



2023-2024 Program Guide for the Associate in Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2023, for Fall 2023

Admission requirements and application deadlines are subject to change. Please [check](#) for any admission updates

Students are admitted to Valencia’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program by a selective admission process. The Health Sciences Admission Committee selects 12 students once per year to begin the program in the Fall term.

ADMISSION CHECKLIST

The admission requirements that must be satisfied PRIOR to application submission for the Sonography Program are:

- _____ 1. Read about Diagnostic Medical Sonography admission, [program requirements](#), and the Valencia [Catalog](#); read this guide in its entirety to confirm you are capable of meeting the Core Performance Standards listed in this guide.
- _____ 2. Must be a U.S. Citizen a U.S. permanent resident or an International Student. **International Students:** In addition to a background check required for clinical compliance (after program acceptance), a second background check from your home country is required. If you have a concern about how this may impact your program acceptance, please contact the Health Sciences Compliance Office: HSCompliance@valenciacollege.edu.
 - (See [Page 3](#) of this Program Guide for [clinical compliance information](#))
 - **NOTE: All individuals who have DACA, Temporary Protection Status, Refugee, Asylee status, etc. must complete the [Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\)](#) prior to submitting application.** (Social Security document is required from state to sit for Board Exam).
- _____ 3. Attend a Health Sciences Information Session (**strongly recommended**). Information Session dates are posted on the Health Sciences website: valenciacollege.edu/health.
- _____ 4. Submit a completed [Valencia Application](#) for Admission, click on **Future Students, Admissions**, and pay the \$35 application fee; satisfy the requirements for [Degree-Seeking Status and be in Active Student Status](#). Admission to Valencia does not imply acceptance to a health sciences program.
- _____ 5. Submit **all official transcripts** from all institutions (**include High School transcripts or GED score report**) must be submitted to Valencia and posted on your record prior to applying. Students using AP/IB/CLEP scores to satisfy one or more prerequisite courses must request official scores from collegeboard.org (AP/CLEP) or ibo.org (IB). AP/IB/CLEP credits earned as ‘Z’ grades on record equate to ‘A’ grades for points.
- _____ 6. Must be at least 18 years of age by the program start date.
- _____ 7. Satisfy the Valencia entry testing requirements and satisfactorily complete any [Mandatory Courses](#) in Reading, Mathematics, English, and English for Academic Purposes in which you are placed (must be at college-level for Reading, Mathematics, English).
- _____ 8. Complete the Prerequisites for Admission with a minimum grade of “C”. **The grade for each course must be posted to your Valencia transcript.** To be competitive for admission, students should complete additional Science and General Education courses with high grades. See the point system that follows.

BSC 2093C Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4.0 Credit Hours
BSC 2094C Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4.0 Credit Hours
PHY 1007C Physics with Medical Applications	4.0 Credit Hours
MAC 1105 College Algebra	3.0 Credit Hours
ENC 1101 Freshman Composition I	3.0 Credit Hours
PSY 2012 General Psychology	3.0 Credit Hours
Humanities Any course that meets the Core General Education requirement (<i>See points page</i>)	3.0 Credit Hours

- _____ 9. Have a **minimum overall college GPA of 2.5** including all undergraduate transfer work for admission into program. Must be in good academic standing. **NOTE:** Transfer students with completed coursework at Valencia College also need to have a minimum Institutional/Valencia GPA of 2.0 at the time of applying (in addition to the minimum overall college GPA of 2.5).

10. Prior to submitting your program application, you are encouraged to meet with your assigned advisor. You can locate your assigned advisor by logging into Atlas, Courses tab, Academic Profile. We strongly recommend that you meet early in your course planning to ensure all requirements, including program pre-requisite courses mentioned in this guide are met.
11. Successfully complete the designated entrance exam, ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), with scores posted to your Valencia record of a minimum passing Composite score of **58.7** (exam requirement subject to change). Scores on record may be used for admission criteria if test dates are **less than two years old** at the time of the application deadline **starting with the Fall 2023 application deadline**. Paper copies of scores are NOT accepted. The examination fee is the responsibility of the student. More information about ATI TEAS may be found on the [Assessment Center webpage](#). **If ATI TEAS was taken at another institution, students are required to:**
1. Request official exam scores from the [ATI site](#).
 2. Then, complete the ATI [Matching Request form](#) (*assists to add scores to Valencia student record*)
12. After completing numbers 1 – 11 and prior to the application deadline, submit a completed Sonography Program application, and pay the \$15 non-refundable Health Sciences program application fee. The application can be found at valenciacollege.edu/health.

