

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital

# School of Sonography

Providing Education  
in the Imaging Sciences



Mercyhealth®

A passion for  
making lives better.



## **A Career in Sonography**

Sonographers operate specialty equipment that utilizes high-frequency waves to characterize and diagnose diseases in body organs and tissues.

Sonographers generally work a 40-hour week that may include evening, weekend, holiday or on-call hours. Most sonographers work in hospitals, physician offices, outpatient clinics, and mobile imaging services.

Starting salaries for sonographers average about \$62,000 a year. Overall employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is projected to grow 23% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.

## **Mercyhealth School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography**

In 2018, Mercyhealth established a program to educate students in the field of sonography. The 15-month certificate program provides a solid basis for an exciting and rewarding health care career.

Throughout the program, the student spends 40 hours each week in the classroom or clinical setting. The program includes lectures, demonstrations, and clinical experience working with staff sonographers and radiologists using high-frequency sound waves to create detailed images of human anatomy. The program involves study and class preparation beyond the 40-hour week.

## Clinical Education

Students participate in scheduled clinical rotations in hospital radiology departments, obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) specialty clinics, and a women's breast center.

Hospital radiology departments and specialty clinics are equipped with a variety of ultrasound systems using the newest technology. These facilities are staffed by registered sonographers and radiologists who provide the student with excellent educational supervision.

## Mission Statement

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Sonography program is dedicated to providing quality education for its students in order to promote excellence in the art and science of sonography. Guided by the mission of Mercyhealth, the School of Sonography strives to provide academic and clinical experiences that produce competent and compassionate sonographers with a commitment and passion to make lives better by performing quality imaging and the pursuit of lifelong learning.

## Program Goals

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

Learning outcomes:

- Students will properly identify the patient; interpret the exam request; select the appropriate technical factors; and accurately record anatomic and physiologic information suitable for physician interpretation.
- Students will assist the physician during invasive ultrasound-guided procedures.
- Students will pass the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography certification boards.

**The program will provide the tools necessary for graduates to critically think and problem solve.**

Learning outcomes:

- Students will evaluate images for diagnostic quality and determine if corrective action is required.
- Students will modify routine exam and protocols to adapt to non-routine patients.
- Students will employ a safe work environment.

**The program will provide education that promotes professionalism, ethics and communication.**

Learning outcomes:

- Students will provide consistent, high-quality patient care.
- Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
- Students will demonstrate a respect for diversity and all patient populations.

**The program shall address the needs of the community.**

Learning outcomes

- Students will demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Students will express satisfaction with the program.
- Graduates will be successfully employed within the field.
- Employers will express overall satisfaction with the graduate's performance.



## Qualifications/Technical Standards

A student sonographer must be a mature, dependable person who is compassionate and genuinely interested in helping the sick and disabled. The program selects students whose qualifications indicate the greatest potential for professional and personal development.

*Applicants must be able to:*

1. Work standing on his/her feet 80% of the time.
2. Uses both hands, wrists and shoulders to maintain prolonged arm positions necessary for scanning and performing fine motor skills.
3. Lift more than 50 pounds routinely.
4. Transport, move and/or lift patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to the examination table or patient bed, and physically assist patients into proper positions for examination.
5. Push, pull, bend and stoop routinely to move and adjust sonographic equipment to perform studies.
6. Use senses (vision, hearing, touch) to adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions, distinguish audible sounds, perform eye/hand coordination skills required in sonographic examinations, and recognize changes in the patient's condition and needs.
7. Work in a semi-darkened room for prolonged periods of time.
8. Be physically capable of carrying out all assigned duties.

