El Centro College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Revised for June 2014 application -

El Centro College offers a 72 credit hour curriculum leading to an Associate Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography as well as a 43 credit hour Advanced Technical Certificate. This information packet contains application eligibility guidelines for both curriculum tracks.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program prepares individuals to perform diagnostic examinations using high frequency sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures including the gallbladder, kidneys, pregnant uterus, and other organs as requested by the physician. This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Graduates of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program are eligible to write designated RDMS registry exams.

Students are accepted into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program each June via a competitive application and acceptance procedure which utilizes a weighted point system on a personal interview, HESI A2 test scores, and cumulative grade point average on the Sonography Core Curriculum. Prior to applying to the Associate Degree program, an individual must complete the entire 38-credit-hour Sonography Core Curriculum comprised of general education courses and five healthcare-related courses which include an introductory knowledge of the theory and application of health care concepts.

This information packet contains specific application guidelines and requirements. By submitting an application packet, an individual verifies that they have 1) read the packet thoroughly, 2) obtained all necessary documents from designated website addresses, and 3) understood the policies and procedures for application and acceptance to the program.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
Educational opportunities are offered by El Centro College without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Application to the sonography program requires the following steps:

- Application and current admission to a Dallas County Community college.
- Viewing an online Diagnostic Medical Sonography program information session.
- Completion of five designated courses from the Sonography Core Curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 or higher
  
  **AND**

- Completion of the remaining Sonography Core Curriculum courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
- Completion of the HESI A2 test with a minimum score of 70 on each of the required sections (Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, Grammar, and Vocabulary/General Knowledge).
- Submission of a complete application packet to the Health Occupations Admissions Office during a designated filing period.
A. **General Admission Requirements to the College**

Applicants to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program must meet college admission requirements for El Centro College as outlined in the official college catalog at [http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu). Applicants must have earned either a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) certificate in addition to complying with Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. Students should consult the college counseling office to determine their TSI status prior to application to a Health Occupations program.

**Official College Transcripts**

Prior to application to a health occupations program, potential applicants must have submitted all of their official transcripts to the Registrar/Admissions Office at one of the seven Dallas County Community colleges. The transcripts must be current with the print date no earlier than three years of the applicant’s anticipated admission to a health occupations program. If the official transcripts have not been submitted, the individual’s application to a health occupations program will be voided.

**Initial Advisement**

Students who are beginning college for the first time or who need assistance with placement testing, TSI issues, and/or registration for prerequisite courses must visit with an academic advisor in the College Counseling Center as their first step toward future application to a health occupations program. The student who has not completed college coursework should request a general Associate Degree plan from the Counseling Center as a starting point toward application to a health occupations program. **NOTE:** Additional assessment testing in computer literacy and learning frameworks courses may be required for certain students. See an Academic Advisor for more information.

**Program Information Sessions**

Potential applicants are required to view an online Sonography program information session where the program, application procedures, and acceptance policies are discussed in detail. Beginning Spring 2013, links to the program information sessions will be available at the Health Occupations Admissions webpage. Monthly “Question and Answer” sessions will be held at the El Centro College Center for Allied Health and Nursing (Paramount Building). These Q&A sessions will be open only for individuals who have viewed the online information sessions.

Potential applicants to the Sonography program are strongly encouraged to seek out “shadow” experiences such as visiting the El Centro imaging program classrooms and labs to observe students and the program environment. Email the following for more information: PCrawford@dcccd.edu

C. **Curriculum Tracks**

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

Application to the Associate Degree curriculum track for Sonography program requires:

- Completion of the entire 38 credit hour Sonography Core Curriculum with a minimum cumulative grade point average 3.00 or higher; **OK**

  **AND**

- Completion of the five designated courses from the Sonography Core Curriculum with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
The complete Sonography Core Curriculum including the five designated courses is listed below:

**SONOGRAPHY CORE CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five “Designated” Courses</th>
<th>Lec Hrs</th>
<th>Lab Hrs</th>
<th>Ext Hrs</th>
<th>Cont Hrs</th>
<th>Cr Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIT 1407*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401</td>
<td>Applied Human Anatomy/Physiology I OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1301</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPCH 1311</td>
<td>Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPCH 1321</td>
<td>Intro to Speech Communications OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2201**</td>
<td>Business and Professional Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300**</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Health Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Core Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIT 1408*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2402</td>
<td>Applied Human Anatomy/Physiology II OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 1401+</td>
<td>College Physics I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1314++</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 2301</td>
<td>Intro to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPRS 1204#</td>
<td>Basic Health Professions Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2210##</td>
<td>Basic Health Professions Skills II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPRS 2231</td>
<td>General Health Professions Management</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Elective###</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SPECIALIZED IMAGING CORE CURRICULUM:</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Science courses (SCIT 1407/SCIT 1408, BIOL 2401/BIOL 2402, and PHYS 1401) must be completed less than 5 years prior to anticipated program entrance. BIOL 1406 is required prerequisite course for BIOL 2401. NOTE: SCIT 1407/1408 may not transfer to four-year universities.

