INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Indiana Board for Proprietary Education

New Program Proposal Form

For BPE Authorized Institutions

[AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology[1]] To Be Offered by [Stellar Career College] at [Crown Point]

Program Details	
Degree Award Level[2]:	Associate's Degree
Mode of Delivery (In-person, Online, or Blended[3]):	Online (Blended)
Career Relevant/Out-of-Classroom Experiences[4]:	Externship
Suggested CIP Code for Program:	51.0910
Author Details	
Name of Person Preparing this Form:	Zulfiqar Satti, PhD
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Date the Form was Prepared (Use date last revised):	First Submission: November 17, 2025 Updated: February 06, 2026

[1] The “program name” should follow this format: [degree designation] in [field of study]. Examples of program names are A.S. in Nursing or B.S. in Business Administration.

The term “program” refers to an approved set of courses or a curriculum, completion of which leads to the award of an undergraduate or graduate certificate or an associate's or a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. Some institutions use the term “major” interchangeably with “degree program,” in which case the Commission will also regard the major as a degree program. Programs approved by the Commission are listed in its Academic Program Inventory (API), a comprehensive listing of all active and inactive certificate and degree programs at all levels offered by Indiana colleges and universities.

The term “program” does not typically refer to a curricular subdivision, such as a major, concentration, specialization, track, or option. However, under certain circumstances, such as those related to workforce needs, economic development, accreditation requirements, and licensure/certification, the Commission may regard curricular subdivisions as programs that require approval by the Commission and listing in the API.

[2] The “Degree Award Level” refers to the following categories (see Degree Award Level Definitions for additional detail.

1. Award of Less than One Academic Year
2. Award of at Least One but Less than Two Academic Years
3. Associate’s Degree
4. Postsecondary Award, Certificate, or Diploma of at Least Two but Less than Four Academic Years
5. Bachelor’s Degree
6. Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
7. Master’s Degree
8. Post-Master’s Certificate

17. Doctor’s Degree-Research/Scholarship
18. Doctor’s Degree-Professional Practice
19. Doctor’s Degree-Other

[3] For Commission purposes, “online” includes two categories: 100% online and blended programs, i.e., 80-99% is online, with the remaining portion in-person.

[4] Career Relevant/Out-of-Classroom Experiences include, but are not limited to, co-ops, internships, clinicals, practica, capstone projects, employer critiques, and study abroad programs. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Readiness Competencies and Statewide Career Relevance Definition provide additional information about student engagement experiences with career relevance.

5 CIP Code refers to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), a six-digit code in the form of xx.xxxx that identifies instructional program specialties offered by educational institutions. The U.S. Department of Education's National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) developed these codes as a taxonomy for reporting student enrollment and degree completion data by area of study to the federal government. The State of Indiana uses these codes for similar purposes. The CIP taxonomy is organized on three levels (2-digit, 4-digit, 6-digit). The 2-digit series (sometimes referred to as a CIP family) represents the most general groupings of related programs, while the 6-digit codes represent specific instructional programs. NCES initially published CIP codes in 1980, with revisions occurring in 1985, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

1. Program Objectives

a. Program Rationale

- Describe what the program is designed to achieve and explain how it is structured in order to accomplish the objectives.

SCC Response:

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Vascular Sonography Technology

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Vascular Sonography Technology at Stellar Career College is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment as vascular sonographers who work alongside physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular disorders. Vascular technologists perform non-invasive vascular examinations to assess blood flow, identify blockages and other abnormalities, and provide preliminary technical impressions that support physician interpretation. Graduates are trained in vascular scanning techniques, vascular anatomy and pathophysiology, and patient care and safety so they can help monitor blood flow to organs and tissues, locate and identify stenosis and plaque, detect deep venous thrombosis (DVT), determine whether patients are good candidates for interventions such as angioplasty, evaluate the success of grafts and bypass procedures, identify aneurysms, and evaluate varicose veins.

