DMS Admissions: Eligibility, Ranking & Point System

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements to be ranked. Ranked applicants are scored on a 100-point system. The program has a maximum cohort capacity of 4 seats, based on clinical equipment and site placement.

Eligibility Requirements (all required; not scored)

Requirement	Standard
Cumulative GPA	3.0 or higher. Applicants below 3.0 are not ranked. No points are awarded.
Prerequisite grades	C or better in every prerequisite course listed in Sections 1 and 4. A grade below C disqualifies the applicant.
Entrance examination	HESI A2 composite score of 75% or higher (proficient). Scores below 75% are not ranked.

Point Allocation Overview

Selection category	Maximum points	% of total
1. Core Science Prerequisites (13 credit hours)	30	30%
2. Structured Admissions Interview Panel	20	20%
3. Entrance Examination (HESI A2)	20	20%
4. General Education Prerequisites	15	15%
5. Highest Degree & Healthcare Experience / Shadowing	15	15%
Total available points	**100**	**100%**

1. Core Science Prerequisites | Maximum 30 points

This 13-credit-hour foundational block supports sonographic principles, anatomy, and instrumentation physics. Points are awarded by final letter grade in each course. A grade of C is the minimum to be eligible.

Course	A	B	C
BIOL 275 — Anatomy & Physiology I	9.0	6.0	3.0
BIOL 285 — Anatomy & Physiology II	9.0	6.0	3.0
PHSC 109 — Introduction to Physical Science	6.0	4.0	2.0
HLTH 140 — Medical Terminology	6.0	4.0	2.0

Points shown are awarded per course.

2. Entrance Examination (HESI A2) | Maximum 20 points

Points are based on the official overall institutional HESI A2 composite score percentage. A composite below 75% makes the applicant ineligible.

Composite score	Points
95.0%–100%	20.0
90.0%–94.9%	16.0
85.0%–89.9%	12.0

Composite score	Points
80.0%–84.9%	8.0
75.0%–79.9%	4.0
Below 75.0%	Not eligible

3. Structured Admissions Interview | Maximum 20 points

Every applicant receives the same scenario questions, in the same order, with the same time limit. The panel scores three areas, for 20 points total (Communication 7, Professional alignment 7, Critical thinking 6). Each area is scored against its checklist.

Scoring per area: full points = all checklist items clearly met; about half = most items met; 0 = few items met or not addressed.

Area (points)	Checklist (score against these items)
Communication (max 7)	• Explains a clinical concept in plain language • Answers the question that was asked • Speaks clearly and concisely within the time limit
Professional alignment (max 7)	• Gives specific reasons for choosing sonography • Names patient-care commitments (privacy, respect, safety) • Describes the sonographer's role on the healthcare team
Critical thinking (max 6)	• Works through the scenario step by step • Identifies at least one risk or alternative • States a clear action and the reason for it

Standard scenario questions (asked of every applicant, in this order)

1. A patient is anxious about an ultrasound and asks what it will feel like and whether it is safe. How do you respond?
2. During a scan, you notice the patient's pain is far worse than you expected. What do you do?
3. A physician asks for a quick read on an image you are not sure about. What do you say?

Panel members record each area score separately. The raw interview total is used as a tie-breaker (see Cohort Selection).

4. General Education Prerequisites | Maximum 15 points

Points are divided equally across five required course tracks, with a maximum of 3.0 points per course. A grade of C is the minimum to be eligible.

Required course track	A	B	C
1. HIST 104, HIST 105, or POLS 100	3.0	2.0	1.0
2. ENGL 130	3.0	2.0	1.0
3. COMM 100	3.0	2.0	1.0
4. BIOL 104	3.0	2.0	1.0
5. MATH 150 or higher	3.0	2.0	1.0

5. Degree & Healthcare Experience | Maximum 15 points

The maximum is 5 points for the highest degree earned plus 10 points from one experience or shadowing category.

Highest degree earned (max 5 points)	Points
Bachelor's degree (or higher)	5.0
Associate degree	2.5

Experience / shadowing (choose ONE category)	Points
Direct healthcare work experience: 1+ years in a full-time professional role	10.0
Direct healthcare work / volunteerism: under 1 year or ≥100 verified hospital hours	7.5
Extensive sonography-specific shadowing: ≥24 documented hours	5.0
Standard sonography-specific shadowing: 8–23 documented hours	2.5

Cohort Selection & Tie-Breaker Order

With a maximum of four seats, applicants with identical cumulative point totals are compared in this order. Only eligible applicants are ranked.

Order	Tie-breaker
1	Science Core GPA: highest cumulative GPA calculated exclusively from BIOL 275, BIOL 285, and PHSC 109.
2	Raw Entrance Examination Score: highest unrounded composite percentage on HESI A2.
3	Raw Interview Panel Score: highest total of the three interview areas (out of 20).
4	Advanced Physiology Performance: highest final letter grade in BIOL 285 (Anatomy & Physiology II).
5	Application Milestone Timestamp: the certified date and time the completed application file was verified.