** SCIT 1407 or BIOL 2401 is the prerequisite for HPRS 2201 and HPRS 2300.

+ Similar physics courses presented for potential substitution of PHYS 1401 will be reviewed at the discretion of the Health and Legal Studies Division.

++ MATH 1414 – College Algebra will also be recognized as the math prerequisite course; however, it will be calculated as a three credit hour course for ranking purposes only. Higher level math courses such as Calculus may be evaluated for possible substitution if a student did not complete a college algebra course.

# HPRS 1204 must be completed no more than three (3) years prior to a student’s anticipated entry to an imaging program. For example, if completed in Summer 2011, the course would be valid for application up to and including Summer 2014. HPRS 1204 is offered at El Centro and Northlake Colleges.

NOTE: Students who are working in the healthcare field with direct patient care may be eligible to receive experience credit for HPRS 1204 via a portfolio for experiential learning. Contact the Health Occupations Core Curriculum coordinator at HPRSECC@dcccd.edu for more information.

## HPRS 1204 is the prerequisite for HPRS 2210.

### Humanities elective must be chosen from the approved list on the official Associate Degree Nursing degree plan. Suggested courses include: ARTS 1301, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, HUMA 1315, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1301, PHIL 1304, selected ENGL literature courses at the 2000 level or higher, sophomore level foreign languages such as SPAN 2311.

A minimum grade of “C” is required in each Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum course. The above HPRS courses are offered at El Centro and Northlake Colleges.
ADVANCED TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

Individuals who have earned an Associate Degree or Bachelor’s Degree in a health care area with direct patient care experience (such as nursing, radiography, respiratory care, medical degrees, etc.) may qualify to apply to the Sonography program for the Advanced Technical Certificate. An individual who holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology or physics with experience in direct patient care may also potentially qualify as a Certificate applicant but will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine knowledge of pharmacology, anatomy/physiology, and pathophysiology. Potential certificate applicants should submit their official transcripts and health care credentials and work history to the Health Occupations Admissions Office for evaluation and verification of application track.

Prior to applying to the Advanced Technical Certificate program, an individual must complete the three prerequisite courses (ENGL 1301, SPCH 1311/1321, and MATH 1314/1414) at a U.S. accredited college or university and have documented college coursework in human anatomy, human physiology, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and physics or have coursework which includes that content.

Applicants to the Advanced Technical Certificate directly compete with applicants who are pursuing the Associate Degree through the Sonography Core Curriculum. Although a certificate applicant is not required to complete the entire 38 credit hour Sonography Core Curriculum, their transcripts will be evaluated for equivalent Core coursework to determine a similar grade point average calculation to that of an Associate Degree applicant. Therefore, a potential certificate applicant should request an educational plan which will indicate the coursework which will be considered for the grade point average calculation. See section D below for more information on requesting an educational plan.

A certificate applicant may wish to complete selected courses from the Sonography Core Curriculum to increase their grade point average and competitiveness in the applicant pool.

Potential certificate applicants with qualifying degrees from colleges and universities outside the U.S. must have their degrees evaluated by a transcript evaluation agency. This must be a course by course evaluation and not merely a validation of the degree. For a list of evaluation agencies, see the link for Foreign Coursework under the Resources for Potential Applicants at the following webpage:

D. Evaluation of Previous Coursework

To insure the transferability of previous coursework completed at colleges and universities other than Dallas County Community colleges, potential applicants to health occupations programs should have their coursework evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office at least one semester prior to a program application filing deadline if possible. This procedure is especially important for students with coursework from colleges and universities outside the state of Texas.

Transcripts and accompanying course descriptions will first be evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office and, if necessary, be reviewed by respective college faculty for that course discipline. When all courses have been reviewed, an Educational Plan will be prepared for the student. The Educational Plan is accepted as a preliminary “degree plan” for student advisement purposes.

Educational Plans are usually completed within 2-3 weeks. The evaluation process is not completed during individual appointments or on an “as you wait” basis. During peak times such as registration or after the close of the semester when faculty are unavailable, an evaluation may take as long as 30 days for review. Therefore, it is to the applicant’s advantage to request the Educational Plan at their earliest convenience well in advance of anticipated application to the program.

