american® career college

Prepare for a Healthcare Career as an Ultrasound Technologist

WE ALL DREAM OF SUCCESS. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT.

Meet American Career College

With over 45 years of experience in healthcare training and more than 70,000 graduates, ACC is here to help you make your goals a reality.

Our classes are modeled after real-life scenarios, using the same medical tools and equipment you'll use on the job. That way, you're prepared to jump in on your very first day. We provide education focused on real-world skills and knowledge, giving our students the opportunity to change their lives for the better.

What is an Ultrasound Technologist?

An Ultrasound Technologist, also known as a diagnostic medical sonographer, uses specialized imaging equipment to help physicians see what's happening inside the body - without surgery or radiation. By capturing real-time images of organs, tissues, and developing babies, they help physicians diagnose conditions and guide patient care. Ultrasound technologists work closely with patients, making it a career that combines technology, healthcare, and meaningful human connection.

Program Overview

ACC's Associate of Science in **Ultrasound Technologist program** is designed to prepare competent, entry-level sonographers through a balanced curriculum of didactic instruction, hands-on lab training, and supervised clinical experience. Students build knowledge in ultrasound physics, imaging principles, patient care, abdominal and small parts ultrasound, OB/GYN ultrasound, and vascular imaging.

Ultrasound Technologist Skillset

Perform Ultrasound Exams

Learn the fundamentals of ultrasound procedures, imaging techniques, and image evaluation.

Deliver Patient-Focused Care

Build patient care skills that support safe, professional ultrasound experiences.

Explore Multiple Scan Types

Train in abdominal, small parts, OB/GYN, and vascular ultrasound imaging.

Ultrasound Technologist Program

The Ultrasound Technologist program combines online coursework with hands-on lab training, providing opportunities to develop practical scanning skills used in healthcare settings. Learn how to operate ultrasound equipment, capture diagnostic images, and support patient care during imaging procedures.

Term 1

MATH100

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

College Mathematics I

This course covers fundamental mathematical concepts including algebraic expressions, linear equations, graphing, polynomials, exponents, radicals, and their applications in real-world scenarios, providing a comprehensive foundation for further mathematical studies.

ENGL100

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

ENGL100 Written Communications I

This course provides instruction in the process of effective written communication for a variety of formats. It initially focuses on four basic areas of effective writing: unity, specifics, coherence, and grammar.

The course will utilize reading, discussion, and personal insight to increase students' capacity to write simple paragraphs, formal essays, reports, and research projects. Students will be equipped with techniques that facilitate creative, academic, and professional written communication. Additionally, students will be given library activities to enhance research skills.

PHY101

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

General Introductory Physics

This is an introductory course covering the fundamental principles of the physical world. The course explores mechanics, thermodynamics, fluids, waves, electricity, magnetism, optics, and introductory atomic and nuclear physics.

Special focus is given to how physics concepts apply to health sciences and medical imaging, including diagnostic ultrasound, X-rays, and MRI. Through lectures, demonstrations, and problem-solving, students will develop critical thinking and scientific reasoning skills needed for real-world and clinical applications. By course end, students will have a strong physics foundation for further studies in ultrasound physics and advanced healthcare courses.

ANAT200

Clock Hours **20** | Quarter Credits **2**

Introduction to Anatomy & Physiology

This course provides information on anatomy and physiology at an introductory level. The topics will include: orientation of the human body, basic chemistry, cells and tissues, body membranes, special senses, blood, and multiple body systems (integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive).

ANAT200-L

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **2**

Introduction to Anatomy & Physiology Lab

This laboratory course complements the lecture portion and is offered concurrently with ANAT200. Lab activities and exercises will reflect the topics presented in lecture. The topics will include: orientation of the human body, basic chemistry, cells and tissues, body membranes, special senses, blood, and multiple body systems (integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive).

***Courses delivered in a blended format, a combination of online and on ground

Term 2

UT200

Clock Hours **140** | Quarter Credits **12**

Ultrasound Physical Principles & Instrumentation

This course covers the essential physical and technical principles underlying diagnostic medical sonography. Students will learn how sound waves generate diagnostic images by studying acoustic principles, wave interactions with tissues, pulsed ultrasound, Doppler principles, and transducer technology.

The course emphasizes ultrasound instrumentation, image processing, system controls, artifact recognition, quality assurance, and safety standards. In the lab, students gain hands-on experience operating equipment, mastering control settings, and optimizing image quality.

By course completion, students will be prepared for the ARDMS Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam.

UT250

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

Medical Terminology

This course is an introduction to basic medical imaging terminology and prepares students for more advanced coursework in subsequent courses by providing an introduction to general medical imaging terminology. Students will study the roots, prefixes, suffixes, and abbreviations as well as general terms and their appropriate usage in medical imaging practice.

