

Application Window: March 1st – April 1st, 2022

Applications received outside of this window will not be accepted. Applications each spring are for a following fall semester Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program start.

Professional Description:

A Diagnostic Medical Sonographer utilizes a transducer, which uses sound waves to obtain images of various organs and tissues in the body. The profession includes abdominal sonography, breast sonography, obstetrics and gynecology sonography, cardiac sonography, vascular sonography, and various subspecialties. Sonographers are highly skilled healthcare professionals who utilize ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures, working under the delegated authority of the licensed supervising physician, to provide clinically relevant information to assist the physician with the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Diagnostic medical sonographers use independent, ethical and professional judgement, effective communication, and critical thinking to provide appropriate health care services.

Sonographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, mobile services, private offices, education, and in industry settings. Sonographers may be required to work various shifts to provide 24-hour coverage. Some facilities will require staff to be on call to cover evening, weekend, overnight, and holiday staffing.

Sonographers are responsible to obtain and maintain the appropriate certification in the areas of clinical practice as required by employers. The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) are among several organizations that offer credentialing for sonographers. Certain states also require state licensure.

DMS Program Mission:

The mission of the Bismarck State College Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program is to provide a high-quality, learning-centered education in diagnostic medical sonography theory and practice that maximizes student learning and makes students partners in their education.

DMS Program Goals:

To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

This includes equipping the diagnostic medical sonography student to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to obtain, review, and integrate relevant patient data to facilitate diagnostic results.
2. Perform sonographic procedures and record anatomic, pathologic, and/or physiological data for interpretation by a physician to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of patients.
3. Exhibit discretion, judgement and problem solving in the performance of sonographic procedures.
4. Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients, members of the healthcare team and the general public.
5. Understand the principles and practices of professional conduct and the significance of continuing professional development.

DMS Program Description:

The DMS Program is four consecutive semesters, excluding the required program prerequisites, starting every fall. Enrollment is dependent on acceptance into the DMS Program. The first two semesters include classroom and scanning lab instruction on the Bismarck State College (BSC) campus in the state-of-the-art Health Sciences building. The final two semesters of the program are a seven-month clinical ultrasound internship where students get in-field experience, utilizing the skills gained from the synchronous theory and scanning lab courses. Students will be prepared to perform abdominal, superficial, gynecological, and obstetrical ultrasounds. Additional instruction in vascular sonography is provided concurrently to broaden the knowledge and experience and prepare the students for a variety of ultrasound examinations.

DMS Clinical Ultrasound Internship:

The clinical site is a third-party entity into which the students are placed. Clinical internship sites are selected according to their ultrasound procedure volumes and site staffing. Some of the clinical affiliates may not be within daily driving distance. Relocation outside of the Bismarck area or outside of North Dakota may be necessary to provide adequate preceptorship experience for all students. The student is responsible for all expenses (transportation, housing, meals, etc.) during the clinical experience. Arrangement for clinical sites depend on the college's ability to enter into formal agreement with a proposed site and may vary year-to-year. BSC cannot guarantee that a clinical site will always be available.

All clinical site assignments will be arranged and confirmed by the DMS program. Consideration will be given to the site's needs and the student's desires. The clinical affiliate will be involved in the selection of the student assigned to their respective site. Students should not rely upon the availability of a clinical site in a specific geographical location. Clinical sites may change or become unavailable for reasons beyond the control of Bismarck State College up to, and including, the first day of the clinical internship.

Clinical internship hours are mandatory. A Clinical Instructor is designated at each affiliate and is responsible for setting the student's clinical schedule times. The clinical day is 8 hours, excluding lunch. Students are to complete 34-40 hours of scanning each week.

Accreditation:

Bismarck State College is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604
info@hlcommission.org
800.621.7440 | 312.263.0456

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is brand new at BSC and is not currently accredited.

Academic Advising:

The Mystic Advising and Counseling Center (MACC) is open for face-to-face, virtual, or telephone appointments (701.224.5752). Advisors in the MACC assist students with general advising questions, degree planning, course registration, course withdrawal, transfer questions, and graduation applications.

