis, spine, hips, and premature infant brain sonography.
Again, there is confusion concerning sonographers and their role in the health care team. Skilled credentialed professionals who work in ultrasound imaging are called sonographers, not “ultrasound technicians” or “techs”. Sonographers work independently without a physician present in the exam room and work with the rest of the health care team to provide high quality patient care. Sonographers must be as skilled in direct patient care, including patient assessment and communication, as in the use of ultrasound technology.

Sonographers must be able to deal with all types of patients in both hospital and office settings and must be able to interact appropriately with the patient, his/her family, physicians, and other members of the health care team while functioning within the Sonographer Scope of Practice. Sonographers do not provide the patient with a diagnosis at the time of the scan/exam unless directed to do so by the interpreting physician. Sonographers are able to tell the patient what areas or structures of the body are being examined.

Sonographers are expected to assist physicians with ultrasound-guided invasive procedures such as biopsies and aspirations of fluid or assist with endoscopic procedures such as Transesophageal Echocardiography. In hospital settings, sonographers will perform sonographic scans at the patient’s bedside, in the Emergency Department, in the Surgical suite as well as in the Sonography Department. All ACC sonography students will be scheduled in clinical settings where aseptic techniques and sterile fields are utilized.
Sonographers bear significant responsibility for the care the patient will receive based on the images/recordings that are provided to the interpreting physician (cardiologist, radiologist, obstetrician, etc.). Sonography skills involve assessing the patient’s anatomy, decision making, recording documentation images of the exam and submitting a written or verbal technical report to the interpreting physician. Performing a sonographic scan/exam is an active process in which the sonographer is constantly assessing the patient by adjusting and directing the ultrasound beam which requires excellent psychomotor and hand-eye coordination skills. The decisions made by the sonographer are reflected in the type and number of documentation images that are recorded for the scan/exam. In addition, the sonographic scan/exam must be completed within the time allotted, so the sonographer must make decisions rapidly and accurately.

In addition to communicating with the interpreting physician, the sonographer will communicate with the patient and the patient’s family to obtain medical history and other pertinent information. The sonographer must be able to explain the scan/exam in clear and concise language so that the patient understands the exam and is able to cooperate with instructions during the exam.

The sonographer provides direct patient care before, during and after the sonographic exam and may be the sole medical professional in the room during the exam. This means that sonographers must possess patient care skills to be able to deal with a variety patient conditions, including life-threatening emergencies.

Much of the above will occur concurrently during the sonographic scan. This means the sonographer must be able to handle complex and fast paced information and decision making in order to complete a sonographic scan/exam that provides the interpreting physician with accurate information so that an accurate diagnosis or decision can be made for the patient.
Please note that every Health Science Program here at ACC has Technical Standards and Essential Functions. The general categories and definitions apply to all programs; each program then lists a few specific examples of the Technical Standards for that program and profession.

The essential duties of a sonographer require taking a patient history and making decisions based on that information along with quick and appropriate decision-making during the scan based on patient condition and/or sonographic appearances. Sonographers must use effective ergonomic scanning techniques to obtain diagnostic quality scans and to reduce the potential for sonographer injury (especially when scanning obese/morbidly obese, uncooperative or incapacitated patients). Sonographers and sonography students must have the emotional and physical stability to work in a mentally, psychologically, and physically stressful environment.

Unique to Sonography is the need for sonographers to frequently exert up to 40lbs of sustained pressure while perform sonographic scans. Due to a patient’s body habitus, this type of pressure is needed to bring the sound beam closer to the organs and structures of the body.
Sonography is a health care profession that requires both physical and mental abilities, sometimes called psychomotor skills. Sonographers do not simply program equipment or hold a “wand” on the body. The ultrasound unit becomes part of the Sonographer’s thinking process, thus the Sonographer and equipment are unified in the performance of the exam. Sonographers must be able to coordinate their brain, hands, and eyes; they must be able to think in three dimensions even though they are using a two dimensional instrument; they must be able to see and notice subtle changes in tissue echoes; and they must be able to apply a large amount of didactic education to the lab and clinical setting.

