History

The Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Diagnostic Ultrasound was founded in 1975. The program was initiated by the hospital in response to an emerging need to train technologists to assist and support physicians in the new modality of diagnostic ultrasound. Under the supervision of Dr. Kenneth Taylor, the program trained one to two students in general ultrasound. By the early 1980’s, training in echocardiography was included as well. As the technology of ultrasound advanced and the patient need for diagnostic ultrasound grew, more sonographers were needed not only for the hospital, but for the community as well. Over the last 30 years the program has grown to accept 8 general and 3 cardiac students per year and has graduated over 160 students. Currently, the program runs 14 months general and 12 months cardiac and continues to meet the demands of this hospital and the community with highly trained, entry-level sonographers.

Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Diagnostic Ultrasound is to attract, train, and graduate qualified individuals into the profession of ultrasound. Our program philosophy is based on the belief that the diagnostic medical sonographer is an integral part of the medical team and provides a vital service to the patient and the physician by accurately detecting disease. The success of our students in learning the skills of diagnostic ultrasound is dependent on a continuous process of hands-on training coupled with structured comprehensive instruction. The program, therefore, is committed to support the professional and personal development of each individual seeking this career.
Students enrolled in the Ultrasound Program are provided intense didactic and clinical instruction by experienced ARDMS registered sonographers and by board certified physicians. Each student is provided direct hands-on training and exposure to all facets of diagnostic ultrasound. Yale-New Haven Hospital is an outstanding facility in which to learn and its affiliation with Yale University places it as a leader in medicine and advancing technology. The ultrasound section of diagnostic imaging is a busy clinical service with a strong research commitment. The ultrasound section preforms over 40,000 exams per year which provides each student with maximum clinical exposure.

Program Concentrations

**General Sonography:** Abdominal, Physics and Obstetrics & Gynecology  
(14 months)

**Echocardiography:** Adult (12 months)

Program Hours

General Program  
Every November  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Echocardiography Program  
Every January  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Admission Requirements

GENERAL OR
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY PROGRAM

To be eligible for admission to the Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Diagnostic Ultrasound, individuals must meet the following requirements:

A. Academic and clinical:
   1. High school diploma or equivalent.
   2. Completion of a full-time, two-year recognized AMA or AMA equivalent allied health training program that is patient-care related. Examples: radiologic technology, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist or registered nurse. Allied health training program must have been completed in the United States or Canada.
   OR
   3. Bachelor’s degree completed in the United States or Canada.

Applicants under these requirements must also have completed the following post-secondary academic course prerequisites listed below:
   • General physics
   • Algebra or higher level math
   • Communications (English/Speech/Composition)
   • Human anatomy and physiology I & II (with lab)
   • Medical terminology
   • Methods of patient care

Must provide documentation of >750 hours of direct patient care contact hours. EFFECTIVE 6/2011.

* A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for all college level course prerequisites listed above.

A non-citizen applicant is required to provide documentation from Immigration and Naturalization Service of their permanent resident status by presenting their alien registration card. The school is not approved by INS to enroll non-immigrant status students.
B. Technical capabilities:
Applicants must have the potential to meet the technical standards of the profession as outlined:

The technical standards of the profession include, but are not limited to:

Sonographers must be able to:
- Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
- Push and pull routinely
- Bend and stoop routinely
- Have full use of both hands, wrists and shoulders
- Distinguish audible sounds
- Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
- Work standing on their feet 80% of the time
- Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured
- Assist patients on and off examining tables
- Communicate effectively with patients and other healthcare professionals
- Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence

* Reference: www.sdms.org/positions/scope.asp
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Non-Discrimination Clause - Yale-New Haven Hospital, through its responsible management, shall recruit, hire, train, upgrade, and promote in all position titles, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or status as a disabled veteran, or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Exceptions will be allowed where age and/or sex are essential, bona fide occupational requirements, or where an identifiable disability cannot be accommodated to allow satisfactory performance of essential job functions.

Program Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) through recommendation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.
To Apply

Submit the following information to:

Program Director
School of Diagnostic Ultrasound
EP 2-802
Yale-New Haven Hospital
20 York Street
New Haven, CT 06510-3202

1) Completed program application
2) Resume
3) $20 application fee made payable to Yale-New Haven Hospital
4) Two letters of recommendation
5) High school transcripts
6) Official transcripts of courses completed in college or any other post-secondary programs of study.
7) One page typed statement of professional objectives and reasons for pursuing a career in diagnostic ultrasound.
8) 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 recent photograph of yourself.

Applicants are accepted as a rolling admission. The deadline for application is six weeks prior to starting classes.

Interview and Acceptance

Interviews are granted on evaluation of application contents.

Acceptance of students is made by the admissions selection committee and based on previous scholastic record, interview performance and letters of reference.
Program Curriculum

General Program:
- Introduction to sonography
- Abdominal sonography I & II
- OB/GYN sonography I & II
- Sonographic principles and instrumentation I & II
- Introduction to vascular sonography
- Clinical lab I - IV
- Clinical practicum I-IV

Echocardiography Program:
- Adult echo I - IV
- Sonographic principles and instrumentation I & III
- Clinical practicum I-IV

Graduation and Board Registration

Students who successfully complete the didactic and clinical curriculum will be granted a certificate of completion from the program.

Successful graduates are eligible to sit for national registration by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) in Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation (General and Echo), Abdomen (General), OB/GYN (General), or Adult Echo (Echo).

Tuition and Expenses

Tuition: $15,000 for General or Echo program payable in four quarterly installments.

Students accepted into the ultrasound program are required to pay a non-refundable deposit to ensure placement. The deposit will be applied toward tuition.

Students should expect to incur expenses including, but not limited to, textbook fees, SDMS or ASE student membership and registry application. Housing is not available. Additional information is available upon request. Applicants are required to provide proof of health insurance upon admission.

Financial aid and advanced placement are not available through this program.
Jennifer L. Wright BS, RT®, RDMS, RVT, RDCS
Program Director

Risa Kent, M.D.
Medical Director
General and Vascular Programs

Robert McNamara, M.D.
Medical Director
Echocardiography Program

Tanya Rucker, RDMS, RT(R)(M), MHA
Coordinator, Ultrasound Section

Nancy Cavallaro, RDMS, RDCS
Coordinator, Echo section

Steve Ghiroli, RDMS, RDCS
Coordinator, Pediatric Echocardiography
Didactic Instructor

Sharon Abraham, RDCS, BS
Didactic Instructor

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Kenneth Taylor. He developed the program and provided endless teaching and support. Dr. Taylor’s expertise and love of ultrasound will be sadly missed.

For more information contact the program director at 203-688-8227
Or by email:
Jennifer.wright@ynhh.org

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