Technical Standards*:

Technical standards and essential functions have been established to ensure that students have the abilities required to participate and potentially be successful in all aspects of sonography. Students are required to meet technical standards and essential functions for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program outlined below with or without accommodations. If an applicant or student is unable to meet all the outlined technical standards with or without accommodations, he/she may be withdrawn from the program.

The following are essential functions an applicant or student must possess:

1. Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal and written formats with patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team.
2. Gross and fine motor skills for manipulation of equipment, computer usage and patient care.
3. Ability to stand or walk for prolonged periods of time.
4. Ability to bend, squat, or kneel to care for and position patients and adjust equipment.
5. Ability to assist with moving and lifting patients and equipment of up to 50 lbs or more, up to 50% of the time.
6. Ability to lift routinely.
7. Ability to push and pull routinely.
8. Must have full use of both shoulders, hands, and wrists.
9. Physical abilities to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
10. Ability to actively listen; oral comprehension, to perceive and react to audible communication or noise. Sufficient hearing to receive instruction, identify phones, alarms, beepers, and distress calls from staff or patients.
11. Ability to visualize and distinguish specific anatomy on monitors. The ability to visualize settings on medical equipment and to distinguish shades of gray and color.
12. Possess the emotional health and stability to be able to respond appropriately and efficiently even under stress or amidst distractions. The ability to exert self-control when dealing with patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team.
13. Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and make decisions.
14. Work independently to organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic exam in the appropriate sequence.
15. Possess the ability to demonstrate professional behaviors, a strong work ethic, and adhere to a high standard of medical ethics at all times.

*Source: local job descriptions, www.sdms.org, www.bls.gov

Accommodations for Equal Opportunity:

It is the policy of the DMS Program, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to provide reasonable accommodation to select qualified, disabled individuals so that they can perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to such individuals unless it imposes an undue hardship upon the DMS Program.

The student is responsible to initiate a request for accommodations by applying for Student Accessibility (SA). An application can be requested either in person, by telephone (701-224-5671), or complete and submit the [BSC Student Accessibility Application](#).

DMS Degree Plan:

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program 2021-2022 Catalog		
Course	Title	Credits
Prerequisites		
BIOL 220	Anatomy and Physiology I	3-4
BIOL 220L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
BIOL 221	Anatomy and Physiology II	3-4
BIOL 221L	Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
PHYS 100	Concepts of Physics	3-4
PHYS 100L	Concepts of Physics Lab	1
BOTE 172	Medical Terminology	3
DMS 101	Introduction to Diagnostic Medical Sonography	1
ENGL110	College Composition I	3
ENGL 120 or ENGL 125 or COMM 110	College Composition II or Introduction to Professional Writing or Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
MATH 103 or MATH 210	College Algebra or Elementary Statistics	3-4
General Education	Arts & Humanities/Social & Behavioral Sciences class	3
<i>Prerequisite Total</i>		13-15
AAS DMS Semester One - Fall		
DMS 102	Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy I	3
DMS 104	Diagnostic Medical Sonography I	3
DMS 105	Ultrasound Physics I	3
DMS 106	Clinical Ultrasound Lab I	3
<i>Semester Total</i>		12
AAS DMS Semester Two - Spring		
DMS 210	Ultrasound Cross-Sectional Anatomy II	3
DMS 211	Diagnostic Medical Sonography II	3
DMS 209	Professional Development and Growth in Sonography	1
DMS 212	Clinical Ultrasound Lab II	5
<i>Semester Total</i>		12
AAS DMS Semester Three - Summer		
DMS 207	Sonography Capstone	1
DMS 215	Clinical Internship I	5
<i>Semester Total</i>		6
AAS DMS Semester Four - Fall		
DMS 220	Clinical Ultrasound Internship II	12
<i>Semester Total</i>		12
AAS Diagnostic Medical Sonography Total Credits		70-74

***** All program plans and curriculum may change without notice.**

Grading:

The DMS Program uses a didactic and clinical grading scale of:

93-100%	A
85-92%	B
75-84%	C
68-74%	D
<68%	F

Students must receive a 75% or higher for each clinical and didactic course in order to continue in the DMS Program.