Term 3

UT300

Clock Hours **160** | Quarter Credits **12**

Abdominal & Small Parts Ultrasound Imaging

This course covers the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of abdominal organs and superficial structures assessed by diagnostic medical sonography. Students will develop the knowledge and hands-on skills to perform quality abdominal and small parts ultrasound exams using standardized protocols.

Topics include the sonographic evaluation of the liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, bladder, major vessels, thyroid, scrotum, breast, and other superficial structures. The course emphasizes correlating clinical findings with sonographic appearances and identifying common pathologies.

In the lab, students will practice scanning techniques, image optimization, documentation, and preparation of preliminary findings. Professionalism, patient safety, and effective communication are stressed throughout.

Upon completion, students will be competent in abdominal and small parts scanning, image analysis, and clinical documentation, preparing them for advanced courses and clinical practice.

UT350

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **3**

Patient Care

This course provides students with practical skills for sonography and effective patient care. The professional role of the sonographer, basic principles of medical ethics, patient care, and expectations in clinical settings are emphasized.

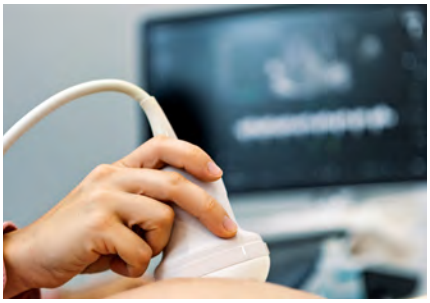
Key topics include communication, documentation, vital sign assessment, infection control, and the technologist's responsibilities in medical emergencies. Students will also gain confidence using sonography equipment. Additionally, students will explore career pathways, licensure options, and the wide range of clinical applications in the field of sonography.

Term 4

UT400

Clock Hours **160** | Quarter Credits **12**

Obstetrics & Gynecology



Ultrasound Imaging

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles and clinical applications of obstetric and gynecologic sonography. Students will gain an understanding of both normal and abnormal conditions affecting the female reproductive system and the developing fetus.

The lecture component focuses on the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the uterus, ovaries, and fetal structures throughout various stages of pregnancy. Students will learn to correlate sonographic findings with clinical presentations and patient history to support accurate diagnostic interpretation.

In the laboratory component, students will develop hands-on proficiency in performing gynecologic and obstetric ultrasound examinations. Emphasis is placed on proper scanning techniques, image optimization, protocol adherence, and accurate documentation. Students will also practice obtaining biometric measurements, recognizing normal and abnormal fetal growth patterns, and preparing initial preliminary reports for review by the interpreting physician or radiologist.

By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary for performing high-quality OB/GYN ultrasound examinations in a clinical setting.

UT450

Clock Hours **20** | Quarter Credits **2**

Laws and Ethics in Imaging

This course introduces the medico-legal and medical ethics principles of the healthcare profession, specific to the imaging profession.

Term 5

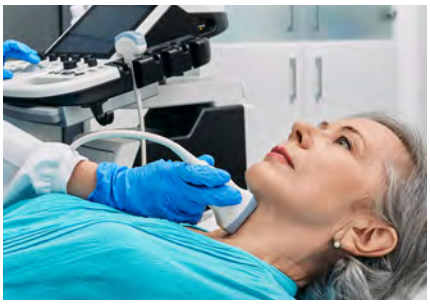
UT500

Clock Hours **160** | Quarter Credits **12**

Vascular Ultrasound Imaging

This course introduces vascular ultrasound imaging with a focus on hemodynamic principles and how vascular anatomy, physiology, and pathology affect ultrasound findings.

The lecture portion covers the anatomy and physiology of peripheral and central vessels and common vascular pathologies such as stenosis, occlusion, aneurysms, thrombosis, and venous insufficiency. Students learn to interpret related sonographic patterns.



Lab sessions offer hands-on training in vascular scanning and Doppler evaluation, including duplex studies of carotid arteries as well as arteries and veins in the upper and lower extremities. Emphasis is placed on image acquisition, waveform analysis, patient positioning, protocol adherence, and preliminary reporting.

Upon completion, students will be able to perform standard vascular ultrasound exams, recognize abnormal flow patterns, and contribute to accurate vascular diagnoses.

UT550L

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **2**

Ultrasound Exit Competencies

This course serves as the culminating capstone experience of the Ultrasound Technology Program. It is designed to assess each student's readiness for professional practice and national certification examinations through hands-on demonstration of clinical proficiency.

This course reinforces clinical judgment, patient care, sonographic technique, and professional ethics, preparing students to enter the workforce as competent, confident, and credential-ready sonographers.

Term 6

UT600C

Clock Hours **320** | Quarter Credits **10.5**

Clinical Practicum I

During this course, students will be assigned to, and directly supervised in a Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound imaging facility such as a hospital, clinic, or imaging center. The student will be introduced to the clinical setting and departmental organization. Under direct observation by a supervising sonographer or physician serving as the Clinical Instructor (preceptor), and the school's Clinical Coordinator, the student will begin to acquire the hands-on skills necessary for the sonographer in a clinical site. This is accomplished through observation and participation in clinical case studies of patients undergoing ultrasound examinations.