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY ADMISSION POINTS GUIDE

The Health Sciences Admission Committee uses the following point system as a guide in the selection of the 12 qualified students to be admitted to the **Sonography** Program. Student selection is based on the total number of points earned.

In case of a tie, overall GPA and then the entrance test (**ATI TEAS**) test score will be considered.

If a student was previously accepted into a Health Sciences Program at Valencia and subsequently deemed ineligible for return to the program, the selection committee has the right to contact the applicant's previous program. This information will be included in the consideration for program admission.

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS THAT AWARD ADMISSION POINTS

The Highlighted course (Core Humanities) below is part of the new degree requirements to graduate with the A.S. Sonography degree. **Core Humanities will be required for admission points and graduation for all future admission cycles, starting with Fall 2023 admission.**

The first seven courses are **prerequisite courses that must be completed by the application deadline. You may not repeat a course for grade forgiveness for which you previously have earned a grade of A, B, or C**

BSC 2093C	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts	4.0 credit hours
BSC 2094C	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts	4.0 credit hours
PHY 1007C	Physics with Medical Applications	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts	4.0 credit hours
MAC 1105	College Algebra	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts	3.0 credit hours
ENC 1101	Freshman Composition I	A= 3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt	3.0 credit hours
PSY 2012	General Psychology	A= 3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt	3.0 credit hours
Humanities	Humanities Core General Education. Core is required for points and graduation. Institutional courses will not meet this requirement.	A= 3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt	3.0 credit hours
The following course is required for graduation with the degree. Completion of these courses with a minimum grade of C prior to the application deadline will result in more admission points to be a competitive applicant.			
HSC 1531	Medical Terminology	A= 8 pts, B= 6 pts, C=4 pts	3.0 credit hours

NOTE: Transfer courses may need to be reviewed by an Advisor for potential course substitution or equivalency. **Courses taken at other institutions may not be equivalent to Valencia Allied Health Program course requirement, as listed in this guide.** Course substitution or equivalency must be on your Valencia record before submitting program application. Course substitutions are only permitted when students have not previously earned a grade of A, B or C for the required course. Transfer courses with 'S' or 'P' grades need to be reviewed for eligibility by the [Health Sciences team](#)

ADDITIONAL ADMISSION POINTS AWARDED (OPTIONAL)

HSC 1004 -OR- SLS 1122	Professions of Caring -OR- New Student Experience	A=5 pts, B=3 pts, C=1 pt A= 3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
PHI 2600	Ethics and Critical Thinking (does not satisfy the 'Core' graduation requirement)	A= 3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
Alternate	Previous-year applicant placed on Alternate List	3 pts
Civic Literacy (Click for FCLE information)	Successful fulfillment of Civic Literacy per graduation requirements. <i>Florida Rule 6A-10.04213, prior to the award of an associate or baccalaureate degree, students initially entering a Florida College System institution in the 2022-23 school year* and thereafter must demonstrate competency in civic literacy prior to graduation.</i>	1 pt Optional for a point towards admission, but required for A.S. Graduation

Please check [Program Updates](#) page for the most updated information. Click here for [estimated program costs](#).

Total Points = _____ Total Possible Points: 69

GUIDELINES for ALL HEALTH SCIENCE LIMITED ACCESS PROGRAMS (EXCEPT THE BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AND ADVANCED TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES)

Valencia's Health Science programs are offered through the School of Allied Health and the School of Nursing, which provide information about specific admission criteria for the programs. The Health Sciences Program Guides, of which this is one, are developed for a specific academic year (August to July) and, as a rule, changes to admission and program requirements becoming effective at the start of an academic year. **Valencia College, however, reserves the right to make changes in admission and program requirements as circumstances require.** If a mid-year change becomes necessary, it will be indicated in the information for the specific program on the [Program Updates](#) page.

Students interested in a health sciences career are encouraged to explore the many challenging and rewarding opportunities available in health professions. The health sciences programs may have clinical experiences that expose the student to blood borne pathogens via contact with bodily fluids including, but not limited to blood and saliva. Students accepted into these programs will be expected to adhere to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for the use of Standard Precautions. The CDC defines standard precautions as "a set of precautions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), [and] other blood borne pathogens when providing first aid or health care." Under standard precautions, blood and certain body fluids are considered potentially infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens. Students will be expected to adhere to hand hygiene protocols and consistent use of personal protective equipment including masks, gloves and eyewear. In some health sciences programs, students may need to conduct peer-to-peer examinations in lab settings.