DMS Application Process:

- Admission to Bismarck State College.
- The following year one prerequisite courses are required to be complete, or in the process of completion, with a grade of “C” or better to apply to the DMS Program:

Course	Title	Credits
BIOL 220	Anatomy and Physiology I	3-4
BIOL 220L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
BIOL 221	Anatomy and Physiology II	3-4
BIOL 221L	Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
PHYS 100	Concepts of Physics	3-4
PHYS 100L	Concepts of Physics Lab	1
BOTE 172	Medical Terminology	3
DMS 101	Introduction to Diagnostic Medical Sonography	1
ENGL 110	College Composition I	3
ENGL 120 or ENGL 125 or COMM 110	College Composition II or Introduction to Professional Writing or Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
MATH 103 or MATH 210	College Algebra or Elementary Statistics	3-4
General Education Arts & Humanities/Social & Behavioral Sciences class		3
Total:		13-15

- Year one program required courses minimum GPA of 2.75 ([GPA Calculator](#) | [Bismarck State College](#)).
- Overall cumulative minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Completion of ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with scores ≥ 62 in **Math** and ≥ 73 in **Reading**.
 - [Register for TEAS](#)
 - [TEAS FAQs](#)
- Complete application for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program:
 - Complete DMS Program application form (available [online](#) March 1st – April 1st).
 - Review and sign technical standards included in DMS application form.
 - Submit a copy of TEAS results.
 - Obtain 2 recommendations utilizing forms available on [DMS Program Application and Requirements website](#). Recommendations should be a supervisor, employer, instructor, or advisor. No relatives may be used. The sealed recommendation form and letter can be submitted with the required application materials or mailed directly to:

Bismarck State College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Director
PO Box 5587
Bismarck, ND 58506
- Complete interview process with the DMS admission committee.
 - Interview will be scheduled once the program application is received and reviewed.
 - Following a successful application and interview process, students will be offered placement into the program as space allows.
 - The DMS Program may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission standards due to the limited number of positions available.
- Upon acceptance into both BSC and the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program:
 - Students will attend program orientation and registration (scheduled after acceptance to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program). There is no registration for DMS courses (excluding DMS 101) prior to this day.
 - Complete physical examination form

- **Following acceptance**, students will need to successfully complete the [CastleBranch Compliance Tracker](#) (\$153 student expense) to ensure the following requirements are met:
 - AHA BLS (Healthcare Provider) CPR – must be updated to remain current throughout program.
 - Background/Exclusions Check
 - i. No felony convictions. Misdemeanors will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Vaccinations:
 - i. MMR-2 vaccinations or titer (blood test).
 - ii. Varicella-2 vaccinations or positive titer (blood test). (We cannot accept a statement or doctor note stating that you have had chickenpox or shingles.)
 - iii. Tuberculosis (TB) – 2 step TB skin test **or** QuantiFERON or T-SPOT.TB **or** negative chest x-ray.
 - iv. Tetanus (Td-Tdap) – currently up to date (within 10 years).
 - v. Hepatitis B series – 3 doses of vaccine or titer (blood draw); recommended, not required.
 - vi. Current year influenza vaccination.
 - 12 Panel Drug Screen
 - i. Forms are available on from the Program Director

Transfer Credits:

Students who wish to attend Bismarck State College and have attended other colleges or universities must provide the Admissions Office with all official and complete transcripts. Students need to request all transcripts be officially sent (in a sealed envelope) from the schools to: Bismarck State College, Attn: Admissions, PO Box 5587, Bismarck, ND 58506.

The Academic Records office will perform the official evaluation and results are posted in CampusConnection. BSC accepts credits for college-level course work earned at any college, university, or postsecondary institution which is accredited by any of the six regional post-secondary higher education commissions in the United States.

Alternate Learning also referred to as Prior Learning Assessment or PLA, can help students earn college credit for knowledge and competencies they've gained outside the college classroom. Students can be granted credit through CLEP/DSST, Portfolio Development, and Credit for Industry Training. For more information visit: [Prior Learning | Bismarck State College](#).