The level of sophistication and complexity of ultrasound equipment in use at this time demands that sonographers possess an in-depth understanding and application of medical ultrasound physics. Therefore, the study of sonographic physics and instrumentation is a significant part of the curricula and applicants must demonstrate strong math and science skills.

As previously stated, many of the skills listed on this slide are used concurrently during a sonographic scan/exam. Unfortunately no “aptitude” test exists for those seeking to enter the profession of sonography. There is no way for anyone to discover his/her ability to perform sonographic scans until the person is given hands-on demonstration and instruction in sonographic scanning techniques during the Program. It is possible that some individuals will not be able master the skills needed to progress each semester of the Program.
Now we will discuss the Sonography Programs offered here at ACC.

Two separate Programs are offered for Sonography, one of which is the Diagnostic Medical-Vascular Sonography Program. This Program consists of two awards, an AAS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and an Advanced Technical Certificate in Medical-Vascular Sonography. Upon completion of this Program the graduate will have demonstrated competencies for sonographic scans/exams of the abdominal and pelvic organs (female and male), obstetrics of all stages, superficial structures (breast, thyroid, testicular, etc.), non-cardiac chest, abdominal, cerebrovascular, intracranial, and peripheral vessels, and a variety of invasive/interventional procedures. Graduates of this Program will be able to apply to take the ARDMS credentialing exams in the Abdominal and Superficial Structures, OB/Gyn, and Vascular specialties to obtain their RDMS (AB) (OB) credentials.

The above sonographic scans/exams involve measurements, calculations, appraisal of blood flow in organs, assessment of organs and structures, and the evaluation of pathology including subtle changes in tissues and/or blood flow within organs and/or between organs/structures. If abnormalities or pathologies are not recognized, patient safety is endangered due to miss-diagnosis.

Next is the Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography Program.
The Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program consists of two awards, an AAS in Cardiac Sonography and an Advanced Technical Certificate in Cardiovascular Sonography. This Program involves detailed sonographic evaluation of the heart structures and functions of the ventricles, atria, and valves. Evaluation of the heart is accomplished through the use of dynamic imaging of the beating heart, including assessment of blood flow through the heart valves and the thoracic vessels. Cardiac Sonographers must accurately obtain and record velocity, pressure, and area calculations to aid physicians in diagnosing heart diseases and abnormalities. Even small errors in calculations can endanger patient safety due to a miss-diagnosis.

This Program also includes education in the variety of vascular sonographic scans/exams that can be performed: carotid arteries, intracranial vessel evaluation, abdominal/pelvic vessels, and peripheral vessels. The Vascular Sonography/Technology courses of the Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) for each Program are identical.

All sonography specialty areas involve intense critical thinking skills and evaluation of complex sonographic appearances and disease processes. Medical, Cardiac, and Vascular Sonography are all equally rigorous and challenging specialties.
All Sonography courses are taught at the ACC Eastview and Round Rock Campuses, where dedicated Sonography Labs are housed. All Sonography courses have on-line content using Blackboard (the ACC learning management system) with some Sonography courses are taught in a purely online format and many taught using a hybrid online format. All sonography students are expected to have adequate computer skills to complete assignments for didactic and clinical courses.

Effective in Fall of 2016, the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Program is located at the Round Rock Campus with the Diagnostic Medical-Vascular Program based at the Eastview Campus.

In the Sonography Labs students have access to ultrasound equipment and ultrasound simulators for scanning instruction and skills evaluation, computers, texts and journals, and anatomy models and charts. The majority of the Sonography reference texts and journals are located in the Eastview and Round Rock Campus libraries.

Sonography students obtain a variety of clinical experiences during the Program including physician office settings and hospital departments such as the ultrasound department, surgery, intensive care units, the nursery, and the emergency department. Clinical rotations are scheduled during day, but evening and weekend hours may be assigned as needed for students to obtain required clinical experiences/skills. Sonography students must be able to attend clinical rotations whenever and wherever assigned.
Note: if accepted to an ACC Sonography Program, you may be assigned to any clinical affiliate/site utilized by your Program regardless of where you live and the distance to your clinical assignment. For example, if you live in Cedar Park you may be assigned to a site in Killeen or San Marcos. Clinical assignments are made based on the sites available to your Program during the semester AND on what a site can provide for you to meet the requirements of the semester and Program.
The ACC Sonography Programs have a low student to instructor ratio for on-campus clinical sessions with the number of instructors/faculty per student group varying during the length of the Program.