The El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office and the Health and Legal Studies Division reserves the right to accept or reject any coursework completed at other colleges presented for transfer evaluation toward Health Occupations programs.
For more information on requesting evaluation of your previous coursework and the Educational Plan, download the guidelines and Request for Educational Plan form at the following link:

www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions

*Five-Year Time Limit on Science coursework*

All science coursework (such as anatomy/physiology) must have been completed less than five years prior to application to a Health Occupations program. If an individual has current experience utilizing their related science knowledge or has completed advanced courses in a related science area, the student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office as a separate review or in conjunction with an educational plan request.

**NOTE:** In order for a science course taken at other colleges to be considered for a five-year time limit waiver, the course must first be approved for transferability. Information on the five-year time limit waiver is included with the Request for Educational Plan guidelines at the following link:

www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions.

*Coursework from Foreign Universities*

Only courses such as college algebra, anatomy/physiology, and microbiology may be considered for transfer to Health Occupations programs from colleges or universities outside the United States. No other courses will be considered. Science courses must be within the five-year time limit.

For more information regarding the evaluation of foreign coursework for transfer credit, see the following link:

www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions.

*Credit by Examination, CLEP, and Advanced Placement Credit*

Credit through CLEP, High School Advanced Placement Exams and Credit by Examination may be awarded for a limited number of courses toward Health Occupations programs.

Advanced Placement (“AP”) credit for ENGL 1301 and MATH 1314 is acceptable if the credit appears on a college transcript as ENGL 1301 and MATH 1314 equivalency. A letter grade is not awarded for “AP” credit.

**NOTE:** An applicant to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program present credit by exam, CLEP, or “AP” credit for only one of the five designated courses and one of the remaining courses from the Sonography Core Curriculum. Credit will be acknowledged but not calculated with the grade point average.

Detailed information regarding Advanced Placement, CLEP, and Credit by Examination can be found at:

http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions

**E. HESI A2 Test**

The HESI A2 test is a timed, computerized test which is usually completed in 3-4 hours. In addition to completing the Sonography Core Curriculum, all applicants to the Sonography program must also earn a minimum score of 70 of higher on the following sections of the HESI A2 test: Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary/General Knowledge, and Math. Students must also complete the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections and submit those results with their application materials. The Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections are not graded.
Please note the following important information regarding the HESI A²:

- Test scores are valid for **two years** from the date of testing to the date of anticipate entrance to the program.

- Applicants may take the HESI A² at any approved testing site including the assessment centers at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. The approximate cost of the HESI test at El Centro College (Paramount Building) is $35.00.

- **Applicants are responsible for securing their own testing appointment at the location of their choice.** The procedure for making testing appointments and payment varies among testing sites. **Applicants are responsible for submitting their score sheet with their program application materials.**

- HESI A² testing appointments at El Centro College fill quickly. Applicants are encouraged to schedule their HESI A² several weeks prior to an application filing deadline.

- The **HESI A² Study Guide** is available at various bookstores including the Follett Bookstores at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. A **HESI A² Prep** course is periodically offered by the El Centro College Continuing Education Division. Contact that office at 214-860-2147 for dates and times of the prep course.

- **There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the HESI A² test for application to the Sonography program.** If the applicant desires to retake the HESI A², ALL FOUR SECTIONS must be retaken. Only one score sheet should be submitted with scores of 70 or higher on each of the four required sections. Scores on individual test sections which are printed on separate score sheets cannot be combined. If more than one score sheet is submitted, the scores from the latest HESI testing attempt will be the scores of record. It is not necessary to repeat the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections on retests. The printout of these sections can be submitted from one testing attempt.

- Before retesting, the applicant is encouraged to review the study guide and/or enroll in the HESI A² prep course to prepare for the retest opportunity.

More information on the HESI A² and the process for scheduling a testing appointment to take the HESI A² at El Centro College is available at: [http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions)

**F. Application Packet Submission for the Sonography Program – June 2014 selection process**

**Application Instruction packets** for the June 2014 Sonography program selection process will be available by email from the Health Occupations Admissions Office in Fall 2013. These application instruction packets contain the appropriate forms and detailed application guidelines for the Sonography program. **The application instruction packet is not to be confused with the information packet that you are currently reading.**

**Application packets with incomplete materials including physical exams, immunization records, and CPR certification will be disqualified and will be returned to the applicant.**

After completing the entire Sonography Core Curriculum and obtaining the Application Instruction packet, the student submits the following materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office as their application packet:

1. A completed **Sonography program application form and the signed Statement of Student’s Responsibility form.**
2. The HESI A² score sheet(s) indicating achievement of a minimum score of 70 or higher on each of the four required sections and the Learning Styles/Personality Profile results.