UTP1

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

Physics Prep Course

This course provides a focused review of the fundamental and advanced concepts of ultrasound physics and instrumentation for sonography students preparing for the ARRT (S) exam. Topics include the principles of sound wave propagation, acoustic parameters, attenuation, image formation, Doppler principles, and common artifacts. Essential aspects of equipment operation, safety, and quality assurance are emphasized, alongside practical exam strategies.

Learning activities combine lectures, image review, and mock exams to ensure competency in sonography physics and readiness for the ARRT (S) certification test.

Term 7

UT700C

Clock Hours **320** | Quarter Credits **10.5**

Clinical Practicum II

This course is designed as a more advanced continuation of Clinical Practicum I. The student will continue to perfect his/her skills in the clinical environment and learn more advanced imaging techniques required of the sonographer. The student will gain more experience in performing ultrasound imaging of the patient undergoing abdominal, small parts, gynecologic, obstetric, or vascular ultrasound examinations. The student will continue to develop skills with greater independence while supervised by the Clinical Instructor (preceptor), and the Clinical Coordinator.

UTP2

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

OB/GYN Preparation Course

This course provides an in-depth review of advanced obstetric and gynecologic sonography for ARRT (S) exam preparation. Emphasis is placed on female pelvic anatomy, fetal development across all trimesters, and recognition of various pathologies. Students practice image interpretation, protocol review, and clinical correlation through case studies and mock exams. The course equips students with the knowledge and test-taking skills needed for the ARRT (S) OB/GYN exam section.

Term 8

UT800C

Clock Hours **320** | Quarter Credits **10.5**

Clinical Practicum III

This course is designed as a more advanced continuation of Clinical Practicum I and II. The student will continue to perfect his/her skills in the clinical environment and learn more advanced imaging techniques required of the sonographer. At this point, the student is expected to perform all ultrasound exams independently under Clinical Instructor (preceptor) observation and review. The student will gain more experience in performing ultrasound imaging of the patient undergoing abdominal, small parts, gynecologic, obstetric, or vascular ultrasound examinations.

UTP3

Clock Hours **40** | Quarter Credits **4**

Abdominal Preparation Course

This course offers a comprehensive review of advanced abdominal sonography for ARRT (S) exam preparation, focusing on the sonographic appearance of normal anatomy, major abdominal organs, and various pathologies. Students practice image interpretation, case analysis, and scanning protocols, with an emphasis on clinical correlations and ARRT exam-style reasoning. Interactive activities and mock assessments ensure mastery of key concepts and test-taking strategies specific to the abdominal section of the ARRT (S) exam.

PROGRAM TOTAL: Clock Hours **2020**
Quarter Credits **118.5**

One **Change** Changes Everything

Accreditation

ACC is institutionally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). ABHES: 6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 730, North Bethesda, MD 20852, (301) 291-7550 / **www.abhes.org**.

Student Outcome Information		
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) Orange County: New program | California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) Orange County: New Program		
For Program Costs		
https://americancareercollege.edu/catalog/current/financial-information/program-tuition-and-fees/degree-programs-tuition		
O*Net Occupation Titles	**SOC Code**	**Links to Occupational Profiles on O*Net**
Cardiac Sonographer, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Medical Sonographer, Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS), Sonographer, Staff Sonographer, Ultrasonographer, Ultrasound Technician (Ultrasound Tech), Ultrasound Technologist (Ultrasound Tech)	29-2032.00	https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2032.00
To obtain a list of the objective sources of information used to substantiate the salary disclosures, please refer to the California Employment Development Department website at: https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/Occupational-Guides.html. ACC provides career guidance and assistance but cannot guarantee employment. Programs lengths vary by schedule and session. The opinion is the individual's sole opinion and not necessarily representative of that of the school, any instructor or any other student.		

Location

Orange County campus

Duration

Approximately 20 months

Schedule

Combination of campus and online instruction. Schedule will vary by quarter.

Enrollment Requirements

Some of the admissions requirements include:

- Must be at least 18 or have a parent's or guardian's signature
- Must have a high school diploma or the equivalent
- Must take and pass entrance exam

Be sure to speak with an admissions advisor to get all the necessary information to apply for the Ultrasound Technologist program.

Instructional Equipment

Here are some of the exciting tools you will get hands-on experience with: GE Logiq E9 and Toshiba Aplio / IU33 ultrasound machines, sector, linear, curvilinear, and endocavity probes, fetus ultrasound phantom, transvaginal ultrasound phantoms, breast phantoms, breast pathology phantom, and male testicular phantom.

Curious to Learn More? Let's Connect

Discover how ACC's program helps set you on the path towards a rewarding career, **connect with an advisor** to learn more about the Ultrasound Technologist program and explore financial aid options.

AmericanCareerCollege.edu
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