To accomplish these objectives, the AAS program is structured as a sequenced curriculum that combines general education, core didactic courses, hands-on laboratory instruction, and supervised clinical externship. Foundational coursework in medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, and basic health sciences provides the scientific background needed to understand vascular disease. This is followed by specialized courses in vascular sonography physics and instrumentation, cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular imaging, and vascular disease processes, each paired with structured lab experiences where students practice scanning techniques and image optimization under faculty supervision. The program culminates in a required clinical externship in affiliated vascular laboratories and imaging centers, where students apply classroom and lab learning in real patient-care settings, refine their technical skills and professional behavior, and gain the case volume and diversity expected by employers and certification bodies. Upon successful completion of all curricular and clinical requirements, students are awarded the Associate of Applied Science in Vascular Sonography Technology from Stellar Career College, which provides the educational preparation needed to pursue the Vascular Sonography examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and to enter the workforce as competent, patient-centered vascular sonographers.

b. Program Structure

- List all courses in the program. Indicate course name, course number, and number of credit hours or clock hours for each course.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Total Course Hours:

96 Quarter Credits</td><td colspan="3">Check one:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Quarter Hours
●</td><td>Semester Hours
☐</td><td>Clock Hours
☐</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Tuition: $28,800</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="2">Length of Program:

24 months (8 quarters FT)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Special Fees: $100 (Registration Fee)</td></tr>
</table>

SPECIALTY COURSES: 72 Quarter Credits Hours		
Course Number	**Course Title**	**Course Hours**
BIO 102	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIO 104	Healthcare Laws and Ethics	3
BIO 105	Patient Care in Imaging	3
BIO 106	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIO 107	Imaging Pathology	3
VAS 111	Vascular Sonography I	3
VAS 112	Vascular Sonography I Lab	4
VAS 113	Vascular Sonography II	3
VAS 114	Vascular Sonography II Lab	4
VAS 211	Vascular Sonography III	3
VAS 221	Vascular Sonography III Lab	2
VAS 231	Registry Review	3
DMS 221	Fundamentals of Sonography I (Prenatal and Obstretics) V	3
DMS 231	Fundamentals of Sonography (Gynecology/Pelvic) VI	3
DMS 241	Fundamentals of Sonography (Comprehensive VII)	3
VAS 121	Externship I	13
VAS 221	Externship II	13

GENERAL EDUCATION / LIBERAL ARTS COURSES: 24 Quarter Credits Hours		
Course Number	**Course Title**	**Course Hours**
ENG 111	English Composition I	4.5
ENG 212	English Composition II	4.5
Psych 114	Introduction to Psychology	4.5

MAT 113	Mathematics	4.5
BIO 211	Healthcare Information Technology Management	6

Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in Specialty Courses: 72 / 96 Percentage: 75%

Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in General Courses: 24 / 96 Percentage: 25%

If applicable:
Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in Liberal Arts: _____ / _____ Percentage: _____

2. Library

a. Library Rationale

- Please provide information pertaining to the library located in your institution
    - **Location of library; Hours of student access; Part-time, full-time librarian/staff:**
    - **Number of volumes of professional material:**
    - **Number of professional periodicals subscribed to:**
    - **Other library facilities in close geographical proximity for student access:**

Scc Response:

Stellar Career College (SCC) maintains a comprehensive Learning Resource System (LRS) designed to fully support the instructional, research, and professional needs of students and faculty at the proposed Crown Point, Indiana, branch campus. SCC has made a substantial institutional investment in both physical and electronic library resources, and a dedicated program budget has been allocated for the continued expansion of these materials.

Learning Resource System (LRS) Components

The LRS provides access to:

- Current textbooks and professional reference materials
- Peer-reviewed journals and research databases
- Standard academic reference works
- Multimedia learning tools
- Advanced electronic research platforms

These resources collectively ensure that students have access to up-to-date, discipline-specific information aligned with the program's learning outcomes.

Online Library Access (LIRN + Elsevier + EBSCO)

SCC maintains a robust online library through the Library and Information Resources Network (LIRN), accessible 24/7 through SCC's Moodle Learning Management System. LIRN provides access to millions of peer-reviewed and full-text:

- Academic journals
- Magazines and newspapers
- E-books
- Multimedia and video content
- Professional databases

Current LIRN resources available to SCC students include:

Gale Databases

- Gale Health Bundle
- Gale Health & Wellness
- Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine
- Gale OneFile: Nursing & Allied Health
- Gale Interactive Anatomy
- Gale Interactive Science

ProQuest Databases

- ProQuest Core
- ProQuest Central

Gale eBooks (discipline-specific online texts)

Students are also trained to use **Google Scholar** for locating freely accessible academic articles and research studies.