## Admission Procedure

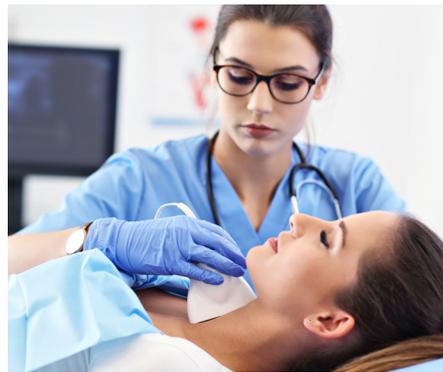
Applications are accepted year-round. A new class commences every January. Early application is encouraged, as the date of receipt may be a determining factor among equally qualified applicants. Any person desiring to enroll in Mercyhealth's School of Sonography is required to submit the following to the program director:

- An application with a \$20 non-refundable fee (make checks payable to Mercyhealth School of Sonography)
- Two letters of reference
- Copies of official college transcripts showing prerequisites completed with a GPA of 2.5 or better and evidence of an associate degree or higher

All applicants must have completed or be enrolled in the prerequisite courses in addition to having an associate degree or certificate from a two-year accredited allied health program, or possess a bachelor's degree, preferably in a science or medically-related field to enter the program. Courses need not be completed to apply, but must be completed to be admitted into the program.

Applicants are sent a notice of receipt of their application and a notice to sign up to take the aptitude test. There is a \$30 non-refundable fee for the aptitude test. Applicants are scheduled for interviews and job shadowing if they have been successful on the aptitude test.

All applicants are asked the same questions by the interview committee. The applicant is encouraged to ask their own questions.



After interviews are complete, applicants are ranked on points they have received in the following areas:

- GPA in the prerequisite courses
- Aptitude test score
- Interview score
- Additional points given based on:
  - Prior application (1)
  - Military service (1)
  - Previous experience in an acute care setting (1)

Applicants with same point totals will have the tie broken by the date the application was received. Up to five applicants with the highest point totals are accepted into the program. The remaining candidates are ranked as alternates in decreasing point value. If one of the accepted students does not enter the program before the start of the program, the alternate will be notified of the available class position.

The selection process is normally complete by December 15, with all grades due by December 15 for the class that begins in January. Students will be advised of their admission or non-admission status by US mail the third week in December.

Admission to the School of Sonography is conditional upon submitting to and satisfactorily passing a criminal background check, a pre-admission physical exam and screening tests.

The school will accept applicants who exhibit—by past education, experience, testing, and a personal interview—a high potential for success in diagnostic medical sonography.

Applications are reviewed based on the same qualifications regardless of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability.

## Prerequisites

The following courses may be taken at an accredited college. You may apply before the prerequisites are complete, provided you will have earned a “C” or better and grades are received by us by December 15 prior to the program start date. The College Board’s College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses are accepted and will be given your GPA point total. If you have a question about the college or course, please contact us.

- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Terminology
- Communications (English, Composition, Speech)
- General college-level Physics and/or Radiographic Physics
- College Algebra, Statistics or higher

## How to Apply

Applications for admission to the Mercyhealth School of Sonography may be obtained by calling (815) 971-5675, downloaded at [mercyhealthsystem.org/program/school-of-sonography](http://mercyhealthsystem.org/program/school-of-sonography) or by sending a letter to:

Mercyhealth Javon Bea Hospital  
School of Sonography  
2400 N. Rockton Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

## Tuition and Fees

Tuition: \$12,500

Other Costs:

- Uniforms and shoes are approximately \$200-350 (student cost)

## Financial Aid

Not available

## Health Insurance

Not available

## Advanced Placement Options

We do not offer advanced placement options.

## Program Length/Clinical Obligations

Mercyhealth School of Sonography is a 15-month, full-time, Monday-Friday program. The program starts every January. There are five quarters.

- First quarter: Second week in January to first week in April
- Second quarter: April to June
- Third quarter: July to September
- Fourth quarter: October to December
- Fifth quarter: January to March/April

A program academic calendar, provided to all accepted students during orientation, is subject to change to insure program integrity upon notice to students. The maximum program length is 18 months.

## Curriculum

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<b>Quarter 1</b>	DMS 101a Fundamentals of Sonography DMS 102a Sonography Principals and Instrumentation I DMS 103a Abdominal Sonography I DMS 105a Practicum I DMS 100a Clinical Lab I
<b>Quarter 2</b>	DMS 102b Sonography Principals and Instrumentation II DMS 103c Abdominal Sonography II DMS 104b OB/GYN Sonography I DMS 105b Practicum II DMS 100b Clinical Lab II
<b>Quarter 3</b>	DMS 106c Introduction to Vascular Sonography I DMS 105c Practicum III DMS 100c Clinical Lab III DMS 104d OB/GYN Sonography II
<b>Quarter 4</b>	DMS 103d Abdomen/OBGYN Registry Review DMS 100d Clinical Lab IV DMS 106d Vascular Sonography II DMS 105d Practicum IV
<b>Quarter 5</b>	DMS 100e Clinical Lab V