3. A one-page, hand-written essay (guidelines on the subject matter of the essay will be provided in the application packet). NOTE: The essay is not “graded” in the selection process. It is used as the student’s introduction to the interview panel.

4. The completed Physical Examination and Immunizations Record form. Applicants are responsible for obtaining the physical form and immunization guidelines from the following link: www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions. IMPORTANT NOTE: See item number 6 under the General Information section on page 13 of this packet.

5. A photocopy of the applicant’s current “Healthcare Provider” level CPR card. The card must not expire before the anticipated date of program entry. See also item 7 under the General Information section on page 14 of this information packet.

Reference Forms

The Application Instruction packet also includes two waiver forms to authorize release of information and two reference forms. The applicant chooses two individuals to serve as references and provides each with a waiver/release form and a reference form to complete on their behalf. One reference form should be completed by the applicant’s current employer, and one reference form should be completed by a recent or current college instructor of the applicant. If the applicant is not currently employed, both reference forms must be completed by current or recent college instructors. Reference forms completed by family members or personal acquaintances are not acceptable. Each reference form is then sent directly to the Health Occupations Admissions Office. The applicant is not allowed to gather the completed reference forms to personally submit with the rest of their application materials. Only two reference forms are required although the applicant may be applying to more than one program.

NOTE: Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their current official transcripts from ALL PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (excluding Dallas County Community colleges) are submitted to a Registrar/Admissions Office at a Dallas County Community college prior to applying to an El Centro College health occupations program. Official transcripts must have a print date no earlier than three years of anticipated entry to a health occupations program.

Submitting incomplete application materials (including physical exam, immunizations, etc.) will disqualify the application and the student will not be considered further in the application process. Students are advised to retain a photocopy of all materials submitted as their application packet.

ONCE AN APPLICATION PACKET IS SUBMITTED TO THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ADMISSIONS OFFICE, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS CANNOT BE ADDED TO THE PACKET. THE PACKET CANNOT BE RETRIEVED BY THE APPLICANT UNTIL AFTER THE FILING PERIOD ENDS.

G. Application Filing Period

The official filing period for June 2014 selection to the Specialized Imaging programs is:

September 1 – December 31, 2013
Application materials including reference forms must be received in the Health Occupations Admissions Office or postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Students may submit their application packets to the Health Occupations Admissions Office in person no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2013.

**H. Selection for Interview**

After December 31, 2013, application packets will be evaluated and a ranking process will determine which individuals will be granted an interview for the Sonography program. The top 30* ranked applicants will be granted an interview as the next step in the selection process. (*The number of interviews granted for the program is subject to change at the discretion of the Health and Legal Studies Division.) Interview appointments are tentatively scheduled on selected Fridays and Saturdays during February and March 2014.

**NOTE:** It is possible for an applicant who is applying to both the Sonography and Echocardiography Programs to be granted an interview for both programs, dependent upon their preliminary rankings. If granted an interview for both programs, one interview is conducted with a dual interview panel.

The ranking process is outlined below:

1. Applicants are listed by grade point average (GPA) on the five designated courses from the Sonography Core Curriculum courses from highest (4.00) to lowest (3.00) to initially rank applicants. (A minimum 3.00 GPA is required on the five designated Core Curriculum courses for application.)

2. When two or more applicants have the same GPA on the five designated courses, the cumulative GPA on the remaining Core Curriculum courses is listed from highest (4.00) to lowest (2.00) to break the tie.

3. When two or more applicants have the same GPA on the five designated courses and the same cumulative GPA on those remaining Core Curriculum courses, the HESI A2 score on the Reading Comprehension section will be used to break the tie.

The table below illustrates the ranking process for a sample group of applicants for the Sonography program:

**EXAMPLE OF RANKING PROCESS FOR INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>GPA on 5 Designated Core Courses</th>
<th>GPA on Remaining Core Courses</th>
<th>HESI A² Reading Comprehension Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant #1</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>81.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant #2</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>90.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant #3</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>88.49</td>
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<td>Applicant #4</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>77.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant #5</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>86.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant #6</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>92.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If only five interviews were being granted for the Sonography program, applicants #1 through #5 would be interviewed.

