



University of Findlay

Sonography Programs

Prospective Student Handbook

(Updated August 2026)



University of Findlay

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

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Channel of Communication

Faculty → Program Director → Chair → Dean

Program Location

Diagnostic Services Building
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UF Mission

The mission of the University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

Program Mission

The University of Findlay Sonography Programs are committed to providing an intellectually stimulating environment to develop highly skilled, patient-focused professionals through competency-based education.

Program Goals

“The Program’s goal is to prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains in the following concentrations. Abdominal Sonography-Extended, Obstetrics and Gynecology Sonography, Adult Cardiac Sonography”

Cognitive:

- Obtain, review and integrate pertinent patient data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills during the performance of sonographic procedures to provide optimum diagnostic images.
- Demonstrate the ability to discern sonographic images as they relate to cross-sectional anatomy.

Psychomotor:

- Perform sonographic procedures appropriately and accurately record all anatomic and physiologic information for interpretation by a physician.
- Document and present complete and accurate sonographic findings to the interpreting physician in order to facilitate patient diagnosis.
- Operate the sonography equipment to produce diagnostic images.

Affective:

- Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients and all members of the healthcare team.
- Provide compassionate patient care and education to promote overall well-being.
- Act in a professional manner within recognized ethical and legal standards.
- Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

What Is Sonography?

Sonography is a medical imaging modality that uses sound waves to identify and evaluate soft tissue structures in the human body for disease and pathology.

What Does a Sonographer Do?

Sonographers are healthcare professionals who perform diagnostic ultrasound examinations under a physician's supervision. To perform diagnostic imaging evaluations, sonographers

integrate knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and ultrasound physics. Among the parts of the body most evaluated with sonography are the heart, blood vessels, abdominal organs, superficial structures, pelvic organs, and the developing fetus.

The professional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Obtain patient history
- Perform diagnostic ultrasound exams
- Analyze and evaluate images
- Communicate findings to physicians
- Provide patient care

Sonography Programs

Curriculum and educational objectives of the programs are based upon standards of integrity, professionalism, and patient care as defined by multiple sonography professional organizations, including the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SDMS) and the American Institute of Ultrasound (AIUM). Recognized Practice Standards and Scope of Practice parameters have also been included in the didactic, experiential learning, and clinical components of the curricula.

The University of Findlay offers certificate, associate, and bachelor degree options in the following areas:

- Abdominal Sonography–Extended (including Obstetrics and Gynecology)
- Abdominal Sonography with a Vascular emphasis
- Adult Cardiac Sonography

Program Overview

The University of Findlay offers associate and bachelor's degree options with majors in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Echocardiography. A certificate option is available for students who have previously earned a college degree.

The program is a full-time, approximately 14-month program consisting of an intensive academic (didactic) phase followed by an immersive clinical education phase. Students should expect approximately 35+ hours per week in lecture and laboratory settings during the academic portion of the program, followed by approximately 1,400 hours of supervised clinical education.

Why Choose the University of Findlay Sonography Programs?

- Full-time, accelerated program completed in approximately 14 months
- Over 1,400 hours of supervised clinical education, providing extensive hands-on experience
- All core didactic content, including pathology, is completed prior to full-time clinical education to support student readiness and confidence
- Required cadaver laboratory experience to support advanced understanding of anatomical structures and imaging correlation
- Structured, immersive format designed to prepare students for the demands of clinical practice

- Diverse clinical site network, including opportunities outside the local region
- Emphasis on professionalism, clinical competency, and readiness for credentialing exams

Career Opportunities for Sonographers

Graduates may work in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, and other healthcare settings. Opportunities also exist in education, administration, and industry roles.

Additional career paths may include roles such as clinical application specialists, travel sonographers, and other positions within healthcare systems and industry.

Completion of a bachelor's degree may support additional career advancement opportunities in leadership, education, and specialized roles.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects continued growth in this field.

Salaries for Sonographers

Diagnostic medical sonography offers competitive salaries. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate strong earning potential, and continued workforce demand supports favorable employment opportunities for graduates (subject to change).

Program Accreditation

The University of Findlay Diagnostic Medical Sonography Programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
9355 113th St North #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
727-210-2350
[CAAHEP](http://www.caahep.org)

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography: Scope of Practice and Clinical Practice Standards

Students are expected to adhere to the professional standards established by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), including
[SDMS Scope of Practice and Clinical Standards](http://www.sdms.org/standards)

Technical Standards for Sonography Students

The Sonography Programs require students to meet certain physical, cognitive, and behavioral standards to ensure the safety of patients and the successful completion of the program.

