



2012

**SDMS Foundation Grant and Scholarship Program
Information and Applications**

SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
FOUNDATION



About the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Foundation

The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Foundation is a charitable, nonprofit organization whose programs include educational scholarships and grants to members of the SDMS who have a demonstrated need. The SDMS Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our grants and scholarships are made possible by donations from SDMS members and the sonography community. Please consider making a donation to assist your fellow SDMS members. Your donation will be deductible to the extent permitted by law (consult a tax professional). Visit <http://www.sdmsfoundation.org> for more information.

General Eligibility

Any current SDMS member in good standing (excluding Corporate/Business/Institution or Supporting categories) may apply for SDMS Foundation grants or scholarships. However, scholarships can only be awarded for attendance at educational institutions in the United States.

Note: You must be a current SDMS member in good standing at the time of application, award notification and grant and/or scholarship payment.

Members of the SDMS Foundation Board of Directors, SDMS Board of Directors, SDMS employees, and substantial donors (more than \$5,000), including their families, are not eligible for SDMS Foundation grants or scholarships.

Non-Discrimination Policy

adopted by SDMS Foundation Board of Directors, July 12, 2009

The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Foundation does not discriminate against any applicant for programs or services because of race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, national origin, disability, age, or covered veteran status. Such factors may not be considered in any action or matter before the Board of Directors or any volunteer committee. It is also the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Foundation's policy to comply with all applicable national and local laws pertaining to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity.

General Process

To be considered for a SDMS Foundation grant or scholarship, the SDMS member must complete and submit an online application by the applicable deadline. The online application must be completed fully, including required attachment(s), to be accepted for SDMS Foundation consideration. Generally, grants and scholarships are considered based upon availability of funds, date received, and a demonstrated need.

Note: Only one SDMS Foundation grant (i.e., one certification examination grant OR one SDMS Annual Conference grant), and one scholarship may be awarded to an individual in a calendar year.

All grants and scholarships are subject to availability of funds. The SDMS Foundation reserves the right to modify or terminate any program at its sole discretion without notice.

Sonography Certification Organizations

Sonography certification organizations administer certification examinations and award credentials to qualified candidates. Certification examinations leading to the following credentials are currently eligible for the SDMS Foundation's Sonography Certification Examination Grant Program:

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)

<http://www.ardms.org>

- RDMS® Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- RDCS® Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer
- RVT® Registered Vascular Technologist
- RMSK® Registered in Musculoskeletal

Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)

<http://www.cci-online.org>

- RCS® Registered Cardiac Sonographer
- RVS® Registered Vascular Specialist



All SDMS Foundation Grants/Scholarship Applications Must be Submitted Using Our New Online System

All grant and scholarship applications must now be completed and submitted online. Some, but not all, applications require attachment of



documentation/proof of eligibility. The online applications cannot be submitted unless all required documentation has been attached/uploaded to the online application.

The preferred file format for the required documentation is in PDF format, but we will also accept TIF, JPG, or PNG graphic formats. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the required documentation is in the appropriate format and is readable. Failure to submit proper documentation may result in the application being rejected.

How to Submit Required Documentation With Your Application

- Step 1.** Download, print, and complete the required form (if applicable)
- Step 2.** Obtain the required signature (if applicable)
- Step 3.** Scan* the form and save the file to your computer (be sure to note the location on your computer)
- Step 4.** Go online to the applicable grant/scholarship application
- Step 5.** Click the "Browse" button to select the file from your computer
- Step 6.** Click the "Upload" button

** Many scanners, photocopiers, and multifunction printers can scan documents into a PDF file. If the applicant does not have a personal scanner or a copier/printer with scan functionality, they should check with their employer or school. Alternatively, local companies (e.g., FEDEX Kinkos, UPS Stores, etc.) may offer "scan-to-file" services. Note that each document should be saved as a separate file (i.e., attach each document separately in the appropriate place in the online application). **DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY FAX/MAIL/EMAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.***

SDMS Foundation Certification Examination Grant Program

The SDMS Foundation Sonography Certification Examination Grant Program provides grants to deserving sonography students and sonographers who successfully complete a sonography certification* examination after being approved for a grant (paid as reimbursement).

The grant may be used for examination fees, travel to examination site, or study materials.