Selection for an interview is a competitive process. Neither submission of a complete application packet nor successful completion of the Sonography Core Curriculum is a guarantee that an individual will be granted an interview opportunity for the program.
Individuals who apply to both the Sonography and Echocardiography programs may not be interviewed for both imaging programs. If granted an interview, an individual is not guaranteed acceptance into either imaging program.

Applicants who are not granted an interview may improve their ranking for the next filing period by 1) repeating one or more of the five designated Core Curriculum courses to earn a higher GPA (the last grade earned will be the grade of record) or 2) repeating one or more remaining Core Curriculum courses to earn a higher grade point average. The decision to repeat a course successfully completed with a grade of “C” or higher in order to improve an applicant’s competitiveness in the ranking process rests solely with the applicant.

**Final Acceptance Process**

Once personal interviews are completed, applicants undergo a final ranking via the weighted point system outlined below (100 maximum points possible):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>Weighted Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Interview</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative GPA on Sonography Core Curriculum</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HESI A² *</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Scores on the four required sections of the HESI are awarded the following points before the total points are weighted (minimum 4 points, maximum 12 points):

- 90 – 100: 3 points
- 80 – 89: 2 points
- 70 – 79: 1 point

Total points for the above items are calculated for each student and a final ranked list of applicants for each program is generated.

**I. Notification of Acceptance**

Individuals who receive an acceptance letter are required to return a confirmation form within a specified timeframe to verify their space in the class. Failure to return the confirmation form by the specified date or failure to attend the scheduled preregistration/orientation seminar for the accepted class will result in forfeiture of their space in that class. **Notification letters are mailed by April 15th.**

**NOTE:** Applications submitted during an official filing period are not “held over” to the next year’s official filing period. Students who are not selected for admission to the Sonography program or students who decline their acceptance must retrieve and resubmit their application packet during the next year’s filing period to be considered for a future admission opportunity.
**ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM** *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SONOGRAPHY CORE CURRICULUM</th>
<th>Dallas County Resident</th>
<th>Out of County Texas Resident</th>
<th>Out of State/Country Resident</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition (38 credit hours)</td>
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<td>$3,298.00</td>
<td>$5,202.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbooks, Lab Manuals</td>
<td>1,712.00</td>
<td>1,485.00</td>
<td>1,485.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Liability Insurance**</td>
<td>18.13</td>
<td>18.13</td>
<td>18.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HESI A2 Test</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Exam and Immunizations***</td>
<td>225.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR Certification***</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>65.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,596.13</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,126.13</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,030.13</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography**

**Semester I (Summer)**

| Tuition (3 credit hours)                           | $156.00                 | $291.00                      | $459.00                       |
| Textbooks, Lab Manuals                              | 175.00                  | 175.00                       | 175.00                        |
| Uniforms/Lab Coats (2 each)                         | 210.00                  | 210.00                       | 210.00                        |
| Shoes                                               | 60.00                   | 60.00                        | 60.00                         |
| Emblem Patches                                      | 8.00                    | 8.00                         | 8.00                          |
| Name Tag                                            | 10.00                   | 10.00                        | 10.00                         |
| Background Check and Drug Screen                    | 86.00                   | 86.00                        | 86.00                         |
| **Total**                                           | **$705.00**             | **$840.00**                  | **$1,008.00**                 |

**Semester II (Fall)**

| Tuition (10 credit hours)                           | $520.00                 | $970.00                      | $1,530.00                     |
| Textbooks, Lab Manuals                              | 900.00                  | 900.00                       | 900.00                        |
| Trajecsys Clinical Evaluation software             | 150.00                  | 150.00                       | 150.00                        |
| Professional Liability Insurance                   | 18.13                   | 18.13                        | 18.13                         |
| **Total**                                           | **$1,588.13**           | **$2,038.13**                | **$2,598.13**                 |

**Semester III (Spring)**

| Tuition (13 credit hours)                           | $676.00                 | $1,261.00                    | $1,989.00                     |

**Semester IV (Summer I)**

| Tuition (4 credit hours)                           | $208.00                 | $388.00                      | $612.00                       |

**Semester V (Summer II)**

| Tuition (2 credit hours)                           | $104.00                 | $194.00                      | $306.00                       |

**Semester VI (Fall)**

| Tuition (6 credit hours)                           | $312.00                 | $582.00                      | $918.00                       |
| Liability Insurance                                | 18.13                   | 18.13                        | 18.13                         |
| Sonography Pin (optional)                          | 60.00                   | 60.00                        | 60.00                         |
| ARDMS Registry Exam                                | 200.00                  | 200.00                       | 200.00                        |
| **Total**                                           | **$590.13**             | **$860.13**                  | **$1,196.13**                 |

**TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM EXPENSE**

$7,467.39 $10,707.39 $14,739.39

* This estimate is for the Associate Degree Curriculum track. Students who are accepted to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program who reside in Collin or Tarrant Counties may qualify for the “Dallas Resident” tuition rate.

