

BRYAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

School of Healthcare Studies

Assessment Plan for Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Professions – Sonography 2025-2026

Contents

Statements of Purpose/Mission/Philosophy	1
Bryan College of Health Sciences Mission	1
Bryan College of Health Sciences Goals	1
School of Healthcare Studies, Sonography Program Philosophy Statement	1
Program Goals:	2
Program Outcomes:	3
Measures and Methods for Assessing Program Outcomes:	3
1. Exit, Alumni, and Employer Surveys (Curriculum Objectives #1-6)	3
2. Registry Exams (Curriculum Objective 3)	3
3. Final Practicum Semester Evaluation (Curriculum Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6)	4
4. Sonography Awareness Activities (Curriculum Objective 5)	4
5. Evidence Based Practice Plan (Curriculum Objective #6)	5
6. Capstone Project (Curriculum Objective #6)	5
Measures and Methods for Assessing Overall Program Effectiveness:	5
1. Graduation Rates	5
2. Employment Rates	6
Analysis of Objectives and Outcomes:	6
Determination of Contributing Factors for Identified Gaps:	6
Planned Modifications to Identified Gaps:	6
Planning and Budgeting Processes:	6
Adjustment and Outcome Correlations:	7
Refining the Assessment Plan and Processes:	7
Bryan College of Health Sciences	8
Healthcare Studies - Baccalaureate Degree in Sonography	8
Assessment Matrix	8

Statements of Purpose/Mission/Philosophy

Bryan College of Health Sciences Mission

The Mission of Bryan College of Health Sciences is to provide educational pathways in the health sciences grounded in academic excellence, clinical distinction and experiential learning through collaboration with Bryan Health and the health care community.

Bryan College of Health Sciences Goals

The goals of Bryan College of Health Sciences are to prepare graduates who:

- Qualify for diverse careers in healthcare, academic, or scientific environments
- Illustrate respect for their own and others' unique individualities
- Demonstrate professionalism in their field of study
- Practice life-long learning as a means of personal and professional growth
- Exhibit service-oriented citizenship within their communities

School of Healthcare Studies, Sonography Program Philosophy Statement

The faculty of Bryan College of Health Sciences, School of Healthcare Studies Sonography programs believes that:

Health professions encompass a wide range of diverse careers which contribute directly and indirectly to the delivery of quality health care and services through promotion of interdisciplinary communication, support and collaboration with a variety of healthcare providers. Sonography is one of these health professions which incorporates both art and science and integrates theory with practice. The professional sonographer requires highly specialized skills, critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, integrity, teamwork and respect.

Sonographers actively collaborate with physicians and other health professionals to support health promotion and maintenance and illness prevention, and provide a culture of safety which involves safe practice, commitment, accountability and responsibility to patients, society and the profession. Sonographers are guided by legal and ethical standards, and require communication and interpersonal skills which promote holistic, caring interaction with the patients and other health professionals.

The patient as an individual is a unique and multidimensional being with inherent worth and dignity. Individuals interact in a dynamic process within an ever changing environment. Individuals have the capacity to care, to learn and to change. They have the right to determine and participate in activities that affect their health status and are, therefore, responsible for their own actions.

The environment is both internal and external. The internal environment is unique to the individual. The external environment is global, geopolitical, cultural and technical. The relationship between the individual and the environment is both dynamic and reciprocal.

Health is a dynamic state influenced by heredity, the environment and the individual's lifestyle. The state of health is reflected within an individual's physical, psychological,

spiritual, developmental, and sociocultural dimensions. Individuals differ in how health is perceived and valued, and have the right to define their own health. The pursuit of health is the right and responsibility of each individual.

Educational preparation of the sonographer is built on an integrated study of general education and health concepts. Knowledge and skills are developed through didactic and clinical/field experiences specific to the field of study. The educational experience prepares the graduate to practice in a variety of settings as a sonographer.

Learning is a life-long, interactive process that builds on previous experience and ideally results in change in attitudes, beliefs, and/or behaviors. Learning occurs in a variety of environments, and involves the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains. The learner is responsible for actively seeking knowledge both independently and under the supervision and guidance of qualified faculty and practitioners.

Faculty are responsible as role models, mentors and teachers for providing a caring environment in which students are free to explore and develop personally, professionally and intellectually. The College provides educational opportunities within the multiple contexts of legal and ethical boundaries, political and economic forces, sociocultural influences, and spiritual and historical factors. This environment provides quality education, which develops critical thinking and technical competence in the field of sonography and contributes to meeting the emerging health care needs of society.

Program Goals:

- **CVT Program:** To prepare competent entry-level cardiovascular technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for adult echocardiography and to prepare competent entry-level cardiovascular technologists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for noninvasive vascular study.
- **DMS Program:** To prepare competent entry-level sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the following concentration(s) it offers: Abdominal Sonography-Extended, Obstetrics and Gynecology sonography.