Additional Digital Resources (To Be Purchased Prior to Implementation)

Before program implementation (post-ACCSC approval), SCC will add:

1. Elsevier ScienceDirect

- Peer-reviewed journals, articles, and e-books in nursing, imaging, surgical technology, healthcare administration, logistics, cybersecurity, and general sciences
- Over **47,000 authors** represented
- Full interdisciplinary support for AAS-level academic programs

2. EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)

Provides unified access to:

- Full-text journals
- E-books
- Tutorials, subject guides, and educational videos
- Medline with Full Text
- Full Text Finder
- Business, Health, IT/Security, Criminal Justice, and Trade/Vocational collections

This platform consolidates all databases into a single, user-friendly search interface.

Library Staffing

The Learning Resource System is supported by:

- **One trained full-time staff member** responsible for academic resources and digital access support
- **One part-time librarian**, available for research assistance, citation support, and technical help

Physical Library Access Nearby

In addition to SCC's on-campus and online resources, students have access to several nearby public library systems:

1. Crown Point Community Library
122 N Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307
Mon–Thu: 9 AM–8 PM | Fri–Sat: 9 AM–5 PM | Sun: 1 PM–5 PM

2. Winfield Branch Library
10771 Randolph St, Winfield, IN 46307
Mon/Wed/Fri: 10 AM–5 PM | Tue/Thu: 10 AM–7 PM | Sat: 10 AM–2 PM

3. Merrillville Branch, Lake County Public Library
1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410
Mon–Thu: 10 AM–8:30 PM | Tue/Thu: 10 AM–7 PM | Sat: 9 AM–5 PM

These facilities provide additional study space, general collections, and access to Indiana statewide interlibrary loan services.

3. Faculty

a. Qualifications

- Elaborating on the information provided in the degree program's developmental timeline under (1.b.), **Attach completed Instructor's Qualification Record for each instructor.**
  **** Include** all required documentation **pertaining to the qualifications of each instructor.**

Total # of Faculty in the Program: 9	**Full-time: 2**	**Part-time: 8**
Fill out form below: (PLEASE LIST NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.)		

List Faculty Names (Alphabetical Order)	Degree or Diploma Earned (M.S. in Mathematics)	# Years of Working Experience in Specialty	# Years Teaching at Your School	# Years Teaching at Other	Check one:	
					Full-time	Part-time

Dr. Ajmal, Javaid	Management (DM)– Healthcare Management, Master of Public Health, MD	8	3	11	X	
Dr. Amos, Michael	DPsych	10	3	5		X
Dr. Ayala, Joel	MD	9	4	20	X	
Dr. Ayesha, Shaukat	MD	15	3	10		X
Batko, Katazaryna	BS	5	2	1		X
Buss, Anatoly	MSIT, MPA, MA Ed. Mgt	9	4	7		X
McKnight, Brian	MFA	23	2	23		X
Dr. Santamaria, Margarita	PhD Global Leadership, MS	19	3	19		X
Dr. Santamaria, Rodolfo	PhD Global Leadership, MBA	19	3	19		X
Dr. Saunder, Stephanie	Doctor of Education, Master of Healthcare Administration	20	5	14		X

b. Occupational Outlook: Projected Employment Trends

- As required under IC 21-18-9-5(b), summarize the current and projected labor market supply and demand for the occupations, occupational classifications, and industries identified as most relevant to the proposed degree program under (3.d.). Provide evidence in regional (if available), state, and national terms. The proposal must demonstrate that graduates of the proposed degree program should have promising career opportunities.

SCC Response:

Evidence of Labor Market Need

The proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Vascular Sonography Technology is aligned with the federally recognized occupation Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SOC 29-2032), which explicitly includes vascular technologists. Graduates are also relevant to the broader occupational group Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians (SOC 29-2031), which encompasses noninvasive vascular testing roles in hospitals, imaging centers, and physician practices.

