

PET FORM
Planning and Evaluation Tracking
(2012-2013 Assessment Period)

Division of: [Health Science](#)

Person Responsible for this Division: [Mark Rowh](#)

Department of: [Sonography](#)

Primary Person Responsible for this Form: [Cindy Manchester](#)

Purpose Statement (With Last Updated Date): [In keeping with the mission of Amarillo College, the Sonography Program has a mission “to provide the student with positive learning experiences within an atmosphere of academic excellence and to assure that the student acquires the knowledge, skills and other abilities required of the entry-level sonographer to enhance the service area.” \(June 2011\)](#)

In addition, the Health Science Division Mission Statement is as follows: [In keeping with the mission of Amarillo College, the Health Sciences Division mission is to provide a comprehensive educational environment that will prepare the graduate to effectively engage in the daily challenges and responsibilities required of a competent entry-level Health Science Professional. \(updated August 2011\)](#)

The Division Philosophy states: [Health Science education at Amarillo College adheres to the philosophy that a Health Science Career is chosen and prepared for with a dedication of the student to the dignity and mental and physical well-being of the patient. \(updated August 2011\)](#)

Goal Statement #1:

[Educate and guide students to pass the nationally recognized Sonography Physics and Instrumentation exam through ARDMS, American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, as well as one or both specialty registries in Abdominal Sonography and/or Obstetrics and Gynecology.](#)

[This statement is in alignment with Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan: Expand Student Success.](#)

Strategy 1.1 Adjust instruction and services based on assessment data.

Tasks 1.1.1 [Employees will use institutional data/evidence to determine sustainability and viability based on trend lines for instruction, academic support services and student services.](#)

Outcome/Objective Statement #1A

(Be sure to include audience, behavior, conditions, degree/benchmark, and evaluation method):

[Standard E1.2: Program Assessment states that “Programs must maintain at least an 80% pass rate consecutive five year periods for their graduation on national certificate examinations. This pass rate is to include all examination attempts by the program graduates”.](#)

No Excuses Goal 5: Attainment of Credentials (National/State Certification Exams)

Sonography students will complete the program within 24 months. No less than 75% of students will pass with a grade of C or better in all required courses, thus earning their Associate of Applied Science Degree. With this, the student is now eligible to sit for National boards offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) in Sonography Physics and Instrumentation (SPI) and either one or both specialty concentrations of Abdominal and/or Obstetrics and Gynecology Sonography.

• **Results (If Applicable, Provide Numbers and Percentages for Quantitative Data)**

- **2010-2011 Data: No program existed**
- **2011-2012 Data: Numbers = 4 out of 4 and Percentage = 100% (Certificate program, not Assoc)**
 - Four of the seven Sonography students that finished the program December, 2011 have taken the Sonography Physics and Instrumentation Registry, all of which passed on first attempt.
 - Two of the seven Sonography students have not taken their physics registry due to incomplete basic/core classes, rendering them as “not complete with degree”.
 - One of the seven Sonography students has not taken their physics registry for reasons unknown.
 - Only one of the seven Sonography students has taken their specialty exam, Abdominal Sonography and she did not pass.
 - Six of the seven Sonography students have not taken their specialty exam, Abdominal and/or Obstetrics and Gynecology, for reasons unknown.

• **Analysis**

- *Provide Previous Data/Result Analysis*

(Include if benchmark was met and how results relate to outcome statement):

January 2011 started the first Sonography Program at Amarillo College with 7 students, all of which already had earned an AAS degree in Radiology. This was the first and only one-year certificate program to be offered, with the two-year, AAS-Sonography beginning January, 2012.

The remaining Sonography students may not ever sit for their boards while at Amarillo College as there is currently no mandate at this time to require registered sonographers in the medical field. In future years, this will be changing as Medicare has already mandated that all vascular technologists be registered or work in an accredited lab in order for reimbursement to be granted to the medical facility of the practicing vascular technologist. AC is being proactive in this effort to encourage students to sit for boards due to upcoming legislation. See “Improvements” section for more information.

• **Improvements**

- *List any Improvements Made in the 2011-2012 (Last Academic) Year:*
 - With the Amarillo College Sonography program now being a two-year, Associate program, there is now more time to spend with the students didactically to better prepare them for physics and specialty exams.
 - New 7th edition of textbook now being used that offers for information than the 6th edition, providing more available knowledge to the students.
 - Spoke with CEO of Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography to pinpoint future board testing requirements for Sonography students. Per that conversation it was concluded that this is currently a bill in the 113th Congress called CARE bill which, if passed, will require all sonographers to be

licensed/registered to show minimal competency, BUT after this bill is passed there will be a 4 year grandfathering in of all unregistered sonographers to allow them time to get education and credentials. So, no state mandates on registered sonographers for at least another 5 years.

- *Evaluate Why Improvements Were Successful/Were Not Successful:*

With additional didactic information, and an additional twelve months to prepare, the students in the Associate program are predicted to be more successful on the specialty exams, and are also expected to all take their registries shortly after completion of program.

- *What Budget Implications Were Involved with this Improvement? (Please Provide Cost Estimate/Details): N/A*

- **Recommendations/Actions for 2012-2013**

- Person Responsible (Who will complete the action?):

Program Director, Instructor and students are responsible for carrying out the action plan listed below.

- *Action Plan:*

1. Although currently there are no mandates requiring Abdominal or Obstetric/Gynecologic sonographers to be registered to practice, it is Amarillo College Sonography Programs goal to instill in the sonography students a sense of accomplishment and professional pride to encourage them to sit for National boards hosted by ARDMS shortly after graduating. This will be instilled in the students by stressing the importance of the competency of the sonographer to produce accurate exams/images as this field is more operator dependent than any other medical imaging field. I will cite occurrences of malpractice suits against unregistered sonographers performing subpar exams, causing unnecessary surgeries on patients, and patients being given a clean bill of health based off of sono, while in fact they were actually very sick, as the incompetent sonographer missed the diagnosis.

2. Advanced Professionalism and Registry Review is an additional class added to the Associate program curriculum to allow an entire 16 week semester spent on reviewing for the Sonography Physics and Instrumentation registry as well as the Abdominal Registry and Obstetrics and Gynecology Registry.

3. West 9th Street campus now has the additional Learning Center where Program Director/Concentration Coordinator plans to hold a registry review for Sonography Physics and Instrumentation, Abdominal, and Obstetrics and Gynecologic registries the day the students are scheduled to take their registries for increased student success.

- *Expected Time Frame Needed to Implement Action Plan (Please provide specific deadline date):*

- Associate degree plan, two full years, from January 2012 to December, 2013 to show results.
- These students will have more didactic information, more registry review which should be evident in test scores, shortly after graduation.

- *What Budget Implications Are Involved with this Action? (Please Provide Cost Estimate/Details): N/A*
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