** Liability insurance is assessed each fall at $18.13 to cover fall and spring semesters.

*** Estimated cost of a physical exam, immunizations and CPR certification.

Tuition and other fees are subject to change. Please refer to the current course schedule for tuition table. See Accounting Office for Tuition Payment Plan option. This cost does not reflect the cost of parking at El Centro College or area hospital clinical sites.
CURRICULUM – DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY – Associate Degree Track

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program prepares the student to function as a medical sonographer. The diagnostic medical sonographer performs sonography examinations using high frequency sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures including the gallbladder, kidneys, pregnant uterus, and other organs as requested by the physician. This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Graduates of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program are eligible to write designated RDMS registry exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework Required Prior to Program Admission</th>
<th>Lec Hrs</th>
<th>Lab Hrs</th>
<th>Ext Hrs</th>
<th>Cont Hrs</th>
<th>Cr Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>32</td>
<td>19</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I – Summer (9 weeks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2243 Adv. Ultrasound Principles/Instrumentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester II - Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 1351 Sonographic Sectional Anatomy/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 1366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 1405 Sonography of Abdominopelvic Cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester III – Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2130 Advanced Ultrasound and Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2405 Sonography of Obstetrics/Gynecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 1367 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester IV – Summer (10 weeks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2253 Sonography of Superficial Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2366 Clinical-Diagnostic Medical Sonography</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester VI – Fall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2345 Advanced Sonography Practices*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO 2366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS = | 51 | 29 | 100 | 2752 | 72 |

* DMSO 2345 – Advanced Sonography Practices is the Capstone experience in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Associate Degree program.
CURRICULUM – DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY – Advanced Technical Certificate

Prerequisites: Certificate applicants must have completed ENGL 1301, SPCH 1311/1321, MATH 1314 and PHYS 1401 and have documented equivalent coursework in human anatomy/physiology, pharmacology, and pathophysiology.

Prerequisite Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Lec Hrs</th>
<th>Lab Hrs</th>
<th>Ext Hrs</th>
<th>Cont Hrs</th>
<th>Cr Hrs</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1314 College Algebra</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCIT 1407 Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300 Pharmacology</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>HPRS 2201 Pathophysiology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1401 College Physics I</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester I – Summer (9 weeks)

DMSO 2243 Adv. Ultrasound Principles/Instrumentation 2 2 0 64 2

Semester II - Fall

DMSO 1351 Sonographic Sectional Anatomy/ 3 0 0 48 3
DMSO 1366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography 0 0 24 384 3
DMSO 1405 Sonography of Abdominopelvic Cavity 3 2 0 80 4

Semester III – Spring

DMSO 2130 Advanced Ultrasound and Review 0 4 0 64 1
DMSO 2405 Sonography of Obstetrics/Gynecology 3 2 0 80 4
DMSO 1367 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography 0 0 24 384 3
DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology 3 0 0 48 3

Semester IV – Summer (10 weeks)

DMSO 2253 Sonography of Superficial Structures 2 0 0 32 2
DMSO 2366 Clinical-Diagnostic Medical Sonography 0 0 22 352 3

Semester VI – Fall

DMSO 2345 Advanced Sonography Practices* 3 0 0 48 3
DMSO 2366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography 0 0 30 384 3

TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS = 28 10 100 2112 43

* DMSO 2345 – Advanced Sonography Practices is the Capstone experience in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Associate Degree program.
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography accepts 10* students annually for the June class. Classes are offered Monday-Friday during daytime hours.

   * The El Centro College Health and Legal Studies Division reserve the right to make changes in program enrollment capacity.

2. The clinical experiences of Sonography program requires that a student be physically able to care for sick patients. This involves lifting, moving, and transferring patients. Students will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases. Protective and precautionary procedures are employed. The student must be able to stand on his/her feet for two to three hour periods of time and be able to reach across patients while scanning. Students are required to have good spatial perception from a two-dimensional TV monitor including color differences and the ability to hear subtle Doppler signals.

3. Students who must be absent from clinical experience due to a physical or mental illness, surgery, or pregnancy will be required to obtain a written physician release before returning to the clinical setting. A maximum of two days of clinical experience can be missed in a semester. The student will be dropped from the course if absences exceed the two clinical day limit. Students anticipating surgery or delivery of a baby and who will require a longer recuperation period before a physician release can be obtained are urged to wait to apply to the program.