These standards apply to all aspects of the program, including classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. Students must be able to meet these requirements with or without reasonable accommodation. Accommodations will not be considered reasonable if they compromise patient safety or essential program requirements.

All applicants are required to review these standards and confirm their ability to meet them prior to admission.

Students must be able to:

1. Observation and Visual Skills

- Observe patients and monitor changes in condition
- Evaluate image quality and recognize anatomical structures
- Differentiate colors, grayscale images, and spatial relationships

2. Hearing and Communication

- Hear and respond to patient needs, alarms, and Doppler signals
- Communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing
- Provide clear instructions to patients and collaborate with healthcare team members
- Maintain patient confidentiality and professional communication

3. Motor and Physical Abilities

- Perform sonographic procedures safely
- Lift up to 50 pounds
- Stand and walk for extended periods (up to 8 hours)
- Perform repetitive movements and maintain proper positioning during scanning
- Demonstrate sufficient strength, coordination, and manual dexterity

4. Cognitive and Emotional Skills

- Apply critical thinking and clinical reasoning
- Function effectively under stress
- Adapt to changing clinical environments
- Exercise sound judgment and professionalism
- Demonstrate empathy, integrity, and accountability

5. Professional and Behavioral Expectations

- Interact respectfully with patients and healthcare professionals
- Demonstrate ethical behavior and professionalism
- Work effectively with diverse patient populations

Program Expectations

Students enrolled in the Sonography Programs should expect a full-time academic and clinical commitment. The program requires approximately 35+ hours per week of combined lecture, laboratory, and clinical education, in addition to independent study.

Students are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in all scheduled learning activities
- Comply with all program, university, and clinical site policies
- Maintain patient confidentiality and adhere to ethical standards
- Demonstrate effective time management and accountability
- Follow appropriate channels of communication

Clinical education may require travel or temporary relocation. Students must meet attendance requirements, complete all assigned clinical responsibilities, and maintain current CPR/BLS certification.

Additional details regarding classroom and clinical expectations are provided in the Program and Clinical Handbooks.

Non-Discrimination Policy

All activities associated with the Sonography Programs, including student recruitment, admission, and employment practices, are conducted in a non-discriminatory manner in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

Request for Accommodations

Students who require accommodations are responsible for initiating the request through the University of Findlay's Office of Accessibility.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided in accordance with applicable laws, provided they do not fundamentally alter the nature of the program or compromise patient safety or essential program requirements.

Students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as possible to allow adequate time for review and implementation.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Accessibility

Phone: 419-434-5532

Office Email: access@findlay.edu

[Office of Accessibility](#)

Admission Information

Application Deadline: January 1 | Summer Start Only

Admission to the Sonography Programs is competitive and based on a selective review process. Applicants must meet all admission requirements and submit a complete application by the stated deadline.

Application Requirements

A completed application includes:

- Admission to the University of Findlay
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Documentation of required observation hours (minimum of 8 hours total: 4 in General Sonography and 4 in Echocardiography)
- Patient Confidentiality Agreement

Students may apply while completing prerequisite coursework. However, all required major (program) courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher prior to beginning the program.

Applicant Categories

Applicants may apply under one of the following categories:

- **Current UF Students** – Students enrolled at the University of Findlay in a sonography-related major
- **Non-Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students** – Students who have completed a prior degree and are applying to the program directly
- **First-Time Freshmen and Transfer Students** – Students applying to the University who intend to pursue admission to the Sonography Programs at a later point in their academic progression

International Students

Applicants who have completed post-secondary education outside of the United States must have their academic credentials evaluated for U.S. equivalency.

Proof of English proficiency is required for applicants whose first language is not English. Acceptable exams include TOEFL or IELTS, taken within the past two years. Applicants who do not meet minimum English proficiency requirements may be required to complete the University’s Intensive English Language Program prior to admission.

For complete admission requirements and credential evaluation information, please visit the University of Findlay admissions website or contact the Office of Admissions.

For complete University policies, procedures, and academic information, please refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Selection Process

All applicants with a complete file are reviewed and ranked based on established criteria, including academic performance and progress toward degree completion.

The number of students accepted each year is limited and is dependent upon the availability of clinical education sites.

Admission Status Definitions

Following the application review process, students will be placed into one of the following categories:

Conditionally Accepted

Students who meet admission requirements and are eligible to proceed in the clinical placement process.