National labor market demand

Nationally, employment of diagnostic medical sonographers is projected to grow 13% from 2024–2034, much faster than the average for all occupations, with about 5,800 job openings per year due to growth and replacement needs. Cardiovascular technologists and technicians are projected to grow by about 3% over the same period, with approximately 3,800 openings per year. Overall healthcare occupations in the U.S. are expected to grow significantly faster than the total labor market, with about 1.9 million openings annually across healthcare roles.

Because vascular sonographers are included within the diagnostic medical sonographer category, these projections indicate a sustained, national-level shortage of qualified sonographers, particularly in specialized areas such as vascular imaging where aging populations, high prevalence of cardiovascular disease, and increased reliance on noninvasive diagnostics continue to drive demand.

Statewide and regional demand in Indiana

In Indiana, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are identified by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development as an in-demand, middle-skill health science occupation with an average salary of approximately $81,000 and an average time-to-fill of 52 days, indicating difficulty finding qualified candidates.Regional projections for Northwest Indiana (a key part of the College's service area) show that Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are expected to experience 17% employment growth with strong wages, placing them among the top middle-skill, in-demand jobs requiring some college or an associate degree.

Real-time job postings reinforce this demand. A current snapshot shows dozens of active postings for sonographers in Indiana on major job boards, including openings in vascular, cardiac, and general sonography across hospital systems and specialty vascular/vein centers. These data demonstrate that Indiana employers are consistently recruiting for sonography roles and that the market can readily absorb additional qualified graduates, especially in vascular imaging.

Current supply of programs and graduates

Despite this documented demand, Indiana has a relatively limited number of sonography education programs overall, and only a subset offer dedicated vascular training. CareerOneStop identifies nine diagnostic medical sonography training programs in the state, spanning community colleges, private colleges, and universities. Examples include:

- Ivy Tech Community College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, which offers general sonography with optional vascular and cardiac concentrations.
- Ascension St. Vincent's Diagnostic Medical Sonography AAS program in Indianapolis, accredited in abdomen-extended, obstetric, and vascular concentrations.

- The University of Southern Indiana and Indiana University programs, which primarily offer bachelor's-level sonography education with vascular as one of several concentrations.

These programs are geographically concentrated (primarily central and southern Indiana), are not all at the associate level, and often cap enrollment due to clinical placement capacity. As a result, the number of graduates entering the workforce each year is modest relative to statewide and regional projections for sonography demand. The specific niche of vascular sonography which requires additional specialized coursework and significant clinical exposure is even less saturated, creating an identifiable skills gap for vascular laboratories, cardiology practices, vein centers, and hospital imaging departments.

Taken together, the national projections of above-average growth, the Indiana-specific evidence of high wages and extended time-to-fill for diagnostic medical sonography positions, and the limited number of programs producing graduates especially with focused vascular preparation demonstrate a clear and sustained demand for vascular sonographers.

By offering an AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology aligned with these high-demand occupations and industry standards, Stellar Career College's proposed program will:

- Help address a documented regional and statewide shortage of vascular-trained sonographers;
- Provide an accessible associate-degree pathway for students seeking rapid entry into a high-wage, high-demand allied health career; and
- Supply Indiana's hospitals, vascular labs, imaging centers, and specialty practices with graduates who are specifically prepared for vascular diagnostic roles.

Accordingly, graduates of the proposed degree program should have strong and sustained career opportunities at the regional, state, and national levels.

4. Rationale for the Program

a. Institutional Rationale (Alignment with Institutional Mission and Strengths)

- Why is the institution proposing this program, and how does it build upon institutional strengths?

Scc Response:

The institution is proposing the Associate of Applied Science in Vascular Sonography Technology in direct response to documented workforce needs in vascular imaging and to expand high-demand career pathways within its established strength in allied health and diagnostic imaging. Cardiovascular and peripheral vascular disease remain major causes of morbidity and mortality, and referring physicians increasingly depend on noninvasive vascular testing to diagnose, monitor, and treat these conditions. Employers in the region report persistent difficulty recruiting credentialed vascular sonographers, particularly at the associate-degree level. By developing a focused AAS program, the institution can help address this shortage while providing students with an accessible, career-oriented route into a high-skill, high-wage health profession.