Valencia offers eight health sciences programs which lead to an A.S. degree. They are the Cardiovascular Technology, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Services Technology (including EMT and Paramedic technical certificates), Health Information Technology (including Medical Information Coder/Biller technical certificate), Nursing (R.N.), Radiography, and Respiratory Care. Admission to these programs is limited because of clinical facilities and staff. Once you complete your A.S. degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, you can continue at Valencia to earn your Bachelor's degree in Radiologic and Imaging Sciences or a bachelor-level Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) in Echocardiography or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). With additional education at the bachelor's level and professional experience, you will enhance your skills and have more career options available. Students whose official records indicate they are seeking admission to a limited access Associate in Science (A.S.) health sciences program will have the health sciences program designated as their secondary major and the Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree designated as their primary major in order to maximize their educational opportunities. If the student has already earned a Bachelor's or A.A. degree, the student will **not have A.A. designated as a major.**

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Program Application information for each admission cycle can be found on the [program's webpage](#). Program applications received after the deadline date will not be considered for the identified term. Students who are not accepted will need to reapply for a future term. Students must complete a Valencia application for admission and the application for the specific health sciences program. **Admission to Valencia does not imply acceptance to the health sciences program.** Students may apply to more than one limited access Health Science program; however, enrollment is limited to only one Health Sciences program in a term. **A new program application is required if reapplying for admission. Having previously earned a college degree does not grant an advantage in admission to a Health Sciences program that does not require a degree for admission,** nor does it exempt students from taking the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) if the ATI TEAS is required for admission to the program.

Communication Policy: Application review may take **4-6 weeks after the deadline closes.** **Students are expected to check Atlas email regularly for any communication about an application.** Application updates are **only** communicated through the Valencia College Atlas email. Students who are offered an accepted program seat are required to attend the mandatory program orientation to keep the seat and start the program. The admission decision email will include a **strict deadline** to accept an offered program seat. If a response is not received by the deadline of the acceptance invite, then the next student will be invited for the opportunity of acceptance.

Mandatory Orientation: The mandatory program Orientation for accepted students may be held four to six weeks prior to the program start date. Once accepted to a program, students will receive an email via ATLAS regarding the Orientation date, requirements, and deadlines. The Orientation materials will give the student information regarding the processes for completing background checks, fingerprinting, drug screening, and other requirements completed through the designated vendor.

BACKGROUND CHECK, FINGERPRINTING, DRUG TESTING, IMMUNIZATIONS AND CPR CERTIFICATION

The Health Sciences programs include student clinical rotations in external affiliate health care facilities with which Valencia has agreements for student clinical assignments. The affiliates' policies require that students serving in a clinical rotation be cleared of offenses that would disqualify them from participating in student clinical assignments. Thus, all students **conditionally* accepted** to a Health Sciences program are required to submit to a criminal background check, fingerprinting and drug testing as well as provide documentation of specific immunizations and American Heart Association (AHA) and Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification following acceptance to a program. The timeframe for meeting these requirements will be provided in the Orientation information that will be sent to the student upon acceptance through ATLAS email. **All clinical Compliance must be met to begin the program.** Students may need to renew their background and drug testing requirements annually. Email the Compliance Department for more details at HSCompliance@valenciacollege.edu. ***If you have a positive background check, fingerprints or drug screening, you may be denied enrollment in a Health Sciences program due to the inability to participate in a student clinical assignment.** If you have concerns regarding known background issues, it is recommended that you email questions to hscompliance@valenciacollege.edu.

TRANSPORTATION TO CLINICAL SITES

If accepted to a program, students will be responsible for furnishing transportation to the community and/or hospital facilities used by Valencia for clinical practice. **Valencia is an Equal Opportunity Institution:** <http://valenciacollege.edu/HR/EqualAccessEqualOpportunity.cfm>

**DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on these requirements, the above list of "Core Performance Standards" has been developed. Each standard has an example of an activity or activities, which a student will be required to perform while enrolled in the Sonography Program. These standards are a part of each Sonography course and of the professional role expectation of a Sonographer.

For the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, a “qualified individual with a disability is one who, with or without reasonable accommodations or modifications, meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in the program.” The Division of Allied Health at Valencia makes no preadmission inquiries concerning an applicant’s disability status. Information related to an applicant’s disabilities is not a part of the information reviewed by the Admission Committee.