** Note: For purposes of this grant program, only applicants for sonography-related examinations administered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) are eligible for grants (see page 3).*

Grant Amount

\$250 plus a free *SDMS National Certification Examination Review* study guide** (only one certification examination grant per calendar year – \$250 total grant)

Grant Application Periods*

Applications accepted:

- Jan. 1 through June 30
- July 1 through Dec. 31

** Subject to availability of funds*

Grant Eligibility

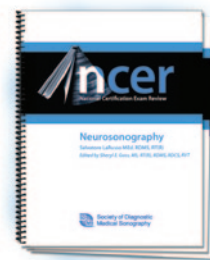
1. Current SDMS member in good standing (Corporate/Business/Institution and Supporting members are not eligible).
2. Submit proof of acceptance by ARDMS or CCI to take a sonography examination.
3. Demonstrate need by fully completing the SDMS Foundation Certification Examination Grant Program Online Application, including required attachment(s), before the application deadline.

Grant Process

1. All applications must be completed online. Completed applications are reviewed based on eligibility criteria and availability of grant funds.
2. Only one certification examination grant may be awarded to an individual per calendar year. Note: If an individual is awarded a certification examination grant, they are ineligible for the SDMS Annual Conference Grant for that calendar year.
3. An email will be sent to each applicant indicating whether a grant has been approved.
4. Only the specific approved certification examination that is successfully completed AFTER a grant has been approved is eligible for grant payment.

NOTE: *The SDMS Foundation will not pay for any certification examinations completed before the approval date of the grant application.*

5. The applicant must submit proof of successful completion (by mail, fax, or email) of the specific certification examination listed in the award email to be eligible for grant payment.
6. Proof of successful completion of the approved certification examination must be received by the deadline listed in the grant award email, which is six (6) months from the date of the award email.
7. Within three (3) weeks of submission of proof of successful completion, a check will be mailed to the grant recipient.



*SDMS Foundation Certification Examination Grant recipients also receive a free **SDMS National Certification Examination Review** study guide.***

*** subject to availability*



Online Application: <http://www.sdmsfoundation.org/grant-cert.aspx>
Note: *Only one SDMS Foundation grant (i.e., one certification examination grant OR one SDMS Annual Conference grant) and one scholarship may be awarded to an individual in a calendar year.*

The First Step: Your Sonography Education

The sonography educational program you choose could mean success or failure — so start your sonography career off right!



According to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers is expected to continue to grow. The career area of the SDMS website offers resources to help you learn more about the Diagnostic Medical Sonography field and to help you select a sonography educational program to begin your career. Visit <http://www.sdms.org/career/> for more information.

Why is the accreditation status of the sonography educational program important?

There are several types of educational program accreditation and the type of accreditation can affect what you need to do to be eligible to take a certification examination. For example, by attending a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), you will be able to apply to take the national certification examinations offered by the ARDMS upon completion of your program. Without CAAHEP accreditation, you may have to complete one year of full-time clinical experience before becoming eligible to take a national certification examination. If you have questions regarding the accreditation status of a program, visit:

<http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>

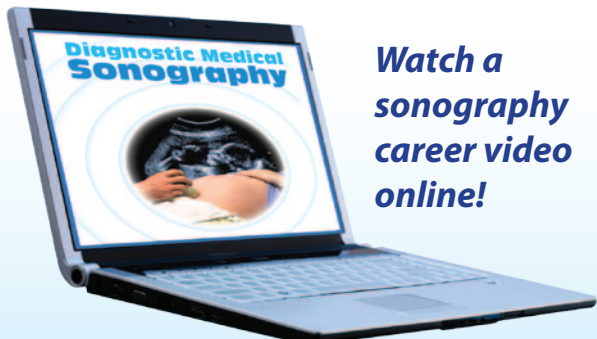


Sonographer Salaries

According to the SDMS *Sonographer Salary and Benefits Survey*, the median salary figure for sonographers is \$66,768. The survey also found a



direct relationship between sonographer annual income and the number of credentials held. Annual income rises as sonographers acquire additional credentials.

Higher education is often synonymous with more professional opportunities. There's also a strong correlation between more formal schooling and lower unemployment, according to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Watch a sonography career video online!

The *Diagnostic Medical Sonography – A SOUND Career Decision* video provides a snapshot of the profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography and is easily viewed on the SDMS website at: <http://www.sdms.org/career/decision.asp> (requires Adobe Flash®)

The video is also available on Apple iTunes®. <http://www.sdms.org/career/video/default.asp>

SDMS Foundation Sonography Student Scholarship Program

The SDMS Foundation Sonography Student Scholarship Program provides a \$2,500 scholarship to a deserving sonography student who has been accepted or is currently enrolled in an educational program in diagnostic medical sonography or cardiovascular technology that has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP). Two (2) sonography student scholarships will be awarded each year.

