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South Charleston, WV  
25303 (304) 205-6669

Application for:  
**SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
Spring 2022

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the BridgeValley Diagnostic Medical Sonography Programs. Please follow instructions carefully. **Application deadline is February 24, 2022.** Students are admitted to the program once a year. Applicants who have previously applied, and wish to reapply, must resubmit a new application.

**PROGRAM MISSION**

The mission of the BridgeValley Sonography Programs is to provide comprehensive, quality-driven sonography education. We believe that the provision and utilization of advanced technology in a caring, professional environment will enhance learning and augment student success. Our goals are multi-directional and purposed because we understand the need for community consciousness and responsibility. Our programs serve to support workforce with competent sonographers in general, vascular, and cardiac specialties to complement the healthcare team for the promotion of best practice patient care for improved community health and sustainability.

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

1. To prepare competent entry-level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains
2. To prepare competent entry-level vascular technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains
3. To prepare competent entry-level cardiac technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains
4. To provide an educational culture where everyone feels they can work and learn in a safe and caring environment that respects and treats all individuals with dignity and civility.
5. To graduate competent, employable, entry-level sonographers in accordance with the criteria established by the Joint Review Committee on Education under the auspices of the Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs.
6. To foster student's communication and critical thinking skills so they will realize their potential as key role players in the realm of health care, diagnostic medical imaging, and direct patient care.
7. To develop student's technical skills to include empathy and respect for the provision of quality care to all individuals regardless of race, gender, sexuality, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, educational backgrounds, and/or cultural beliefs.
8. To graduate health care professionals who act responsibly, practice principles of ethics, exercise integrity in decision-making, and who are law abiding citizens.
9. To support the student's awareness and commitment toward understanding and implementing the Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics as described by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.
10. To reinforce to student's the importance of striving for continual improvement through education and active participation in the profession

Instruction begins in August. All courses are completed in sequence. Full-time registration is required. The practical (clinical) courses require forty hours per week at various clinical sites. Didactic and laboratory instruction is in addition to the practical experience. All coursework must be passed with a grade of “C” or higher. The minimum GPA for successful completion of any DMS course is a 2.78.

Students successfully completing the sonography program requirements will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography or Cardiac Sonography.

The BridgeValley sonography program is developed utilizing the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) self-study guide and is based on established Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation developed under the auspices of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Program (CAAHEP).

The number of students accepted is contingent upon clinical availability. Generally twelve (12) students will be accepted each fall in each program. Clinical assignment will be influenced by student’s residence and clinical site locations. Students cannot select their clinical rotation sites and are responsible for their own travel and related expenses to and from clinical rotation sites which may require driving more than 2 hours one way.

No on-campus housing is available; however, Student Services may provide a list of possible housing. The number of laboratory and clinical hours required in the DMS program make it difficult for a student to work while enrolled in the Program. Candidates must carefully evaluate their financial status and plan for the following expenses: textbooks, uniforms, shoes, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

**Drug Screening and Criminal Background Checks** will be required prior to clinical education in the DMS program to ensure the safety of patients in the clinical setting. Students who do not comply with the drug screening and criminal background checks are ineligible for placement at clinical sites and therefore are not able to progress in the DMS program. If a student has a criminal background, it is the students’ responsibility to explore whether their background will prohibit them from being eligible for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) board examinations and/or employment in the health care industry. BridgeValley faculty and staff are NOT able to provide legal advice. If you have any questions about your existing criminal background, you may wish to discuss this with legal counsel.

