

SOUTHSIDE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES FAQ

1. *What are the steps to apply to the program?*

- Completion of prerequisites*; from either high school level and/or college.
- Submit an application, official high school and official college transcripts.
- Nursing program- submit ATI TEAS scores.
- Sonography program-submit documentation of completion of a human health career program.
- Attend an information session prior to submission of an application.

***Pre-requisites must either be completed before the application deadline or during the spring semester of the March 1st deadline or the summer semester of the August 1st deadline.**

2. *What are the prerequisite courses for the program?*

Nursing

- Overall Adjusted Individual Total Score of 66 or better on the ATI TEAS

Radiation Sciences

- High School prerequisites; Successful completion (C or better) of:
 - Algebra I
 - Biology
 - Algebra II or Geometry
- College level prerequisites:
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II
 - English Composition
 - Psychology
 - College Algebra/Statistics
 - Medical Terminology

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Human Anatomy & Physiology I or II
- English Composition I or II
- Psychology
- College Algebra, Quantitative Reasoning, Statistics
- Radiation Physics or Physics

3. *Is there a GPA requirement?*

Nursing- minimum 2.0

Radiation Sciences-minimum 2.5

Diagnostic Medical Sonography-minimum 2.5

4. *What is the ATI TEAS?*

The ATI TEAS test is only required for nursing applicants. The ATI TEAS measures basic essential skills in the academic content areas of reading, mathematics, science, and English and language usage. The test is intended for use primarily with adult nursing program applications.

5. *Is there a time limit for courses I have taken in the past?*

Anatomy & Physiology I & II must be within ten years of entry into any program. Other courses do not have a time limit.

6. *Are there co-requisites for the program? What is a co-requisite?*

Yes there are co-requisites. A co-requisite is a college level course that has been incorporated into the program curriculum. Those courses are not required to apply but highly recommended to take prior to applying. Co-requisites can be taken at a regionally accredited institution and are not offered SCHS.

Nursing

- Human Anatomy & Physiology I

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- Nutrition
- Human Anatomy & Physiology II
- Developmental Psychology
- Microbiology
- English I
- English II
- Elective I
- Elective II

Radiation Sciences

- Ethics
- English II
- Social Science
- Humanities
- History

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- No co-requisites

7. *I took classes at another college. Do they automatically transfer to SCHS?*

Course(s) may transfer to SCHS if the following are met: a student must have earned a “C” or higher; the course must be similar in course description, match the number of credit hours, and the institution must be regionally accredited. SCHS will determine your transfer credits when an official transcript is sent from the college you attended; along with your application.

8. *I've taken courses at a school and I do not think you will accept the credits do I still have to submit an official transcript with my application?*

Yes, all college transcripts need to be submitted (in English) even if you do not believe we can transfer in the course.

9. *I've taken all of the prerequisites. What is my next step?*

Submit your completed application, application fee or application fee waiver form (if applicable), and official transcripts (high school and post-secondary education) by the appropriate application deadline. to make sure that you have submitted all required documents. ***The Admissions office will not contact you if you are missing any documents from your application packet.***

10. *When is the deadline for application? When do classes start?*

	March 1 st (fall start)	August 1 st (spring start)
Nursing	X	X
Radiation Sciences	X	
Sonography		X

11. *I will not have completed pre-requisites by the application deadline can I still apply?*

Yes, you can apply. You will need to submit your application, application fee, student statement, and official transcripts (high school and post-secondary education) by the application deadline. The transcript that you submit should also reflect the current semester pre-requisites that you are taking. Once your semester is completed, have your school submit another official transcript with final grades posted.

12. *How much is the application fee?*

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$70. However, the fee can be waived if you are military, BSMH employees or alumni of the school. Applicants applying for the application fee waiver must submit the Application Fee Waiver Form to the Office of Student Services. It is the responsibility of the applicant to

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submit the form and any supporting documentation. Submission of the Application Fee Waiver Form does not automatically guarantee the application fee will be waived. The Admissions Office will review the form and documentation. You may be contacted to submit the application fee if you are not eligible or need to provide additional information.

13. *What is the TOEFL? Do I need to take it?*

The TOEFL or Test of English as a Foreign Language is only required for those applicants when English is a second language. Applicants with English as a second language may find it beneficial to take the TOEFL, Test of English as a Foreign Language, to assess their English knowledge and take supplemental English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to improve language foundation.