Scholarships can be used for tuition, books, or educational fees.

Scholarship Amount \$2,500

Scholarship Application Deadlines

December 31 (for educational expenses to be incurred January 1 through June 30)

June 30 (for educational expenses to be incurred July 1 through December 31)

Scholarship Eligibility

1. Current SDMS member in good standing (Corporate/Business/Institution and Supporting members are not eligible).
2. Accepted or enrolled in CAAHEP accredited sonography educational program. Scholarships are only available for enrollment in educational programs located within the United States.
3. Demonstrate need by fully completing the SDMS Foundation Sonography Student Scholarship Program Online Application, including required essay questions (see Essay Question Guidelines in the blue box to the right) and required attachments (including Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Report), before the application deadline.

Scholarship Process

1. Completed applications are reviewed based on eligibility criteria and availability of scholarship funds.
2. All applicants will be notified by email once the scholarship has been awarded (please allow sixty (60) days after the published scholarship deadline for the applications to be processed and evaluated).

3. Within three (3) weeks of the scholarship being awarded, a check will be mailed to the scholarship recipient

Essay Question Guidelines

The online scholarship application includes three short essay questions (a maximum of 1,000 characters in each essay question). Responses to the essay questions must comply with these guidelines or the application may be disqualified.

Essay question responses are scored anonymously, therefore it is very important that applicants do not identify themselves, the school they currently/will attend, or city/state where they live. Note that spelling and grammar will be considered during the essay question scoring process.

It is recommended that applicants write and edit their responses to the essay questions with a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word) before completing the online application. Responses can then be copied/pasted from the word processor into the online application's essay question boxes (note that all formatting such as bullets, font, and formatting including bold/underline/italic will be lost). There is a limit of 1,000 characters per essay question (a reminder with character count/remaining characters is provided below each essay question).

Student Sonographer Scholarship Essay Questions

1. Why do you want to be a sonographer and what personal characteristics/traits do you possess that will make you a good sonographer?
2. Describe the goals you have established for yourself and your efforts to accomplish these goals. Give at least one specific example that demonstrates your work ethic/diligence.
3. Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and your future goals.

Note: Only one SDMS Foundation grant (i.e., one certification examination grant OR one SDMS Annual Conference grant) and one scholarship may be awarded to an individual in a calendar year.



Online Application: <http://www.sdmsfoundation.org/scholarship-student.aspx>

A Special Thank You to the 2011 SDMS Foundation Corporate Sponsors



The Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences offers an online Bachelor of Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The degree completion program requires applicants to already hold a national sonography certification before enrolling. By supporting the SDMS Foundation's grant program, the College is helping the sonography community while preparing students to complete the online degree program.



The Trajecsys Corporation created the Trajecsys Report System™, an online clinical management and tracking system for students of health-related educational programs. Students can access the reporting system from any computer at their clinical site and can report their activities for the day, complete evaluations or competency exams, and much more. Clinical instructors and program directors can view and organize student records, and track student progress.

And thank you to all individual member donors including these Gold and Silver SDMS Foundation Supporters*:

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 Teresa Whitney-Goodrich, RDMS
 Diana Yankowitz, RDMS, RDCS

**September 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011*

Sonographer Advanced Degree Scholarship Program

The SDMS Foundation Sonographer Advanced Degree Scholarship Program awards a \$2,500 scholarship to a deserving sonographer who has a minimum of two (2) years full-time sonography experience and has been accepted or is currently enrolled in an advanced sonography-related* degree program (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral) in an accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Scholarships can be used for tuition, books, or educational fees.

* *including, but not limited to, degrees in management, health, education, etc.*

Scholarship Amount \$2,500

Scholarship Application Deadline

June 30 (for educational expenses to be incurred July 1 through June 30 of the following year)

Scholarship Eligibility

1. Current SDMS member in good standing (Corporate/Business/Institution and Supporting members are not eligible).
2. Accepted or enrolled in accredited educational program. Scholarships are only available for enrollment in educational programs located within the United States.
3. At least two (2) years full-time experience as a sonographer.
4. Demonstrate need by fully completing the SDMS Foundation Sonographer Advanced Degree Scholarship Program Online Application, including required essay questions (see Essay Question Guidelines in the blue box to the right) and required attachments (including Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Report), before the application deadline.

Scholarship Process

1. Completed applications are reviewed based on eligibility criteria and availability of scholarship funds.
2. All applicants will be notified by email once the scholarship has been awarded (please allow sixty (60) days after the published scholarship deadline for the applications to be processed and evaluated).