A variety of well-established and nationally utilized methods for scanning instruction are used. Due to the dynamic nature of sonographic imaging, hands-on instructor guidance is crucial to sonographic scanning instruction. In this method, the instructor places his/her hand on the student’s scanning hand while standing behind the student. The instructor then guides the student’s hand and the transducer during the assessment of an organ/structure and/or while acquiring the required image or view. In this way the student can not only see the imaging on the monitor but can also feel the correct motion and pressure of the transducer and the point where the transducer motion should be stopped to acquire the image or view.

Instructors provide frequent verbal feedback (comments, directions, and suggestions) while the student is scanning. Verbal feedback during the scan provides the student with valuable and immediate information on their performance and how to improve their scanning. Written feedback and assessment are also frequent and detailed so that the student can identify areas that need improvement and focus his/her time and attention on those areas. Graded scanning evaluations are designed to ensure students have the competencies needed to progress to the next semester of the Program.

Peer (classmate) scanning is an important part of learning clinical skills, but students must also scan a variety of body types. The Sonography Programs solicit volunteer “patients” from the ACC student community and from outside of ACC as well. Students must arrange for their own volunteers for scanning during an Open Lab sessions that may be offered. In addition to live scanning of peers and volunteers, the Sonography Programs utilize ultrasound training simulators to provide for scanning of both normal and pathologic cases. Simulation is heavily utilized in many educational/training Programs including the Nursing and Emergency Medical Professions Programs around the U.S.. ACC Sonography Programs are leaders in the use of simulation for sonographic education in the Medical, Vascular, and Cardiac specialties.

On-campus clinical learning provides the student with a firm foundation prior to attending off-campus clinical rotations but does not replace the need for extensive clinical experiences in hospitals and physician office practices.
Clinical course student to instructor ratios are specified by programmatic accreditation. Clinical sites must meet the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Standards for student placements. This means that sites must have appropriately credentialed Sonographers, up-to-date equipment and appropriate variety and number of cases. There are sites in the greater Austin area that perform sonographic exams but cannot be utilized for student placements because the sites do not meet the CAAHEP Standards.

The clinical site determines the number of students accepted for placement at that site. The majority of the sites used by the ACC Sonography Programs accept one student per semester regardless of the size of the sonography department. This allows the staff sonographers to keep the patient as a priority, accomplish the exams requested each day, and work with the student at the same time.

The program outcomes are used by programmatic accreditation, the State of Texas and ACC to judge the effectiveness and success of the Sonography Programs.
Accreditation is important when considering any Health Science Program. ACC holds institutional accreditation which allows students to transfer courses to other regionally accredited colleges and universities. For example, if a Sonography graduate chooses to pursue an advanced degree in Sonography at a university, he/she will have courses that can be evaluated by the university for transfer and fulfillment of the advanced degree requirements.

Extremely important to the applicant and student is accreditation specific to Sonography Programs, also known as programmatic accreditation. CAAHEP accreditation is a peer-review voluntary process that assures applicants and students that the ACC Sonography Programs are in substantial compliance with CAAHEP Standards even exceeding the Standards in many areas.
CAAHEP accreditation also ensures that graduates are able to apply for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) registry exams immediately upon graduation. This is comparable to graduates of other health care programs who take their credentialing/licensure exams at graduation.

ARDMS credentialed sonographers are able to work throughout the United States.
One factor that applicants must consider is the intensity of the Sonography Programs. Regardless of previous educational level or background, students in the Sonography Programs are faced with learning material that is vastly different from anything they have studied previously. The amount of time spent in study, practice, attending classes, labs and clinical rotations will impact every student’s personal relationships, ability to work during the Program, and recreational activities. Even students who have high grades in previous coursework (Sonography prerequisites or others) find that the Sonography curriculum very challenging. If a student is unsuccessful in even one course in any semester, he/she must withdraw from the Program and must follow a Sonography Programs specified procedure to seek re-entry.