4. Many of the Sonography Core Curriculum courses, including selected HPRS courses, are offered online. Students without prior experience with Internet courses should take the Smarter Measure – Learning Readiness Indicator (READI) test to see if they are a good candidate for online learning. Go to http://dtc.smartermeasure.com/ and log in as a New User. The current User Name is choose el centro and the Password is student.

5. Students are responsible for obtaining their own living accommodations. It is also necessary for students to consider transportation costs to the college, as well as hospitals throughout the Metroplex. Clinical rotations vary among select hospitals. Any parking fees at El Centro College and/or the hospital clinical site is the responsibility of the student.

6. All applicants must comply with physical examination and immunization requirements and submit the documentation with application materials. Physical examination forms and immunization records become the property of the Health Occupations Admissions Office and will not be returned or photocopied for the student; therefore, the student must retain a copy of these documents for their personal records.

   Immunization requirements include: measles (2 doses), mumps, rubella, combination tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap), varicella (2 doses), flu, Hepatitis B series (3 injections), and a tuberculosis screening.

   The Physical Examination Form and complete immunization requirements guidelines are found at: www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions
7. All applicants must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the “Healthcare Provider” level as designated by the American Heart Association. A copy of the CPR card is submitted with application materials. The CPR card must not expire prior to the anticipated program entry date and must not expire during a semester when enrolled in the program. CPR classes are available through the El Centro College Continuing Education Division, the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, various hospitals, independent instructors, etc. Online CPR certification classes are not valid for application to health occupations programs.

8. All applicants should submit proof of personal healthcare insurance with application materials. If the insurance coverage documentation is not submitted with application materials, proof of coverage must be submitted by the first day of the semester if a student is accepted to the program. Students must secure their own coverage and the insurance policy must cover the student at any hospital facility. Information on college student policies and rates can be found at the following link:

   https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0608/ss/sd/insurance.cfm.

9. Clinical opportunities may be limited for students without Social Security numbers. If accepted to the program, a student must contact the El Centro College International Center Office (Room CM-60, telephone 214-860-2090) concerning their eligibility to obtain a Social Security number before graduation from the program for future employment opportunities.

10. Criminal Background Check / Drug Screening

   All students enrolled in Health Occupations programs are required by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council member facilities to undergo a criminal background check and drug testing prior to beginning their clinical experience. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately $86.00) for these screenings. This procedure is conducted after a student has been accepted to their respective program.

   Results of these screenings are forwarded to the El Centro College Health/Legal Studies for review and verification that a student is eligible to attend clinical rotation. All background check and drug screening results become the property of the Health and Legal Studies Division and will not be released to the student or any other third party.

   A clinical agency reserves the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The clinical agency reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student’s expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical facility. Failure to comply will result in the student’s immediate expulsion from the clinical facility. Furthermore, regardless of testing or testing results, a clinical agency reserves the right to expel a student from their facility.

   NOTE: Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Occupations program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Occupations program.

   More information regarding the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening procedure is found at:

   www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions
11. El Centro College students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more during a fall or spring semester and 3 credit hours or more during a summer semester are entitled to a free DART train/bus pass for that semester. DART passes are available two weeks after the semester begins. See the Accounting Office for details.

12. Individuals who were first-time college freshman students in Fall 2007 or after are subject to the guidelines of section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code which prohibits a student from dropping more than six (6) college level credit courses during their entire undergraduate career. For more information on the 6 Drop rule, see the official college catalog online at:

https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=ECC

13. Clinical assignments for the Sonography program vary from semester to semester from the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arlington Memorial Hospital</th>
<th>Medical City Dallas Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baylor All Saints Medical Center</td>
<td>Methodist Dallas Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Medical Center at Carrollton</td>
<td>North Tex. Veterans’ Affairs Healthcare System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Medical Center at Garland</td>
<td>Northlake OB-GYN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Medical Center of Plano</td>
<td>North Irving Imaging Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Outpatient Imaging Center</td>
<td>OB-GYN Associates of North Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Medical Center at Irving</td>
<td>Parkland Memorial Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor University Medical Center</td>
<td>Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Medical Center</td>
<td>Presbyterian Hospital of Plano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Richardson Regional Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors Hospital</td>
<td>Southwest Vascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Place (Richardson)</td>
<td>Texas Regional Medical Center – Sunnyvale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Peter Smith Hospital – Antepartum Testing</td>
<td>UTSW University Hospital – St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Center of Arlington</td>
<td>UTSW University Hospital – Endovascular Surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. El Centro College charges a higher tuition rate for courses in which a student registers for the third or more times. The “Third Attempt” policy includes courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. Developmental courses are not considered in this policy. For more information regarding the “Third Attempt” policy, please visit the following website:

http://www.dcccd.edu/ThirdCourseAttempt

15. A student may apply to more than one El Centro College Health Occupations program during a given filing period. However, if the student receives an acceptance letter to a specific program, confirms their intent to enter that program, and registers for program courses, their application to any other Health Occupations program that may share that filing period will be null and void.