DMS Admission Process:

Upon receipt of all application materials, the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program staff will evaluate the applicant's file for completeness of program specific requirements. The interview will be scheduled once the program application and recommendations are received and reviewed. Applicants are scored based on past academic performance, TEAS results, recommendations, career statement responses, previous experience, interview, and overall quality of application. The number of students accepted into the DMS Program is determined by the number of clinical sites available and may vary from year to year. The admission process is highly competitive due to the limited amount of positions available and the DMS Program may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission standards.

Applicants to the BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will be notified in writing whether they have been conditionally accepted into the program or not. If accepted, the applicant is required to confirm or decline acceptance by the date stated in their acceptance letter. Accepted applicants not wishing to attend should notify the DMS Program immediately. Students accepted into the program will receive additional information detailing their orientation and academic course schedules. Students will need to successfully complete the CastleBranch compliance tracker and submit a completed physical examination form prior to beginning DMS classes in the Fall.

Advanced Placement:

The BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program does not offer early admission or advanced placement for students. Candidates must apply each year and compete against the field of applicants for that year.

Nondiscriminatory Recruitment, Admission, Employment Practices:

Bismarck State College is an equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, information protected by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), marital status, disability, veteran's status or any other status protected by law in its admissions, student aid, employment practices, education programs or other related activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be referred to the Chief Human Resource Officer, Bismarck State College, 1500 Edwards Ave., Bismarck, ND 59506, (701) 224-5427.

Accepted Applicant Requirements:

- Applicants accepted into the DMS Program will be notified of the date and time for the mandatory DMS Program orientation and instructions for course registration.
- A completed physical examination form.
- Students must supply documentation of current **American Heart Association – Basic Life Support (Healthcare Provider)** CPR certification by uploading a photocopy, front and back, of a signed current CPR card to the CastleBranch compliance tracker by fall program start. DMS students are required to maintain current CPR certification throughout the program.
- Acceptance in the DMS Program is provisional based on the student submitting to and passing a background check, drug test, physical exam, and submitting the required immunization records prior to the fall DMS Program start.

DMS Program Costs:

Please visit [BSC Admissions & Cost](#) for tuition and fee information. The [BSC Financial Aid](#) office assists students in securing adequate funding for their educational related college expenses from a variety of sources. Appointments can be made by stopping in (1st floor of Schafer Hall) or calling 701-224-5494.

Additional DMS Program specific approximate expenses include:

Textbooks	\$ 800-1200
Uniforms / Shoes	\$ 100-200
SDMS student membership	\$ 45
Trajecsys	\$ 75-100
TEAS	\$ 82
CastleBranch tracker	\$ 153
Health physical examination / immunizations (prior to enrollment)	Variable
Internship	Varies greatly
Certification examinations	\$ 200 – 250 per exam
ND State License (if applicable)	Application Fee \$25 / License Fee \$150

**all costs are subject to change without notice

Outside Employment:

Due to the demands of the full-time 40 hours per week clinical ultrasound internship, student employment may be challenging while in the DMS Program. If a student deems it necessary to be employed outside of the program it is expected that work schedules will be arranged to not impact negatively on the student's clinical training. Students will not be excused from class or clinical assignments for personal work schedules.

Student Service Work:

Clinical ultrasound internships are a time for the student to learn, experience and develop skill and confidence in their abilities, not to work as an employee. Students do not receive compensation for services they perform during the clinical ultrasound internship. If at any time a student feels that they are taking the place of an employee and that no learning is occurring, please document the experience and discuss the situation with the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator.

Professional Behavior Code:

Students enrolled in the BSC DMS Program are expected to exhibit the highest standards of professionalism in didactic and clinical settings at all times. They must abide by the general policies and procedures that are provided in the Bismarck State College Student Handbook. The BSC Student Academic Honor Code prohibits cheating, plagiarism, or collusion in class work, laboratory performance, or test taking. Students are expected to follow the [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Code of Ethics](#) in their professional interactions with patients, medical personnel, and the general public. Any student behavior in violation of the above policies are subject to disciplinary action, up to and/or including dismissal.