Conditional acceptance does not guarantee entry into the program. Students must:

- Complete all remaining academic requirements
- Meet all program and clinical site requirements
- Secure a clinical placement

Full acceptance is granted only after all requirements, including clinical placement, are verified.

Alternate

Students who meet minimum requirements but are not initially selected due to limited capacity.

Alternates may be offered admission if:

- Additional clinical placements become available, or
- Openings occur within the cohort

Denied

Students not selected for admission may reapply in a future cycle. Selection is based on multiple factors, including academic performance and clinical placement availability.

Additional Requirements

Prior to beginning the program, students must complete required health documentation, immunizations, and a background check. All associated costs are the responsibility of the student.

Approximate Program Timeline

- **January 1** – Application deadline (completed file due)
- **Mid-January** – Application review by Admissions Committee
- **Early February** – Admission decisions released
- **Mid-February** – Acceptance confirmation and next steps provided
- **Spring** – Clinical placement process

Clinical Placement Overview

Clinical education is a required component of the Sonography Programs and must be completed at an approved clinical site under the supervision of credentialed sonographers. Clinical placement is not guaranteed and is dependent upon clinical site availability and site approval.

Students should be prepared to travel and, in many cases, temporarily relocate for clinical education. All costs associated with travel, housing, and other clinical-related expenses are the responsibility of the student.

Clinical Placement Process

The Sonography Programs maintain affiliations with a variety of clinical sites. Following the admission process, eligible students will participate in the clinical placement process.

Students will be provided with a list of available clinical sites and may be asked to rank site preferences. Placement opportunities are influenced by multiple factors, including but not limited to student ranking, site availability, and site-specific requirements.

Clinical sites make the final determination regarding student interviews and placement. The program cannot guarantee placement at any specific site, including a student's top choice.

Student Involvement in Clinical Placement

Prospective and admitted students are not permitted to independently contact or solicit clinical sites for placement.

Students who have an interest in a clinical site not currently affiliated with the program may discuss this with program faculty. If appropriate, the program may grant permission for the student to initiate contact to determine the site's interest in hosting a student. Any such communication must occur under the direction and with the approval of the program.

If a site expresses interest, the program will evaluate the site to ensure it meets educational requirements and will coordinate any necessary agreements.

Identification of a potential clinical site does not guarantee placement, as all sites must meet program requirements and formally agree to host a student.

Clinical Placement Timeline

Clinical placement timelines are approximate and subject to change based on site availability and program needs. Students are expected to actively engage in the placement process as directed by the program.

Final placement may occur at varying times throughout the admissions cycle. Failure to secure a clinical placement may prevent a student from beginning the program as scheduled.

Clinical Site Policies and Expectations

Students must adhere to all policies and procedures established by the clinical site, in addition to program policies. Clinical sites reserve the right to accept or decline any student for interview or placement.

Once the interview process has concluded, students are expected to maintain professional communication standards. Any follow-up communication with a clinical site must be conducted in accordance with program guidelines.

Failure to comply with clinical placement policies may result in review through the program's disciplinary process.

Clinical Placement Requirements for Full Acceptance

Final (full) acceptance into the Sonography Program is contingent upon:

- Successful completion of all prerequisite coursework
- Verification of all required documentation (e.g., health requirements, background check)
- Securing a clinical placement at an approved site

Students who do not meet all requirements, including clinical placement, may not be eligible to begin the program.

The Sonography Programs reserve the right to modify clinical placement processes and timelines as needed to ensure compliance with accreditation standards and clinical partner requirements.

Clinical Education

Students complete approximately 1,400 hours of supervised clinical education at one or more approved clinical sites, applying knowledge and skills in patient care, imaging procedures, and professional practice under the supervision of credentialed sonographers.

Estimated Program Costs

The following is an estimate of costs associated with the Sonography Programs. All official billing is managed through the University Business Office. Fees are subject to change.

- Estimated program cost (excluding housing): approximately \$25,000
- Estimated total cost (including housing and meals): approximately \$32,000 and up

Additional Expenses

Students should anticipate additional costs, which may include:

- Textbooks and educational materials
- Clinical documentation software (Trajecsys)
- Physical examination, background check, drug screening, and immunizations
- Transportation, housing, and living expenses throughout the program, including during clinical education (which may require travel or temporary relocation)
- Uniforms and professional attire
- Registry examination fees
- Professional organization membership fees

Official Tuition and Fees Information

For the most current and official information regarding tuition, fees, housing, and meal plans, please visit:

[Tuition and Fees](#)

Program Calendar

The Sonography Programs begin once per year with a summer (May) start date.