3. Within three (3) weeks of the scholarship being awarded, a check will be mailed to the scholarship recipient.

Essay Question Guidelines

The online scholarship application includes three short essay questions (a maximum of 1,000 characters in each essay question). Responses to the essay questions must comply with these guidelines or the application may be disqualified.

Essay question responses are scored anonymously, therefore it is very important that applicants not identify themselves, the school they currently/will attend, or city/state where they live. Note that spelling and grammar will be considered during the essay question scoring process.

It is recommended that applicants write and edit their responses to the essay questions with a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word) before completing the online application. Responses can then be copied/pasted from the word processor into the online application's essay question boxes (note that all formatting such as bullets, font, and formatting including bold/underline/italic will be lost). There is a limit of 1,000 characters per essay question (a reminder with character count/remaining characters is provided below each essay question).

Sonographer Advanced Scholarship Essay Questions

1. Why do you want to continue your education?
2. Describe the goals you have established for yourself and your efforts to accomplish these goals. Give at least one specific example that demonstrates your work ethic/diligence.
3. Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and your future goals.

Note: Only one SDMS Foundation grant (i.e., one certification examination grant OR one SDMS Annual Conference grant) and one scholarship may be awarded to an individual in a calendar year.



Online Application: <http://www.sdmsfoundation.org/scholarship-advanced.aspx>

SDMS Annual Conference Grants

The SDMS Annual Conference Grant Program provides financial assistance to sonographers and students who attend the SDMS Annual Conference. Grants may be used for any expense incurred by the applicant related to participating in the SDMS Annual Conference (e.g., registration, travel, hotel, meals, etc.).



The 2012 SDMS Annual Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, September 20-23, 2012. Visit www.sdms.org/meetings for more information.

Grant Amount

\$500 for sonographers; \$250 for students

Grant Application Deadline

May 1 to June 30 (applications not accepted before May 1; online applications must be submitted on or before June 30)

Grant Eligibility

1. Current SDMS member in good standing (Corporate/Business/Institution and Supporting members are not eligible).

Note: *If an individual is awarded a certification examination grant, they are ineligible for the SDMS Annual Conference Grant program for that calendar year.*

2. Demonstrate need by fully completing the SDMS Annual Conference Grant Online Application, including required attachments, before the application deadline. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and will be rejected.

Grant Process

1. Completed applications are reviewed based on eligibility criteria and availability of grant funds.
2. A notification will be sent via email to each applicant indicating whether a grant will be awarded.
3. Selected grant recipients must confirm within seven (7) days that they wish to accept the grant (or the grant may be made available to another applicant).
4. Grant recipients must register for and attend at least three days of the SDMS Annual Conference (Thursday - Sunday). It is the grant recipient's responsibility to meet registration deadlines to obtain the lowest registration fee (i.e., early registration discount).
5. Grant recipients must submit the required copy of the signed SDMS Annual Conference CME Log at the conclusion of the conference as verification of attendance. The CME Log should be submitted ONSITE and should not be mailed to the SDMS Foundation. Grant recipients must earn at least 15 SDMS CME credits during the conference (Thursday – Sunday) to be eligible to receive the grant funds.
6. Within three (3) weeks following the SDMS Annual Conference, a check will be mailed to the grant recipient.

**Online Application: <http://www.sdmsfoundation.org/grant-ac.aspx>
Applications will only be accepted between May 1 and June 30.**



Note: Only one SDMS Foundation grant (i.e., one certification examination grant OR one SDMS Annual Conference grant) and one scholarship may be awarded to an individual in a calendar year.

International Sonography Assistance Program

The SDMS Foundation's International Sonography Assistance Program provides support to SDMS members who are working or assisting in the international healthcare arena. All requests for assistance must be submitted by a current SDMS member.

For more information, contact the SDMS Foundation at info@sdmsfoundation.org.

Subject to availability of funds.



2011 SDMS Annual Conference Brings SDMS Member Saidi Kayiranga All the Way From Rwanda

Saidi joined us from King Feisal Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda for the 2011 SDMS Annual Conference. He participated in the Cardiac Sonography Tutorial and Track. Saidi was sponsored by Leif Penrose RT(R) (CT), RDMS, RDCS, RVT and his participation at the conference was supported through the SDMS Foundation's International Sonography Assistance Program.

Penrose, director of ultrasound programs at Georgia Northwestern Technical College in Rome, had met Kayiranga in 2008 while fulfilling a lifelong dream to work overseas.