These Performance Standards should be used to assist students in identifying the academic and clinical expectations for all students. Students who may need reasonable accommodations to fulfill required program outcomes or clinical expectations are encouraged to contact the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) to engage in an interactive process regarding their request. It is the student’s responsibility to notify and register with the Office for Students with Disabilities to identify and receive reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are effective only after engaging in this process and are not retroactive. Determination is made on an individual basis as to whether any accommodations or modifications can be reasonably made. **Valencia is an Equal Opportunity Institution:** <http://valenciacollege.edu/HR/EqualAccessEqualOpportunity.cfm>

Criteria	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF REQUIRED ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)
Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking ability sufficient for safe clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations. * Evaluate sonographs to ascertain that they contain proper identification and are of diagnostic value. * Manipulate key functions on US machine to produce diagnostic images on patients regardless of size, age, and extent of disease. * Assess patient’s condition and needs from a distance of at least 20 feet. * Initiate proper emergency care protocols, including CPR, based on assessment data.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish rapport with patients, families, and colleagues. * Display compassion, empathy and concern for others * Demonstrate a high degree of patience. * Work with other healthcare providers in stressful situations
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communicate verbally in English to the patient in order to: converse, instruct the patient, relieve anxiety, gain their cooperation during procedures, understand the patient when communicating symptoms of a medical emergency. * Read the patient’s medical chart and/or physician’s orders. * Legibly write patient history. * Documents own actions and patient responses as indicated.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Assist all patients, according to individual needs and abilities, in moving, turning, transferring from transportation devices to the scanning table. * Be able to push, pull, and lift 40 pounds. * Push a stretcher, wheelchair or other transportation device without injury to self, patient, or others. * Push an ultrasound machine (approximately 500 lbs.) from one location to another, including turning corners, getting on and off of an elevator, and manipulating it in a patient’s room.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ability to maintain prolonged arm positions necessary for scanning. * Accurately draw up sterile contrast media and other solutions without contaminating the syringe and/or needle, etc. * Physically be able to administer emergency care including performing CPR. * Be able to stand for periods as long as 2 hours and to walk a distance of 2 miles during a normal work day. * Ability to seize, grasp, grip, hold, turn, or otherwise work with hands. * Work fingers to manipulate switches, dials, and other equipment controls * Input data into computer
Hearing	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs, and to provide a safe environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hear a patient talk in a normal tone from a distance of 20 feet. * Hear monitor alarm, emergency signals, and cries for help.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and care of patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Observe the patient in order to assess the patient’s condition and/or needs from a distance of at least 20 feet. * Can see numbers, letters, calibrations, etc. of varying sizes located on equipment utilized by a sonographer.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment and operation of equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Perform palpation, tactile assessment, and manipulation of body parts to insure proper body placement and alignment. * Manipulate dials, buttons, and switches.

VALENCIA COLLEGE SCHOOLS OF ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING
Sample Form of the Health and Physical Core Performance Requirements

Assess Ability to Meet Program Requirements	Y E S	N O	If NO, Note Limitations	Assess Ability to Meet Program Requirements	Y E S	N O	If NO, Note Limitations
General Requirements (has the ability to...)				Require Lifting (ability to lift...)			
Sit				Up to 10 lbs.			
Stand				11 to 24 lbs.			
Walk				25 to 34 lbs.			
Bend				35 to 50 lbs.			
Kneel				Up to and over 100 for some Clinical Areas			
Crouch				Pushing/Pulling (ability to push and pull...)			
Twist				Up to 10 lbs.			
Maintain Balance				11 to 24 lbs.			
Reach				25 to 34 lbs.			
Climb Stairs				35 to 50 lbs.			
Sensory Requirements (has ability for...)				Up to and over 100 for some Clinical Areas			
Far Vision				Hand Manipulation (ability with...)			
Near Vision				Simple Grasping			
Color Vision				Firm Grasping			
Depth Perception				Fine Manipulation			
Seeing Fine Details				Use of Keyboards			
Hearing Norm Speech							
Hearing Overhead Pages				Mental & Emotional Requirements (ability to...)			
Infectious Diseases				Cope with high level of stress			
Chemical Agents				Make decisions under high pressure			
Dust, Fumes, Gases				Cope with anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm way			
Extremes in Temperature or Humidity				Concentrate			
Hazardous or Moving Equipment				Handle a high degree of flexibility			
Loud Noises				Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations			
				Demonstrate high degree of patience			
				Work in areas that are close and crowded			
				Verbally Communicate under stress			