The academic (didactic) portion of the program, which occurs during the summer and fall semesters, generally follows the University of Findlay academic calendar.

The clinical portion of the program, which occurs during the spring and summer semesters, follows a continuous, full-time schedule determined by the assigned clinical site. Students should not expect extended academic breaks (e.g., spring break or extended holiday breaks) during this time.

The University of Findlay and Sonography Programs reserve the right to adjust schedules as necessary.

Housing

On-campus housing may be available for Sonography students during the academic portion of the program and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Dedicated housing for Diagnostic Services (DIAG) students is available at a reduced rate. Additional details are provided upon conditional acceptance.

Standard University housing options may also be available.

During the clinical portion of the program, housing needs vary based on clinical site location. Students placed at local sites may be eligible to remain in University housing, while others may need to secure housing near their assigned clinical site.

For more information, please contact Housing and Residence Life at (419) 434-6995 or visit:

[Housing & Residence Life](#)

Insurance

Health Insurance

Students are required to maintain health insurance coverage throughout the program, including both academic and clinical components. Proof of coverage is required prior to the start of the program.

Personal Property

The University of Findlay is not responsible for loss or damage to personal property. Students are encouraged to obtain coverage for personal belongings if desired.

Professional Liability Insurance

Students are provided with liability insurance during clinical education through the University. This coverage does not apply if a student is functioning as an employee or receiving compensation for services.

Students may be held responsible for damage to equipment resulting from negligence.

Program Withdrawal

Due to the structured and sequential nature of the Sonography Programs, withdrawal from any course results in withdrawal from the program. Students may reapply in a future admission cycle; however, readmission is not guaranteed.

For information regarding tuition, fees, and refund policies, please refer to the University Business Office and Undergraduate Catalog.

Financial Aid

Information regarding financial aid, including application procedures and eligibility, is available through the University of Findlay Financial Aid Office.

Please note that University of Findlay institutional merit-based aid is **not awarded during the professional (sonography) phase of the program**.

The tuition structure for the professional phase differs from standard undergraduate tuition rates. Students are encouraged to consult the Business Office and Financial Aid Office for the most current information regarding program costs and financial planning.

[Financial Aid](#)

University Policies

Students enrolled in the Sonography Programs are subject to all University of Findlay policies, including those related to academic integrity, student conduct, non-discrimination, and Title IX.

For the most current information, please refer to the University of Findlay [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Curriculum Overview

The Sonography Programs consist of a structured sequence of didactic (classroom and laboratory) and clinical courses designed to prepare students for entry-level practice.

All students complete a foundational set of sonography courses, including:

- Patient care and professional practice
- Cross-sectional anatomy and pathology
- Medical terminology
- Ultrasound physics and instrumentation
- Capstone and career preparation

Students then complete specialty-specific coursework based on their selected program:

- **General Sonography** – Focus on abdominal, obstetrical, gynecological, and superficial structures, along with corresponding clinical education
- **Echocardiography** – Focus on cardiac anatomy, physiology, pathology, and advanced echocardiographic procedures, along with corresponding clinical education

Both programs include a clinical education component designed to develop technical skills, clinical judgment, and professional competencies.

For detailed course descriptions and degree requirements, please refer to the University of Findlay Undergraduate Catalog:

- [Diagnostic Medical Sonography BS](#)
- [Echocardiography BS](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need prior medical experience to apply?

No. Prior medical experience is not required. However, a minimum of 8 hours of observation (4 General Sonography and 4 Echocardiography) is required.

Is admission to the program guaranteed if I meet the requirements?

No. Admission is competitive and based on multiple factors, including academic performance and clinical site availability.

Is clinical placement guaranteed?

No. Clinical placement is required but not guaranteed and is dependent on clinical site availability and approval.

Do I need to complete all prerequisite courses before applying?

No. Students may apply while completing prerequisites; however, all required major (program) courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher prior to beginning the program.

Can I work while enrolled in the program?

Due to the full-time and intensive nature of the program, outside employment is strongly discouraged during the academic (didactic) portion. During the clinical portion, some students may choose to work limited hours; however, employment must not interfere with scheduled clinical education or program requirements.

Will I need to travel for clinical education?

Yes. Students should be prepared to travel or temporarily relocate for clinical placement. All associated costs are the responsibility of the student.

When does the program begin?

The Sonography Programs begin once per year in May.

Who should I contact with additional questions?

For additional information, please contact the Sonography Program Office at dms@findlay.edu

The University of Findlay and the Sonography Programs reserve the right to make changes to this information at any time without prior notice.