Program Outcomes:

The School of Healthcare Studies, Division of Sonography at Bryan College of Health Sciences has identified program outcomes that the Baccalaureate student will be equipped to fulfill upon completion of the program. The program outcomes are as follows:

Upon completion of the program the graduate will be able to:

1. [For Cardiovascular Sonography]: Competently perform as an entry level sonographer in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for adult cardiac sonography and noninvasive vascular sonography.
[For Diagnostic Medical Sonography]: Competently perform as an entry-level sonographer in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains for the abdominal sonography-extended, and obstetrics and gynecology sonography concentrations.
2. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior through sonographic practice congruent with standards of practice.
3. Meet the eligibility requirements to apply for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) exams.
4. Interact effectively with individuals in a manner that reflects caring and acknowledges the holistic nature of individuals.
5. Promote growth of the health professional and awareness of health professions through education of individual groups and communities of interest.
6. Correlate current research to ensure best-practice delivery of specialty specific, quality patient care and services.

In addition to program objectives, overall program effectiveness is also assessed.

Measures and Methods for Assessing Program Outcomes:

1. Exit, Alumni, and Employer Surveys (Curriculum Objectives #1-6)

The Dean of Healthcare Studies collects Exit, Alumni, and Employer Survey information. Students complete the Exit Survey upon graduation. Alumni Surveys are sent to graduates 6 months after graduation. Employer Surveys from the JRC-DMS and JRC-CVT are sent to all employers identified by students in either their exit or alumni survey.

All graduates will complete the Exit Survey upon graduation; a benchmark of 80% of students will agree they met each of the seven Curriculum Objectives. Of graduates who complete the Alumni Survey, a benchmark of 80% will agree they met each of the seven Curriculum Objectives. Of the Employer Surveys that are returned, a benchmark of 80% of employers will agree or strongly agree that they met each of the seven Curriculum Objectives. Analysis of the data to determine if the benchmark has been met will be done on each Curriculum Objective individually.

2. Credentialing Success (Curriculum Objective 3)

Upon graduation, graduates are strongly encouraged to take the registry exam in their area of specialty. Pass rates are calculated based on the number of students earning the corresponding credential within one year. The Dean of Healthcare Studies will collect Registry Pass rate information. Bryan College of Health Sciences sonography programs will report pass rates to compare to the ARDMS national average for each of the exams. The benchmark will be that overall pass rates will be at or above the three year national average as reported by ARDMS. Currently there is no state or national requirement for sonographers to be registered.

3. Final Practicum Semester Evaluation (Curriculum Objectives 1, 3, 4, and 6)

The final clinical evaluation tool assesses learning objectives as delineated below. Objectives assessed through the Clinical Evaluation Measurement are evaluated weekly by the student's preceptor/faculty. Formal Performance Evaluations documenting performance are completed and submitted every 3 weeks. All completed Clinical Evaluations are reviewed by the Clinical Coordinator and grades or comments reflecting concerning or unsatisfactory performance are discussed with the student in a face-to-face meeting as indicated.

- a. Final Clinical Objectives-Level IV (DMS) and Level VI (CVT)
 - i. Competently perform as an entry-level sonographer in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains through demonstration of ethical and professional behavior and practice congruent with standards of practice (Program Objective #1, 2)
 - ii. Intervene to promote a caring and respectful attitude by self and others. (Program Objective #4)
 - iii. Consistently demonstrate organizational skills in the role of an entry level sonographer (Program Objective #1, 2)
 - iv. Refine critical thinking skills to plan and perform sonography procedures. (Program Objectives #1, 3, 6)
 - v. Perform a full range of diagnostic medical sonography examinations according to established standards. (Program Objectives #1, 4)

The benchmark for attainment of each of the Final Practicum Semester Evaluation Clinical Objectives mentioned above will require at least 90 percent of students assessed to consistently meet or exceed expectations for the Curriculum Objective(s) being measured by the clinical evaluation measurement during the extent of their final clinical semester. Analysis of the data to determine if the benchmark has been met will be done on each objective individually.

4. Sonography Awareness Activities (Curriculum Objective 5)

All sonography students are required to participate in activities that educate the public and/or potential students about the sonography profession. This may be accomplished through volunteer or assigned activities. Students are informed of activities that would

qualify to fulfill the sonography awareness activities requirement. However, students may self-identify activities with advisor approval. Students will submit a record of the self-identified activities to the Clinical Coordinator who will review the records and validate that the activity meets Objective 4. Faculty will track course assigned activities that meet Objective 4. Students will rate their attainment of this objective on the Exit Survey and the Alumni Survey. A benchmark of 100% of students participating in sonography awareness activities, and a minimum of 80% indicating Agree or Strongly Agree for Objective #4 on the Exit and Alumni Surveys will demonstrate attainment of Objective 4.