Further, an individual accepted for admission and currently enrolled in an El Centro College Health Occupations program may not apply or be considered for admission selection for another El Centro College Health Occupations program unless their current program of study will complete before the second program curriculum begins. (Exception: An individual may apply to the Medical Laboratory Technology and Biotechnology programs in tandem to complete that dual degree.)

16. Financial Aid

Students should apply for Financial Aid Office well in advance of program application. More information on filing procedures and deadlines is found at http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/Student_Services/FinancialAid. The Health/Legal Studies Office located in Room P-712 at 301 North Market Street also has information regarding scholarships and other financial assistance for health occupations students. Contact the Health and Legal Studies Division at 972-860-5095 for more information.
17. Please contact the individuals below for assistance (physical addresses):

Jan Bryant Blend, Program Coordinator
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5053
E-Mail: JBlend@dcccd.edu

Gary Peschka, Faculty Advisor
Health/Legal Studies Division
El Centro College
801 Main Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 214-860-2039
Email: GPeschka@dcccd.edu

Pam Crawford, Clinical Coordinator
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5055
Email: PCrawford@dcccd.edu

Al Tolentino, Liaison Counselor
Health/Legal Studies Division
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5045
E-mail: ATolentino@dcccd.edu

Imaging Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions Office
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5001
Email: ECCHOAO@dcccd.edu

The official mailing address for all application materials, transcripts, and correspondence is:

Imaging Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions Office
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5001
Email: ECCHOAO@dcccd.edu

Program information packets are revised September 1st of each year and program guidelines are subject to change. Students are responsible for insuring they have the latest program information packet from:

www.elcentrocollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions

Application instruction packets for June 2014 application will be available via email to students in September 2013. Request the application instruction packet by contacting:

ECCHOAO@dcccd.edu

Visit the web pages below for the Sonography program at:

www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Program/Health/DMS

Health Occupations webpage
www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthCareers

Health Occupations Admissions Office webpage:
www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions
SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST – Associate Degree Track

This checklist is provided to assist you in following the steps to prepare for program application. It is not part of the application packet which is submitted with transcripts, etc.

1. _____ Obtain Sonography program information packet and view an online Sonography program information session.

2. _____ Complete an application for college admission and consult an academic counselor as needed for TSI counseling, placement testing, etc. and complete any developmental courses as may be prescribed from test scores.

3. _____ Submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities to the El Centro College Registrar’s Office or the Registrar/Admissions Office at any other Dallas County Community college.

4. _____ If needed, request Educational Plan/transfer evaluation of course work taken at other colleges that applies to the Sonography Core Curriculum with the Health Occupations Admissions Office.

5. _____ Enroll and complete the following courses which comprise the Sonography Core Curriculum (five designated courses are in bold italics):

- ENGL 1301
- SCIT 1407 or BIOL 2401
- SPCH 1311 or SPCH 1315
- SCIT 1408 or BIOL 2402
- PSYC 2301
- MATH 1314 or 1414
- PHYS 1401
- HPRS 2300
- HPRS 2201
- HPRS 1240
- HPRS 2210
- HPRS 2231
- Humanities elective

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 is required on the five designated courses above. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 is required on the entire Sonography Core Curriculum above.

6. _____ Complete the HESI A2, scoring a minimum of 70% on all four required sections of the test and completing the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections of the test.

7. _____ Obtain a Sonography program Application Instruction packet which will be available in the Health Occupations Admissions Office each Fall semester for the next June class.

8. _____ Compile application materials according to the guidelines found in the Sonography program Application Instruction packet and submit the completed application materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office by designated application filing deadline (December 31, 2013 for June 2014 application).

9. The top ranked applicants are scheduled for a program interview during the months of February and March each year.

10 Final ranking is completed and notification letters are mailed by April 15th.

MAILING ADDRESS:
Imaging Programs Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions
El Centro College/Paramount
801 Main Street
Dallas, TX  75202-3604

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
Imaging Programs Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions – Rm P-101
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX  75202