DMS Application Checklist:

The following must be met or included to be considered a completed application:

- DMS Program applicant requirements:
 - Admission to Bismarck State College.
 - Successful completion (or in the process of completion) of required year one program prerequisites with a "C" or better.
 - Year one program required courses minimum GPA of 2.75
 - Overall cumulative minimum GPA of 2.0.
 - Completion of ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with scores ≥ 62 Math and ≥ 73 in Reading.
- DMS Program application materials:
 - Complete the DMS Program application for admission form (available March 1st – April 1st).
 - Read and sign technical standards form included in DMS program application form.
 - Submit a copy of TEAS results.
 - Obtain 2 recommendations utilizing form located on DMS website. Evaluator completes recommendation form **and** submits a separate letter of recommendation. Recommendations should be a supervisor, employer, instructor, or advisor. No relative may be used as a recommendation. The sealed recommendation form and letter can be submitted with application materials or mailed directly to DMS Program Director.
- The required DMS Program application materials above should be submitted in one large envelope addressed to:
 - BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program
 - PO Box 5587
 - Bismarck, ND 58506
- Required application materials will only be accepted on or after March 1st, and must be received before or on April 1st, or postmarked April 1st. Applications received outside of this window will be ineligible for consideration.

Questions:

For additional information or questions please contact the DMS Program Director:

Tara Wagner, BS, RDMS, RVT, RT(R)

701-224-2518

tara.wagner@bismarckstate.edu

BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program FAQs

When does the DMS program start?

- The DMS Program is four consecutive semesters that begins each Fall semester.

When can I apply to the DMS Program?

- The DMS Program application window is open March 1st – April 1st, 2022.

How many students are accepted?

- The number of students accepted into the DMS Program is determined by the number of clinical sites available and may vary from year to year.

What is the TEAS?

- The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) administered by Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) is a standardized, timed, computer-based exam designed to assess the general academic preparedness of students interested in applying to the BSC DMS Program. It measures knowledge in basic essential skills in the academic content areas of Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English.

Why is the TEAS test being used?

- The DMS Program is highly selective due to the limited amount of positions available. The TEAS is being utilized to help evaluate the students' academic readiness as part of the application process. The DMS program requires the following TEAS scores: **≥ 62 in Math and ≥ 73 in Reading**. The Science and English components do not factor into the applicant requirements. It is recommended students verify that all DMS application requirements are met before attempting to take the TEAS exam.
- [TEAS \(Test of Essential Academic Skills\) FAQs](#)

What can I do to increase my chances of being accepted into the DMS Program?

- Maximize your academic performance (overall and prerequisite GPA's).
- Prior allied health degree (Associates, Bachelor's Degree or higher).
- Complete Certified Nursing Assistant training (*not required but recommended*).
- Prior completion of Certified Nursing Assistant, EMT-Basic, Paramedic, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Registered Nurse, Radiologic Technologist, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Respiratory Therapist, Surgical Technologist, or similar health training.

If I am accepted into the DMS Program, what other requirements are necessary?

- Acceptance in the DMS Program is provisional based on the student submitting to and passing a background/exclusions check, drug test, physical exam, and submitting the required immunization records prior to the Fall DMS Program start.
- All students must hold the **American Heart Association – Basic Life Support (Healthcare Provider)** CPR certification prior to the Fall DMS Program start. The student must be re-certified by taking and passing a refresher course if the certification expires while enrolled in the DMS Program. Students are required to provide proof of current CPR certification through the CastleBranch compliance tracker.

Can I attend part time?

- It is possible to complete prerequisite courses on a part-time schedule. The DMS Program is a *full-time* program only. All Diagnostic Medical Sonography courses must be taken in sequence.

Is there a waiting list admission into the DMS Program?

- There is not a waiting list for the BSC DMS Program. The applicant pool is evaluated on an annual basis. Any applicant who is not offered a position and wishes to be considered the following year must reapply.

What if I have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

- It is the sole responsibility of the student to investigate how this will affect their ability to earn certification credentials prior to and during the DMS Program.
- Eligibility to take national certification examinations administered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) and/or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is determined by the credentialing body.
- Both the ARDMS and ARRT provide a pre-application review for individuals who wish to determine the impact of a previous criminal matter or disciplinary matters on their eligibility to sit for certification examinations.