This proposed program builds very deliberately on the institution's existing infrastructure, expertise, and track record in imaging education. The college already operates accredited, clinically intensive

programs in areas such as Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Echocardiography/Noninvasive Cardiovascular Sonography, Radiologic Technology, MRI, CT, and an Advanced Diploma in Vascular Sonography Technologist. It has experienced faculty with ARDMS/ARRT vascular and cardiac credentials, fully equipped ultrasound laboratories, and a network of clinical affiliates, hospitals, vascular laboratories, vein centers, and imaging practices, that currently host students and hire graduates. The AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology leverages these existing resources by:

- Using the same high-quality ultrasound equipment, lab space, and learning management systems already in place for other imaging programs;
- Drawing on seasoned sonography faculty to design curriculum aligned with current professional standards and national registry expectations; and
- Expanding existing clinical affiliation agreements to include structured vascular sonography externships that meet competency and case-volume requirements.

Finally, the AAS structure represents a natural evolution of the college's current vascular sonography offering. Building on the Advanced Diploma curriculum, the degree adds general education, expanded pathology and patient-care content, and a more robust clinical sequence to support critical thinking, communication, and long-term career advancement, including transfer into related bachelor's programs. In this way, the proposed program is not a departure from institutional practice but a strategic deepening of an area where the institution is already strong diagnostic imaging and sonography while advancing its mission to prepare diverse, place-bound learners for in-demand healthcare careers.

- How is it consistent with the mission of the institution, and how does this program fit into the institution's strategic plan (please provide a link to the strategic plan)?

SCC Response:

Mission Alignment and Fit Within the Institutional Strategic Plan

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Vascular Sonography Technology is fully consistent with Stellar Career College's mission to provide accessible, career-focused education that prepares diverse learners for in-demand, skills-based careers in healthcare and other high-need fields. The College's mission emphasizes hands-on training, close alignment with employer expectations, and meaningful opportunities for adult and place-bound students to improve their economic mobility through high-quality credential and degree pathways.

Vascular sonography directly advances this mission by preparing graduates for a clearly defined, high-demand allied health role that improves patient outcomes in the area of cardiovascular and peripheral vascular disease. The program's emphasis on applied learning simulation, lab-based skill development, and supervised clinical externship mirrors the institution's long-standing educational model in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Echocardiography/NICVS, Radiologic Technology, MRI, and other imaging programs. The addition of an AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology extends that successful model to a specialized field where regional employers have documented need, thereby strengthening the College's contribution to community health and workforce development.

The program also aligns directly with key priorities in the institution's current strategic plan, including:

- Expanding high-demand healthcare programs that respond to documented labor market needs and support state and regional workforce development goals;
- Strengthening pathways from certificates and diplomas to associate degrees, thereby increasing stackable credentials and opportunities for academic and career advancement;
- Deepening employer and clinical partnerships with hospitals, vascular laboratories, vein centers, and imaging practices through expanded externship placements and advisory input; and
- Enhancing student success and completion by embedding general education, professional skills, and licensure/registry preparation into all degree programs.

Within this framework, the AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology is a strategic evolution of the College's existing Advanced Diploma in Vascular Sonography Technologist. It converts an already successful, workforce-responsive offering into a degree pathway that supports transfer options, long-term career advancement, and alignment with state expectations for associate-level programs, particularly under IC 21-18-9.

b. State Rationale: General
   - How does this program address state priorities as reflected in the Commission's most recent strategic plan, the HOPE (Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education) Agenda?

Scc Response:

Alignment with State Priorities: HOPE (Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education) Agenda

The proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Vascular Sonography Technology directly supports the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's **HOPE Agenda**, which emphasizes increasing educational attainment, strengthening the state's workforce pipeline, and expanding opportunities for Hoosiers to access high-value, career-aligned postsecondary credentials. The program advances each of the Agenda's priority areas in the following ways:

1. Expanding Access to High-Value Postsecondary Credentials

The HOPE Agenda underscores the importance of ensuring that Hoosiers particularly adult learners and working students have access to shorter-term, affordable pathways that lead to high-demand careers. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Vascular Sonography Technology addresses this priority by offering a two-year, workforce-oriented credential that prepares students for immediate employment in a critical healthcare field. The program provides a clear route to national certification, which enhances employability and aligns with the HOPE Agenda's emphasis on credentials with strong labor market value.