14. *How is the program designed?*

Nursing

The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing is a five (5) semester program consisting of 42 credit hours of nursing courses and 30 credit hours of general education courses totaling 72 credits. The nursing courses consist of lecture, lab and clinical taught at SCHS.

Radiation Sciences

The Associate of Applied Science in Radiation Sciences is a five (5) semester program consisting of 51 credit hours of radiography courses and 32 credit hours of general education courses totaling 83 credits. The radiation sciences courses consist of lecture, lab and clinical taught at SCHS.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a four (4) semester program consisting of 50 credit hours of sonography courses and 17 credit hours of general education courses totaling 67 credits. The courses consist of lecture, lab and clinical taught at SCHS.

All programs consist of lecture, lab and clinical hours. Lecture and lab are taught at SCHS. Clinical hours are completed at Southside Medical Center, other hospitals, and outside practices. Co-requisites can be taken at a regionally accredited institution and are not offered at SCHS.

15. *What is the profile of your typical student?*

Nursing

Our average incoming student has A's and B's in their co-requisite courses, above the national average on the ATI TEAS test and previous volunteer or work experience in the medical field.

Radiation Sciences

Our average incoming student has A's and B's in their prerequisite courses with an average GPA of 3.1.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Our average incoming student has A's and B's in their prerequisite courses with an average GPA of 3.0.

16. *Is there a waiting list?*

We do not have a waiting list; however, we can select alternates to fill in empty slots. Any applicants placed on an alternate list will be notified if space comes available. We do dissolve this alternate list upon the first day of class.

17. *How long will it take before I find out if I have been accepted into the program?*

SCHS will notify applicants via email and/or postal mail within 45 days following the application deadline.

18. *If I am accepted into the program, what kind of degree will I receive?*

Upon successful completion of one of the three programs:

Nursing

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Associate of Applied Science in Nursing is awarded. Graduates are then eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX)-RN.

Radiation Sciences

Associate of Applied Science in Radiation Sciences is awarded. Graduates are then eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT).

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography is awarded. Graduates are then eligible to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) in the areas of Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) and are able to take one of two specialty boards; Abdomen (AB) and Obstetrics and/or Gynecology (OB/GYN).

19. Do I need to have CPR certification when I enter the program?

You need to be CPR certified in order to start on the first day of class; however, you do not submit a copy of your CPR certification with your application. More information regarding CPR training will be provided upon acceptance into the program.

20. What if I am already CPR certified?

If you are already CPR certified, you will want to make sure that you have the correct certification and it is not about to expire. Upon Entry Students must provide current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) for healthcare providers course upon entry to the College. SCHS recognizes three certifying bodies: The American Heart Association (AHA), The American Red Cross, and the American Health and Safety Institute (AHSI). Online courses without demonstration components are not acceptable. It is the student's responsibility to arrange BLS recertification as needed.

21. Can I work full-time while in the program?

Even though you can arrange to do your coursework on your own time, clinicals can be held throughout the week to include weekends. It is not advised to be both a full-time student and full-time worker. Many students work in their local hospitals part-time as they go through the program to sharpen their skills and gain confidence on the clinical floor.

22. Do you have evening clinical?

Clinical rotations are primarily completed via day and evening shifts with options for weekend shifts. Students are provided a schedule prior to the first day of class. Students should always be aware that changes might occur and to be flexible.

23. Are all of my clinical sites at Southside Medical Center?

No. Students also complete their clinical rotations at various hospitals and clinics within a 50 mile radius of the college.

24. Can I finish the program early?

No. All programs' curriculum has been designed for the student take courses consecutively. Courses cannot be combined.

25. Do you have an LPN-RN Bridge Program?

No. We do not have a LPN-RN Bridge Program. Previous work experience and healthcare credentials are taken into consideration during the application process.

26. Am I able to take any courses online?

All programmatic courses are held at SCHS. Co-requisite courses can be at a local community college or online (if available).

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27. *Is the school accredited?*

Yes. SCHS is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES); and certified to operate by The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

Nursing

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)

Virginia Board of Nursing (VBON)

Radiation Sciences

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS)

All applicants are required to attend an Information Session. Information Sessions are held throughout the year on a regular basis; the dates and times are listed on website.