#### **A. Application Process**

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1. Submit application and transcripts.
2. Submission of all college transcripts is required except transcripts from BridgeValley. An *official* unopened transcript from each school must be sent to the DMS program chair. An application that does not include all transcripts attached will be considered incomplete unless the previous school requires direct submission of transcripts to BridgeValley. (If this applies, please note in application checklist in the provided space). NOTE: BridgeValley CTC transcripts are the only exception as they are available in the college online system.
3. Copies of professional certificates, degrees, or licenses are required. Applicants must include national licenses and any applicable state licenses. (Ex. Radiology Technology to include ARRT / WVRT license).
4. TEAS exam results taken within the last 5 years and with a minimum score of 50
5. Sign and date the Technical/ Health Standards and Physical Requirements form of the application.
6. Shadowing documentation and/or letter detailing your reason for choosing sonography as a career. Shadowing requirement waived for 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
7. Apply and submit your application online.
8. After submitting your application online you will receive an email requesting your supporting documentation.

All applications and supporting documents must be received by **February 24, 2022**.

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

## **B. Admission Procedures / Selection Process**

1. Acceptance is contingent upon completion of all required prerequisite courses with a combined GPA of 2.75 or higher prior to the beginning of the DMS or Cardiac Sonography program in Fall 2022.
2. Points will be given based on the following criteria: prerequisite courses overall GPA, core sonography class grades, TEAS exam score, ~~shadowing experience documentation~~, and the explanation of why a career in Diagnostic Medical Sonography was chosen, a clear understanding of the duties of a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, prior health care certifications and/or experience, educational degrees, certifications, and veteran status.
3. The completed applications are reviewed by the Sonography Program Admissions Committee. The top applicants meeting primary criteria will be scheduled for an interview. Interviews will take place the week of March 28th.
4. The top applications will be determined based on interview and application scores. **The sonography programs do not use a 'wait list' to fill positions.** Those not selected from this pool are placed on the alternate list.
5. All applicants will be notified of their status i.e. acceptance, alternate status, or non-acceptance mailed/emailed by April 14, 2022. The applicant's written confirmation to enroll must be received by the program no later than April 21, 2022. Open positions will be filled from the alternate list. The alternate list will be dissolved 1 week after classes begin. If you are not accepted, you will need to reapply in the future.
6. Courses in the sonography programs are completed in sequence to ensure that students complete this program on schedule. All clinical coursework is completed in sequence and is available once per year. The inability to complete coursework in sequence may lead to a leave of absence, suspension, probation, and/or termination.
7. BridgeValley Community and Technical College will not discriminate against any person in the provision of any program or services based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, age gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical/mental disability. BridgeValley will utilize the technical standards recommended by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) for admission to identify the physical, mental and emotional skills considered to be essential to achieve the level of competency required for completion/graduation of a diagnostic medical sonography program and to practice sonography. Please refer to the SDMS standards located on pages 8 and 9 of this document.

## **C. Program Requirement**

1. Students are required to earn "C" grade or higher in each course for program progression.
2. Students are responsible for academic costs, transportation and personal living expenses. The student is advised to make financial arrangements well in advance to assist with success.
3. It is imperative students demonstrate mature judgment, motivation, ethical standards, excellent communication, and interpersonal skills due to the demand of the academic curriculum, unique patient contact, and interaction.
4. Working while enrolled in a sonography program will put a strain on your ability to study for your sonography courses and board exams and is not recommended.
5. Students must be pass drug screening and background checks to be in a sonography program.

**D. Program Goals**

Students will have the opportunity to gain the appropriate knowledge, technical skills, and qualifications necessary to take the national certification examination offered by the ARDMS (American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographer) in the designated areas of Ultrasound Physics/Instrumentation, Abdomen, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Vascular Technology, and Adult Echocardiography.

Once again, thank you for your interest in a BridgeValley Sonography Program. We look forward to receiving your application.

**Institutional and Program Accreditation:**

BridgeValley Community and Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411  
Phone: 800.621.7440 / 312.263.0456 | Fax: 312.263.7462 | [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org)

BridgeValley DMS Programs: General/Vascular & Cardiac are accredited:

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) 9355-113th St. N #7709; Seminole, FL 33775; 727-210-2350 [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)  
JRCDSMS 6021 University Boulevard, Suite 500 Ellicott City, MD 21043 Phone: 443-973-3251 E-mail: [jrcdms@intersocietal.org](mailto:jrcdms@intersocietal.org)