2. Strengthening Indiana's Healthcare Workforce Pipeline

Indiana faces persistent shortages of Vascular Sonography technologists across hospital systems, ambulatory surgery centers, and perioperative departments. The HOPE Agenda emphasizes addressing

workforce shortages in essential sectors, including healthcare. By supplying trained, certification-eligible surgical technologists, the program helps alleviate a statewide shortage, supports hospital staffing stability, and contributes to improved patient care and surgical outcomes. This aligns directly with HOPE's call to prioritize talent development in industries critical to Indiana's economy and public well-being.

3. Supporting Economic Mobility and Career Advancement for Hoosiers

A core goal of the HOPE Agenda is to increase the number of Hoosiers earning credentials that lead to sustainable wages and long-term career pathways. Vascular Sonography is recognized as a middle-skill healthcare occupation with competitive wages, strong entry-level opportunities, and clear advancement pathways into surgical assisting, nursing, and healthcare leadership. By preparing graduates for immediate employment with strong wage prospects, the program advances HOPE's vision for upward mobility and economic opportunity for Indiana residents.

4. Advancing Adult Education and Reskilling Opportunities

The HOPE Agenda highlights the need to bring adult learners back into the education system and to support reskilling, particularly in high-demand occupations. The Vascular Sonography Technology program is structured to attract adult learners, career changers, and individuals seeking accelerated entry into the healthcare workforce. Flexible scheduling, hands-on training, and career-focused curriculum support the HOPE priority of meeting learners "where they are" and reducing barriers to postsecondary participation.

5. Strengthening Regional Workforce Alignment

The HOPE Agenda calls for improved coordination between higher education institutions and regional employers to ensure programs align with workforce needs. The proposed program directly supports this by leveraging SCC's existing partnerships with hospitals, imaging centers, and clinical affiliates in Northwest Indiana and the greater Chicagoland metro area. These partnerships inform curriculum design and ensure that graduates are job-ready, meeting the HOPE goal of aligning educational offerings with regional economic priorities.

6. Promoting Efficient and Quality Educational Delivery

The HOPE Agenda emphasizes innovation, workforce relevance, and responsible program development. SCC's proposal meets these directives by:

- building upon existing clinical education infrastructure,
- using experienced faculty already engaged in perioperative and allied health training,
- integrating simulation-based learning that enhances skill development, and
- maintaining alignment with CAAHEP and national certification standards.

This ensures efficient use of resources and high-quality program delivery, consistent with the Commission's expectations for responsible institutional growth.

c. **State Rationale: Economic and Social Mobility**

- How does this program address the mobility initiative [6. Measurable distinction in economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes of the HOPE (Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education) Agenda?

SCC Response:

The AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology directly advances HOPE Agenda Goal 6 by moving more Hoosiers into high-skill, high-wage healthcare roles with clear, measurable economic and social mobility gains. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has documented that each additional level of education beyond high school is linked to better quality of life and stronger economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. By providing an associate-degree pathway into a specialized imaging profession, this program contributes to raising Indiana's overall credential attainment and improving the state's current ranking on HOPE Goal 6.

Vascular sonography graduates enter the broader category of cardiovascular technologists and technicians, a field with median annual earnings around $67, 260 nationally and approximately $66,730 in Indiana, well above wages in many non-credentialed occupations and close to or above the overall U.S. average wage. This wage premium, combined with strong and growing demand for cardiovascular and diagnostic imaging services across Indiana's hospitals and outpatient facilities, positions graduates for rapid entry into stable, benefit-eligible employment that can lift households into the middle class.

The program is intentionally structured to support mobility for learners who have historically been underrepresented in higher education, working adults, first-generation students, and low- to moderate-income Hoosiers, through accessible admissions requirements, alignment with state and federal financial aid, and scheduling that accommodates employment and family responsibilities. In keeping with the HOPE Agenda's pillars of enrollment, completion, and graduate retention, the institution will track and report key indicators such as on-time completion, first-destination employment, starting wages, and in-state job placement. These data will demonstrate a "measurable distinction" in economic and social mobility outcomes for graduates and provide evidence that the AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology is contributing to Indiana's broader strategy to strengthen human capital and prosperity for Hoosiers.