5. Evidence Based Practice Plan (Curriculum Objective #6)

Students complete a Literature Review in AHAL313 in which they review the literature on a particular pathology and then develop a patient education plan. Student performance on this assignment is then tabulated.

The following scale will be used to measure attainment of the objective. A project score of:

- 74% or < = Unsatisfactory;
- 75-79% = Developing;
- 80-89% = Competent;
- 90-100% = Accomplished

A benchmark of 80% of the students will demonstrate attainment of Objective 6 with a score of 80% or higher.

6. Capstone Project (Curriculum Objective #6)

In their final two semesters students complete a Capstone Project that will consist of in-depth study on a chosen healthcare topic based on scientific concepts and a review of literature within the student's specialty.

The Capstone Project will be assessed by individuals of any combination from the following list: faculty, medical directors for the School of Healthcare Studies programs, physicians in the specialty, healthcare professionals, or the Dean of Healthcare Studies. The number of Capstone Projects reviewed each year will be based upon the total number of students within the sonography programs and within each of its specialties.

A rubric will be used to measure attainment of the objective. A benchmark of 80% of the students will demonstrate attainment of Objective 7 at or above the Competent Level on the following scale: 0 = Unsatisfactory, 1 = Developing, 2 = Competent, 3 = Accomplished.

Measures and Methods for Assessing Overall Program Effectiveness:

1. Graduation Rates

The Dean of Healthcare Studies collects graduation rate information. Graduation rates are measured by the number of students completing their program within 150% or less of the time designated for program completion. Graduation rates are tracked as an indirect measure of overall program success. The graduation rate benchmark is 75% of students graduating within 150% or less from the time of enrollment in the program.

2. Employment Rates

The Dean of Healthcare Studies collects employment information on new graduates following graduation. Employment rates are calculated by the percent of graduates actively seeking employment in their field who are employed within 6 months of graduation. The employment rate benchmark is 75% of graduates actively seeking employment in their field will have jobs within 6 months of graduation.

Analysis of Objectives and Outcomes:

Designated faculty members will be responsible for gathering and analyzing the data collected; which will then be presented to the sonography faculty at a fall faculty meeting of each year. The Employer and Alumni Survey and Registry Exam results from the previous graduating class will be discussed at a fall faculty meeting of each year, along with the measurement tools identified above. A report will be generated to address which objectives were met and if the data illustrated any gaps among objectives, outcomes, and established benchmarks.

Determination of Contributing Factors for Identified Gaps:

As part of their monthly meetings, the Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will address the assessment of student learning. Discussion of factors contributing to identified gaps will occur as a consistent part of the meeting agenda. All Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will participate in this process.

Planned Modifications to Identified Gaps:

Recommendations for programmatic and/or operational adjustments to address gaps in learning will be made on an as needed basis. All Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will participate in this process. Reports on recommended changes will go to the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Planning and Budgeting Processes:

Recommended programmatic and/or operational adjustments will be integrated into annual planning and budgetary processes. The Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of

Healthcare Studies will prioritize programmatic changes and related budgetary requests based upon the student assessment outcomes and integrate them into the annual strategic planning and operational/capital budgetary cycles. As needed, program requests will be submitted to appropriate College committees and operational requests to Leadership Council. The Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will address ongoing budget requests as the need arises during monthly meetings.

Adjustment and Outcome Correlations:

All Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will meet in August to review the effect the revisions from the previous year had on student outcomes. This will be analyzed during a monthly Sonography faculty meeting. These adjustments and future recommendations will be documented in a separate assessment report. All Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will participate in this process.

Refining the Assessment Plan and Processes:

Each fall, the Sonography Division faculty and the Dean of Healthcare Studies will evaluate the effectiveness of methods, measurements, and data analysis to determine if assessment processes need revision.

Bryan College of Health Sciences
Healthcare Studies - Baccalaureate Degree in Sonography
Assessment Matrix

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT	Objective #1: Competently perform as an entry level sonographer in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for adult cardiac sonography and vascular sonography.	Objective #2: Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior through sonographic practice congruent with standards of practice.	Objective #3: Meet the eligibility requirements to apply for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) exams.	Objective #4: Interact effectively with individuals in a manner that reflects caring and acknowledges the holistic nature of individuals	Objective #5: Promote growth of the health professional and awareness of health professions through education of individuals, groups and colleagues	Objective #6: Correlate current research to ensure best-practice delivery of specialty specific, quality patient care and services.	Overall Program Effectiveness
Exit Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Alumni Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Employer Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Registry Exams: SPI ACS VASC OB/GYN ABD			X X X X X				
Level IV Clinical Evaluations	X	X	X	X		X	
Sonography Awareness Activities					X		
Evidence Based Practice Plan						X	
Capstone Project						X	
Graduation Rate							X
Employment Rate							X