The next slide will discuss a general idea of the hours of commitment that an average student needs to meet the requirements of the sonography courses.
Working while attending a Sonography Program is extremely challenging for most students. Not only is it difficult to find time for study, but trying to balance work schedules and program requirements may be impossible. This chart gives an example of the amount of time that an average student should expect to spend in class and preparation for a semester. You may need more study time each week to be successful. Your previously successful study and test-taking techniques do not ensure success in sonography courses. You may need to seek assistance from your instructors and/or a Health Sciences Counselor with study and/or test taking skills.

Please note that the only locations where students may practice scanning and performing sonographic exams is in the Sonography Lab and at the clinical site. Due to the heavy work loads that can be experienced during the clinical day, the student’s only option for scanning practice may be the Sonography Lab. Students should take advantage of any Open Lab sessions as much as possible.
Compliance with all ACC, Health Sciences, and Sonography Programs policies, procedures, and rules is mandatory. The student must familiarize his/herself with the ACC and Sonography Student Handbooks and all course syllabi to ensure compliance with all requirements. Non-compliance can result in Withdrawal from the Program.

It is the responsibility of the Sonography Programs to secure clinical placements; Sonography has clinical affiliates within greater Austin and the central Texas area. Students may be assigned to any clinical affiliate/site utilized by a Sonography Program.

Sonography students are required to demonstrate a variety of computer skills throughout the length of the program, including Web research, submission of writing assignments as Word documents, using the College on-line teaching platform, Blackboard, and other basic computer skills.

Back-up plans are essential to avoid disruption in learning and to meet course requirements throughout the length of the Program. The Health Sciences Councilors are a valuable resource when developing back-up plans.

Students are not allowed to bring their children to campus or clinical site classes for any reason including practice scanning sessions.
Another area that an applicant should carefully consider are the costs associated with attending a Sonography Program full-time. ACC tuition and fees that are charged to all students are found in the ACC Semester Course Schedule; Health Science students will have additional fees for labs and liability insurance. Health Insurance is required of all ACC Health Science students and must be in effect for each and every semester or the student will be Withdrawn from his/her Program.

To view the total estimated costs of the AAS degree plan Sonography Programs, just click on the Program Costs link to the left of your screen.

The applicant should plan for costs that involve supplies, books, uniforms, and travel to the clinical site and to the campus. Reliable transportation is required as many Sonography Programs clinical sites are not serviced by public transportation.

Once admitted to a Sonography Program the student will need funds for housing, food, clothing, transportation/car up-keep, family expenses, and funds to pay for the ARDMS credentialing exams. All of the above should be taken into consideration for financial planning.
Once you have completed the Online Information Session and the Verification Post-Test, you should follow the steps listed on this slide also found on the Application Checklist and in the Application Process section of the Sonography website. It is recommended that you schedule your Sonography Programs Advising Session (completed by a Sonography faculty member) as soon as possible to ensure that you have all of the correct and most up-to-date information for applying to an ACC Sonography Program.

Begin your immunizations as soon as possible as some immunization dosage sequences require several months to complete.
The steps in the Application Process shown on this slide may be done concurrently.

The Volunteer sessions consist of you serving as the “patient” for scans performed by Sonography students in the on-campus clinical session. You must volunteer for at least one session per specialty (DMS, DCS, and VT) to meet the requirement to apply. As the volunteer “patient” you will be able to experience a variety of sonographic scans/exams, note the differences between the specialty areas/programs, see how Sonography faculty work with students, and have an opportunity to ask questions of the faculty.

Do not delay in scheduling your Volunteer sessions as the number of available appointments vary each semester and appointment times can fill very quickly.

The minimum Patient Care Education (Nurse Aid/CNA training) that is required of applicants is completion of Nurse Aid Certification training. This course of study may be taken at ACC through the Continuing Education Department, Health Professions Institute. This course of study provides the very basic patient care skills needed as a Sonographer. These skills are not re-taught in the Program. You must take and pass the NURA 1001 and NURA 1060 CNA training courses to meet the application requirement for a Sonography Program.