d. Evidence of Labor Market Need

- National, State, or Regional Need

Evidence of Labor Market Need

National, State, and Regional Need for Vascular Sonography Technologists

The proposed AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology responds to a clear and well-documented labor market need at the national, state, and regional levels. Nationally, vascular sonographers are classified within Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SOC 29-2032), which explicitly includes vascular technologists. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of diagnostic medical sonographers to grow 13% from 2024–2034, much faster than the average for all occupations (3%)—with approximately 5,800 job openings per year over the decade. Cardiovascular technologists and technicians (SOC 29-2031), who work closely with vascular imaging teams, are also projected to grow and are recognized as associate-degree–level health professionals. This growth is driven by the aging U.S. population, rising cardiovascular disease, and the shift toward cost-effective, noninvasive diagnostic imaging.

In terms of wages, the occupation provides strong economic returns. Nationally, diagnostic medical sonographers earn a median annual wage of $89,340, substantially above the overall U.S. median wage. Cardiovascular technologists and technicians earn a national median of about $67,260. In Indiana and neighboring Midwestern labor markets, diagnostic medical sonographers typically earn from roughly $65,000 to over $100,000 annually based on wage distributions reported for Indiana communities, while recent salary analyses estimate average annual earnings near $100,000 for vascular technologists and over $110,000 for vascular sonographers in the state. These wage levels underscore that vascular sonography is a high-skill, high-wage field appropriate for a career-oriented associate degree.

Indiana-specific data further confirm the need. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development identifies Diagnostic

Medical Sonographers as one of the state's "Top Healthcare Occupations" and an in-demand job requiring an associate degree. Recent analyses of DWD projections indicate that diagnostic medical sonography positions in Indiana are expected to grow by approximately 18% from 2020–2030, faster than the average for all occupations in the state. Current job postings show dozens of open diagnostic and vascular sonographer positions across Indiana's hospitals and imaging centers, including Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Lafayette, Evansville, and other regional hubs. Collectively, these national and state indicators demonstrate a sustained and growing demand for well-prepared vascular sonography professionals, and they support the need for an AAS-level Vascular Sonography Technology program to help meet Indiana's workforce and healthcare access needs.

- Number of volumes of professional material:

SCC Response:

The College maintains a physical library with more than 1,000 professional texts and reference materials to support student learning and research. In addition, students have access to extensive online library resources through the Canvas Learning Management System, including the Library and Information Resources Network (LIRN). Through LIRN, students can access a comprehensive collection of more than 65,000 academic volumes, scholarly articles, journals, e-books, and other digital research materials. These combined resources ensure that students have robust and diverse information support for all coursework and academic projects.

e. Placement of Graduates
- Please describe the principal occupations and industries in which the majority of graduates are expected to find employment.

SCC Response:

Graduates of the AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology are expected to obtain employment primarily in noninvasive vascular imaging roles within the broader diagnostic medical sonography and cardiovascular technology workforce. Typical job titles include Vascular Sonographer, Vascular Technologist, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (Vascular specialty), Cardiovascular Technologist – Vascular, and Noninvasive Vascular Lab Technologist. These positions align with federal occupational classifications such as *Diagnostic Medical Sonographers* and *Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians* (SOC 29-2030 series), which encompass professionals who perform noninvasive ultrasound evaluation of the peripheral and cerebrovascular circulation.

The majority of graduates are expected to work in hospitals and integrated health systems (e.g., noninvasive vascular laboratories, cardiology departments, radiology/imaging departments, and surgical/vascular service lines). Additional employment opportunities include freestanding outpatient imaging centers, vascular surgery and cardiology group practices, multispecialty physician clinics, mobile imaging providers, and large primary-care or specialty practices that maintain onsite diagnostic imaging. In these settings, graduates will perform and document vascular ultrasound examinations, support physicians in diagnosis and treatment planning for vascular disease, contribute to quality assurance and patient safety initiatives, and help expand access to timely, noninvasive vascular diagnostics for communities across Indiana and the region.

• If the program is primarily a feeder for graduate programs, please describe the principal kinds of graduate programs, in which the majority of graduates are expected to be admitted.

SCC Response: This is not applicable.

f. Job Titles
- List specific job titles and broad job categories that would be appropriate for a graduate of this program.