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## **Grading System/Academic Policies**

Didactic grading is based on the following scale:

- 100%-92% - A
- 85%-91% - B
- 80%-84% - C

The student's academic and clinical performance are evaluated at the end of each quarter. Evaluation in both the classroom and clinical setting is ongoing for the entire program. To remain in good standing, all academic and clinical grades must be 80% or better on a 100% scale.

If a student fails to achieve 80% in either academic or clinical performances, the following is instituted:

- Probation for three months during which time each of the student's grades must be raised to 80%.
- During the probationary period, the student is given additional instruction.
- If the student fails to raise all course grades to the required 80% by the end of the probation period, the student is required to withdraw from the program.

Clinical grades are based on the following:

- The clinical competency testing average and the practical examination average added together for one percentage
- The affective domain and the quarter clinical evaluation average added together for one percentage
- The final percentage is the clinical evaluation average

## **Transfer Student Policy**

Transfer students are not accepted.

## **Refund Policy**

If a student officially withdraws or is dismissed from the school, the student is entitled to a refund according to the following schedule:

- During the first five days of the quarter—75%
- Days six to 10 of the quarter—50%
- Days 11 to 15 of the quarter—25%
- After day 16 of the quarter—No refund

## **Student Pregnancy Policy**

If the student chooses, she may voluntarily inform the Program Director of her pregnancy, in writing, indicating the expected date of delivery. Without written disclosure, a student cannot be considered pregnant.

If the student chooses, after voluntarily informing the Program Director in writing of her pregnancy, she may voluntarily withdraw that declaration in writing. With this written withdrawal of declaration, the student will not be considered pregnant.

Once the student has disclosed her pregnancy, she has the following options:

- Continue the educational program without modification or interruption
- Modification of clinical assignments (areas to be made up after delivery)
- Leave of absence from clinical
- Leave of absence from the program

Any injury or illness associated with the pregnancy, at any time during the pregnancy, will be accepted at the student's own risk.

The student may not return to school after delivery without prior written approval of her physician.

Any clinical and classroom assignments missed before and after delivery will be made up at the discretion of the Program Director.

## **Vacation and Holidays**

There are six holidays each year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Dates are dependent on the sponsoring institution's holiday schedule dates. The student is granted one (8 hour) personal day during the length of the program. Each student is granted four (4) weeks of vacation during the 15-month program. A school calendar is available at [mercyhealthsystem.org/program/school-of-sonography](http://mercyhealthsystem.org/program/school-of-sonography)

## Records and Release of Information

1. The release of information to and about students is in conformance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as amended in 1974.
2. Records of each student's grades are maintained in their file. At each quarter evaluation, the student is shown his/her records to date and given a personal copy. At the completion of the program, each student is issued one transcript of his/her academic and clinical performance.
3. Any information concerning the student's academic or clinical performance is confidential. Authorization for release of any information must be made in writing by the student or graduate to the Program Director.

## Program Effectiveness Data

Mercyhealth School of Sonography Outcome Summary	
Year	2018
Class size	3
Graduation rate (%)	67%
Attrition rate (%)	23%
Credential Success rate (%)	100%
Abdomen (%)	50%
OB/GYN (%)	50%
Employment	100%



## **Faculty**

*Program Director:* Cindy R. Harrison, BS, RDMS, RVT

If you have further questions or would like an application, please contact the Program Director at (815) 971-5675 or [charrison@mhemail.org](mailto:charrison@mhemail.org).

## **Accreditation**

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Sonography is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP). CAAHEP is the largest programmatic accreditor in the health sciences field. In collaboration with its Committees on Accreditation, CAAHEP reviews and accredits over 2,100 educational programs in 32 health science occupations. The Javon Bea Hospital School of Sonography was accredited in November 2020 and will hold this accreditation for five years.





For more information,  
contact (815) 971-5675 or  
[charrison@mhemail.org](mailto:charrison@mhemail.org)

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