If you have completed an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Paramedic, RN, Radiologic Technology, Vocation/Practical Nurse, Respiratory Therapy, or Surgical Technology Program, you have met the minimum Patient Care Education to apply. Education as a Medical Office Assistant (front or back office), Pharmacy Technician, Vet Tech, or Phlebotomist does not meet the requirement.

Patient Care Experience is a criterion on the Applicant Ranking Worksheet in which points are awarded for hours of paid OR volunteer patient care experience/work that involves direct contact with patients. Job duties that DO NOT qualify for Direct Patient Care Experience include front office duties in any health care setting, insurance processing, and other miscellaneous office duties. Experiences that are recognized as Direct Patient Care can
include volunteer work with a hospice organization, back-office duties, patient care tech, and any formal setting in which an applicant is involved with the actual care of a patient.

The Patient Care Experience form is found in the Application Process section of the Sonography website.
The college credit courses that are listed here and in the Sonography Curricula in the ACC College Catalog must be completed prior to applying so that a GPA in these courses can be used on your Applicant Ranking Worksheet.

All prerequisite courses must be completed within 5 years of applying for admission to a Sonography Program; this requirement is not waived for any applicant or in any circumstance. (There is no time limit for the co-requisite, or non-Sonography courses, within the degree plan.)

Transfer of BIOL 2401 & 2402 Anatomy and Physiology I & II from a regionally accredited college or university will be accepted for the required BIOL 2304/2101 Human Anatomy and BIOL 2305/2102 Human Physiology college courses.

Tables for allowed course substitutions for the Sonography prerequisites and co-requisites of the degree plan are found in the Prerequisite Courses section of the Sonography website (see links on left side of screen).
There are the four co-requisites listed in the Sonography curricula. An applicant may use transfer courses to fulfill these requirements of a Sonography degree plan as long as those courses are accepted by ACC. An applicant may complete any of these courses prior to the time of application and receive points on the Applicant Ranking Worksheet. It is strongly recommended that as many of the co-requisite courses as possible be completed prior to beginning a Sonography Program. If you are TSI exempt you will need to submit a written request for a transcript evaluation.
Your completed online Application will be emailed directly to the Sonography Programs. The deadline is June 1st each year.

Use the Application Checklist to make sure that you have all the required documents to apply.

When you submit your Application Packet Documents to the Health Sciences Office at the Eastview or Round Rock Campus, a staff member will complete an Intake Form to ensure you have submitted all of the required documents. If something is missing or an incorrect document is submitted, your documents will be returned to you for correction and re-submission. If found complete, your Application Packet Documents will be sent to the Health Sciences Compliance Coordinator for formal review of your Immunization record. Once all of the Application Packet Documents have been reviewed, your Packet will be sent to the Sonography Programs to be collated with your online Application.

There is no advantage given to an applicant who submits the online Application and the Application Packet Documents early in the Application Period. However, please do not delay in submitting your Packet documents as soon as you can and before the deadline. Packets must be received by the Health Sciences Office by 5pm on June 1 (or by 5pm on the next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend).

Be sure to keep copies of all the documents that you submit during the application process!
Regardless of previous background or educational level, all applicants must complete the prerequisites as stated. Some courses may require evaluation by the ACC Graduate Office to determine if a course can be equated to a comparable course offered by ACC. The Sonography Program must follow the rules and regulations of ACC and the State of Texas when reviewing courses for fulfillment of degree requirements. If you are TSI exempt, you must submit a written request for evaluation of transfer courses. This can be done at any ACC Campus Admissions Office.

The Health Data Form, Drug Screen, and Criminal Background Check are completed ONLY when an applicant has received conditional acceptance to a Sonography Program.

If you have previously completed the Health Data Form, Criminal Background Check and/or Drug Screen for another program, you will need to resubmit for another Criminal Background Check, Drug Screen, and Health Data form IF admitted to a Sonography Program.

Please see the Health Sciences website for more information on the Criminal Background Check, the Drug Screen, and Health Insurance required for all ACC Health Sciences students who attend clinical rotations. If you have concerns about your background and ability to apply for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography credentialing exams, please contact the ARDMS directly. The ARDMS website link is posted on the Sonography website.

