



GSCC DMS Program is **ARRT** Approved!

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) has recognized Gadsden State Community College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. Graduating from GSCC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program means immediate eligibility to sit for a certification examination through ARRT if you meet the clinical competency requirements.

ARRT approval FAQs for new and prospective students

What does ARRT approval mean for new Diagnostic Medical Sonography students?

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students who graduate from GSCC will be immediately eligible to apply for primary certification and registration in Sonography through ARRT. ARRT requires certain clinical competencies which GSCC will facilitate through a student's time in preceptorships. Upon completion of GSCC's programmatic review, eligible students will receive the ARRT Sonography examination packet and application.

What does ARRT approval mean for ARDMS?

GSCC students are currently eligible after their 1st semester in the Program to sit for the ARDMS-SPI exam. Once a graduate becomes registered with ARRT under the Sonography pathway, an eligible graduate can immediately sit for an American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Registry exam under Prerequisite Pathway 5 (without having to work in the field for one year). While most hiring facilities recognize all Ultrasound credentials, GSCC encourages all graduates to sit for both the ARRT and ARDMS Registry examinations in order to fully demonstrate their ultrasound proficiency and improve their marketability. The more registries/credentials a sonographer holds, the better their chance for the position and pay they desire.

What should I expect from the ARRT exam?

The Sonography exam is comprehensive and will cover a broad range of information including, but not limited to, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, patient care, ultrasound physics, and safety. The Sonography credential with ARRT allows a Sonographer to be registered in BOTH Abdomen and OBGYN Ultrasound. Additionally, ARRT currently offers a Post-Primary Credential for Vascular Ultrasound as well. Students who have earned their ARRT Sonography credential are then eligible to sit for the Vascular exam. For more information on ARRT's exams, please visit [www.rrt.org/examination/format-and-length](http://www.arrt.org/examination/format-and-length).

The **ARRT Sonography exam** consists of 400 questions (40 of which are ungraded pilot questions) with a total exam time of 6.5 hours. The exam is broken down into two major categories 1) Sonographic Procedures and 2) Patient Care and Physical Principles of Ultrasound. The exam will include, but is not limited to, abdomen, abdominal vasculature, obstetrics and gynecology, superficial structures, musculoskeletal and interventional ultrasound, and ultrasound instrumentation.

How should I prepare for the ARRT exam?

ARRT publishes a Primary Pathway Sonography Certification and Registration Handbook (available on arrt.org). Students are encouraged to review the applicable Handbook in detail. Additionally, GSCC curriculum offers programmatic reviews in preparation for the ARRT exam. GSCC does not guarantee that any graduate will pass a Registry exam.

Why should I get registered with ARRT or another Registry?

Certification and registration with a registry organization is not currently required to be an ultrasound technologist in Alabama. However, it is a requirement for many medical imaging organizations, including many hospitals. Potential employers will often ask if you are registered. Many organizations give new graduates a one- or two-year period to earn their credentials while working—graduates should verify with the prospective employer what their specific policy is.

Certification and registration are also helpful in building your professional resume, demonstrating that you have the skills necessary to be successful in your field, and improving your marketability.

Will eligibility requirements stay the same until I am ready to take a Registry exam? Also, where can I get more information about Registry organizations?

Eligibility prerequisites are subject to change without notice because each registry is an independent organization. GSCC encourages all students to become educated on all applicable registries. More information can be found at each registry's website.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

American Registry Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) **arrt.org**

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) **ardms.org**

Cardiovascular Sonography:

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) **ardms.org**

Cardiac Credentialing International (CCI) **cci-online.org**