Kayiranga worked as a radiographer and CT technologist at King Faisal Hospital, Kigali, Rwanda, where Penrose had gone in May and June of that year to teach sonography.

"Saidi had a very strong interest in learning to do sonography," Penrose recalls. What little sonography was done in Rwanda was done by physicians and was limited exams.

Unable to find a school that taught echocardiography on the African continent, Kayiranga was able to come to America in August and study at Georgia Northwestern.



Saidi Kayiranga and Leif Penrose, BA, RDMS, RVT, RDCS, RT (R)(CT)

Kayiranga said Rwanda, where the average life expectancy is 56.8 years, has a growing need for echo cardiographers who can do screening and diagnostic exams. While Rwanda has only two cardiologists, Team Heart, a team of cardiologists, echocardiographers and nurses from Boston, visit regularly to assist them in open heart surgery operations three times a year.

"When I return, I will be the first cardiac sonographer in a country of almost 12 million people," he said.



Donation Form

Thank you for your support of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Foundation!

Donor Information

SDMS Member # E-mail (receipt will be sent to this address)

Last Name First Name

Company (if applicable)

Address

City State/Province Zip+4/Postal Code Country (if not US) Daytime Phone

Office Use Only

Date Received _____

Notes: _____

Donation *

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$5000 Other Amount: \$

Please contact me as I am interested in:

- Making a large donation to the SDMS Foundation
- Making a multi-year pledge to the SDMS Foundation
- Donating stock to the SDMS Foundation
- Donating sonography books, videos, etc.
- Donating ultrasound equipment/supplies (in working condition)
- Making a planned gift or a bequest in my will to the SDMS Foundation

Payment Type:

Cash

Check Number: _____

(drawn on U.S. bank and payable in U.S. funds to the SDMS Foundation; Federal Tax ID 27-0335425)

Credit Card (\$10 minimum charge for credit/debit card)

American Express Discover MasterCard Visa

Cardholder's Name (as it appears on the card): _____

Cardholder's Billing Address (as it appears on statements): _____

City State/Province Zip+4/Postal Code

Credit Card Number Expiration Date 3 or 4-digit Security Code

* The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax exempt charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation will be deductible to the extent permitted by law (consult a tax professional).

**I hereby authorize the above charge to my credit card.
I understand that donations are non-refundable.**

Signature _____

Thank you for your support of the SDMS Foundation!

Thank You!

SDMS Foundation,

Thank You very much for the grant for the SDMS conference coming up this Fall. It is very appreciated!

Sincerely,

Ashton Crisco

Athens Technical College, DMS Student

SDMS Foundation,

I wanted to thank you and all of your contributors for the grant to attend the SDMS national conference in Atlanta this year. I appreciate all the hard work the SDMS Foundation does to give its members advantages they may not have otherwise and I hope that you are capable of continuing your work for the years to come.

Laura Brooks

Dear SDMS Foundation Members,

Hello, my name is Christine Schara, Program Chair for the DMS program at Athens Technical College in Athens, GA. I would like to express my appreciation for the \$500.00 grant to attend the SDMS conference in Atlanta 2011. I am humbled by your generosity. With the location in Atlanta this year I am proud to say my Clinical Coordinator and my entire class of nine DMS students will accompany me. They are as excited as I am to be able to attend the conference.

I have been a certified sonographer since 1976 and an SDMS member since 1994. I remember each conference I have attended, the many friendships I have made through the years with other sonography specialists, and the excellent lectures at each conference. I have seen the transformation of being considered a "glorified X-Ray Tech" to becoming a respected professional in my field.

Each year I see the number of SDMS members grow and along with those numbers the benefits of being a member have grown substantially. Starting with the orientation day of each class I teach I highly encourage students to become SDMS members and to continue their membership throughout their career. With journal article assignments for DMS students the SDMS journals have been used extensively.

The SDMS Foundation offers so many wonderful grants, support, and opportunities for sonographers. Again, my sincere thanks for the funds toward the SDMS conference. My students keep me informed and many have received grants also. What a wonderful opportunity for them! My memories of the years I have been a sonographer is a highlight of many lectures I give. I hope my graduates will enjoy telling their stories of the grand technologic advances, the respect for a sonographer and required skills, and know their professionalism is a mainstay of having a membership in the SDMS.

SEE YOU IN ATLANTA! THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU!!!

Sincerely,

Christine Schara BS, RDMS, CNMT, RT (R, N)