If you have questions about the Criminal Background Check, Drug Screen, or Health Insurance requirements please contact the Health Sciences Compliance Coordinator.
Please note the criteria and the system for awarding points. The Sonography Programs applicant pools are fresh each year (no waiting list is used) and the number of applicants and their rankings cannot be predicted prior to the close of the application period. That means that all applicants receive the same information regarding the admission process and all are very likely trying to earn as many points as possible on the Applicant Ranking Worksheet. There is no “magic number” of points on the Worksheet that will guarantee admission into a Sonography Program; accepted applicant rankings may be only separated by tenths or even hundredths of a point.

The Sonography Programs and the Sonography Advisory Committees consider all the criteria on the Applicant Ranking Worksheet important.

Please note that any submitted patient care experience hours must be in addition to the hours accrued during the CNA or higher formal patient care education/training. The correct form must be used to submit additional patient care experience hours.
Class selection will follow this timeline. Students are admitted to a class once a year, begin the Program in the Fall semester, and complete the curriculum as class group.

If you are not accepted into a Sonography Program you are encouraged to schedule another advising session with the Sonography Programs to discuss re-application and ranking improvement. Your Application Documents are kept on file by the Sonography Programs for one year.
There are several areas of assistance available to all ACC Health Science students including financial aid, student services, special needs, and the libraries. Applicants and students are encouraged to use all the resources available at the college, including counseling to improve learning, study and test-taking skills.
Additional resources for Sonography applicants and students include the SDMS, the only society in the United States that is solely dedicated to Sonographers; the ASE for echocardiography, and the SVU for vascular technology. These professional societies offer scholarships and other benefits to Sonography students.

The SDMS website also contains valuable resource documents in the Positions section. These include the Clinical Practice Standards, Scope of Practice, National Minimum Standards for Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals, Code of Ethics, and Credentialing. These, and other documents in the Position section, are used by Sonography Programs, Sonography applicants and students, Sonographers, employers, and governmental and regulatory agencies as references for Sonographer professional conduct and job duties.
The ARDMS is the national credentialing body for Sonography and offers exams for the RDMS, RDCS, and RVT credentials. ACC Sonography students are expected to sit for their respective ARDMS exams immediately upon graduation. Students are able to take the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam prior to graduation, allowing ACC Sonography graduates to take their ARDMS credentialing as quickly as possible after graduation.

The last resource is the programmatic accrediting body, CAAHEP. By clicking on the link to the CAAHEP website you may view the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Diagnostic Medical Sonography by selecting “For Program Directors” at the top of the page. Additional information about programmatic accreditation may be found on the JRC-DMS website. This is the committee that oversees processes for CAAHEP accreditation of Sonography Programs. The JRC-DMS website also houses the National Education Curriculum (NEC) which is the approved standard for Sonography education.
The Health Sciences and Sonography Programs websites are updated and revised whenever needed throughout the year. Be sure to stay current on all Health Sciences and Sonography information, processes, and procedures by checking the websites frequently as you work through the application process.

The Sonography website home page announces the date of changes so it is very easy for you to note when changes occur.

If you have any questions as to how updates/changes affect you as you progress towards applying for admission to a Sonography Program, please contact the Sonography Programs by email to have your questions answered. The Sonography Department Chair and faculty contact information is found in the Faculty and Staff link to the left of your screen.
We recommend that you view the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Sonography website. Many common questions and answers are posted there grouped under headings to help you find answers more easily.

You may also ask the Sonography faculty questions about the program application process during your Sonography Volunteer Lab Sessions.
ACC Admission Process Questions?

■ Follow the steps on the ACC website to complete the college Admission process
  ■ Admission to ACC is separate from the admission process to a Sonography Program

■ Contact any ACC campus Admissions Office for assistance

■ Contact a Health Sciences Counselor for assistance
  ■ See Health Sciences website: http://www.austincc.edu/health/hscounselor.php
If you have questions about ACC Health Sciences Division information or requirements (Health Insurance, Immunizations, Drug Screen, and/or Criminal Background Check) contact the Health Sciences Information Office.

This completes your Sonography Programs Information Session. Please click on Verification at the top of your screen to begin the assessment post test. You must bring the completed Verification form with you to your Sonography Programs Advising Session.