The diagnostic medical sonography program curriculum is sequenced over a twenty four month period which includes six semesters. The program sequencing begins with basic knowledge of all required sonography courses recommended by the programs accreditors, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and progresses through each course building on the last. This progression allows the students to build on their foundational knowledge and steadily increase their understanding of sonography.

The semester prior to graduation, the senior students make their final preparations for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography national test. The Senior Capstone Review course is a review of all sonography courses from all five semesters. The course is divided into four large units. The abdominal unit of this course will prepare the student for the ARDMS Abdominal Registry. This unit includes an abdominal overview of the spleen, pancreas, gallbladder/biliary ducts, urinary tract, liver, adrenal glands, abdominal vasculature, and the gastrointestinal tract. Each of these areas are identified and examined and then followed through a sequence of sub-units. The five sub-units allow the students to systematically form a sonographic impression of the information they are provided. In sub-unit one, the students examine all information on the area. The information will include clinical findings, laboratory results, sonographic findings, and anatomy and physiology of the area. During sub-unit two, the students will compare and evaluate all findings and results from sub-unit one. In sub-unit three, the students should have the knowledge and ability to classify and establish a possible result based on all the findings provided. During sub-unit four, the students will speculate and draw a conclusion regarding all findings. They will speculate if the area in question is normal or abnormal and formulate a sonographic impression based on their findings. The students must justify their sonographic impression based on all results and findings. The expectation of justification of sonographic impression in sub-unit five is an expectation of an entry-level sonographer. If a student has the ability and knowledge to exercise sub-units one through five on all areas of the abdomen, then I am confident that they are prepared for the ARDMS Abdominal Registry.