Can I work while attending this program?

- Due to the demands of the full-time 40 hours per week clinical ultrasound internship, student employment may be challenging while in the DMS Program. If a student deems it necessary to be employed outside of the program it is expected that work schedules will be arranged to not impact negatively on the student's clinical training. Students will not be excused from class or clinical assignments for personal work schedules.

Are any of the DMS courses offered online?

- Several of the prerequisite courses have online options.
- Introduction to Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS 101) is an 8-week online course offered yearly during the spring semester to all BSC students. Students interested in applying to the DMS Program must successfully complete this course with a grade of "C" or better to apply to the DMS Program.
- Students will have the option of attending classroom lecture DMS courses (DMS 102, DMS 104, DMS 105, DMS 210, DMS 211) on campus at BSC or via distance learning synchronously through the interactive video network. Enrollment is dependent upon acceptance into the DMS Program.
- Students are required to be on campus at BSC for Clinical Ultrasound Lab I (DMS 106) and Clinical Ultrasound Lab II (DMS 212) hands-on scanning labs. Enrollment is dependent upon acceptance into the DMS Program.
- The final two semesters of the DMS Program are a seven-month clinical ultrasound internship at a third-party clinical affiliate requiring 40 hours a week full time in person attendance. Enrollment is dependent upon acceptance into the DMS Program.

When are classes held?

- Classes and clinical ultrasound scanning lab for the DMS Program are held during daytime hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm). Students are either in class or clinical ultrasound scanning lab five days a week (Monday through Friday).
- Clinical internship shifts are 8 hours, excluding lunch. The Clinical Instructor designated at each affiliate is responsible for setting the student's clinical schedule times. Students are to complete 34-40 hours of scanning each week.

Does the DMS Program go through the summer?

- Yes. The DMS Program is four consecutive semesters. The Clinical Ultrasound Internship begins during the summer / third semester of the DMS Program.

What kind of degree will I be awarded when I graduate?

- You will earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

How do I earn an American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) credential?

- To earn the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential, you must pass the Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) examination and a corresponding specialty examination within a five-year period. The BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program prepares students to take the following ARDMS examinations: Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI), Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN), and Abdomen (AB).

Is the BSC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program accredited?

- The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program is brand new at BSC and is not currently accredited. Bismarck State College is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission.

What does it mean to be a graduate of a non-accredited DMS program?

- Students can take the Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) Examination through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) upon completion of the Ultrasound Physics (DMS 105) course.
- Students have the following options to become ARDMS board eligible to take the corresponding specialty (ABD, OB/GYN) examination(s) to earn a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential:
 1. Students must work full-time in the field for 12 months after graduation to gain clinical ultrasound experience before they are ARDMS board eligible.
 2. Students can take the American Registry of Radiologic Technology Sonography board. This is an all-encompassing board (abdomen, obstetrics/gynecology, vascular, small parts, and physics). Upon passing the ARRT Sonography examination, students can sit for the ARDMS specialty examination(s) under Prerequisite 5 of the [ARDMS General Prerequisites](#).
- ARDMS candidates are required to pass both the SPI examination and a corresponding specialty examination within five years of each other.

What is the salary range for a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

- According to the [Bureau of Labor and Statistics](#), the median pay for a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is \$68,750 per year or \$33.05 per hour and is dependent on geographic area, experience, and specialty.

Is Diagnostic Medical Sonography a safe profession?

- Interactions with patients in a health care system involve inherent risks to both the patient and the sonographer including, but not limited to, communicable diseases. Sonographers are expected to implement standard precautions and appropriate barrier protections while providing patient care. Part of the DMS Program training will include learning universal precautions, such as how to protect yourself in a situation where contact with blood, or body fluids, is probable.
- The [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography](#) cites up to 90% of sonographers experience symptoms of Work Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSDs)*. WRMSDs can affect the sonographer's hands, wrists, arms, shoulders, necks, and back. The importance and implementation of ergonomic best practices in the sonography profession is a core component of the DMS Program curriculum.

* Evans K, Roll S, Baker J. Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSD) Among Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Vascular Technologists: A Representative Sample. *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography* 2009;25(6):287-299.