SCC Response:

Graduates are qualified for positions such as:

- Vascular Sonographer
- Vascular Technologist
- Vascular Ultrasound Technologist
- Vascular Ultrasound Sonographer
- Noninvasive Vascular Lab Technologist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer – Vascular
- Cardiovascular Technologist – Vascular
- Peripheral Vascular Sonographer
- Neurovascular Sonographer (in settings with cerebrovascular focus)

Broad Job Categories

- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
- Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
- Health Technologists and Technicians (Other)
- Allied Health/Imaging Professionals in Hospitals and Outpatient Centers

5. Information on Competencies, Learning Outcomes, and Assessment

a. Program Competencies or Learning Outcomes

- List the significant competencies or learning outcomes that students completing this program are expected to master.

SCC Response:

Upon completion of the proposed AAS Vascular Sonography Technology program, graduates will be able to:

1. **Apply Vascular Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology**
    - Demonstrate working knowledge of normal and abnormal vascular anatomy, hemodynamics, and pathophysiology of peripheral, cerebrovascular, and abdominal vasculature.
2. **Perform Comprehensive Vascular Ultrasound Examinations**
    - Independently perform standard noninvasive vascular ultrasound procedures (e.g., carotid duplex, venous duplex for DVT, arterial studies, graft and stent surveillance, abdominal vascular exams) according to current professional practice guidelines.
3. **Optimize Image Quality and Use Ultrasound Physics**
    - Apply principles of ultrasound physics and instrumentation to optimize image quality, adjust scanning parameters, troubleshoot artifacts, and ensure accurate hemodynamic measurements.
4. **Acquire, Analyze, and Document Diagnostic Data**
    - Accurately obtain Doppler waveforms and velocity measurements, calculate indices, recognize normal and abnormal patterns, and produce complete, concise, and accurate exam documentation for physician interpretation.
5. **Provide Safe, Compassionate Patient Care**
    - Deliver age-appropriate and culturally responsive patient care, including patient identification, history-taking, preparation, positioning, monitoring, and post-exam care exhiwhile maintaining safety, privacy, and dignity.

b. Civic Responsibility and Commitment
   - How does the proposed program cultivate civic responsibility and commitment to the core values of American society? For example, how does the curriculum include components that emphasize civic engagement and the duties of citizenship in a free society?

SCC Response:

The AAS in Vascular Sonography cultivates civic responsibility by preparing students to enter a healthcare profession that directly serves the public and supports the health and well-being of diverse communities. The curriculum includes both general education and specialty coursework that reinforce the core values of American society, including respect for individuals, ethical behavior, personal responsibility, and service to others.

General education courses such as English Composition I and II (ENG 111, ENG 212) strengthen communication skills that are essential for participating in a democratic society and engaging respectfully with people from different backgrounds. Introduction to Psychology (PSY 114) and Mathematics (MAT 113) help students develop critical thinking, cultural awareness, and data literacy, which support informed decision making and responsible citizenship. Healthcare Information Technology Management (BIO 211) introduces students to patient rights, confidentiality, and the responsible use of information systems, all of which reflect societal expectations for privacy, accountability, and ethical conduct.

Specialty courses reinforce civic values through the ethical and professional responsibilities required in patient care. Healthcare Laws and Ethics (BIO 104) teaches students about legal obligations, professional standards, and ethical expectations in healthcare, including patient autonomy, informed consent, nondiscrimination, and equitable treatment. Patient Care in Imaging (BIO 105) emphasizes compassion, empathy, safety, and service to vulnerable populations, which aligns with the civic duties of contributing positively to community well-being.

The vascular sonography courses and clinical experiences, including VAS 111, 112, 113, 114, 211, 221, 231, and the required Externship I and Externship II, place students in real healthcare settings where they serve patients from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, and demographic backgrounds. These experiences teach students the importance of professionalism, integrity, respect for human dignity, and commitment to the common good.

Through the combination of general education, ethical instruction, patient care training, and supervised clinical externships, the AAS in Vascular Sonography promotes civic engagement, personal responsibility, and a commitment to serving both the healthcare system and the broader community.

c. Assessments
   - Summarize how the institution intends to assess students with respect to mastery of program competencies or learning outcomes.

SCC Response:

Student mastery of the AAS Vascular Sonography Technology program competencies will be evaluated through a combination of course-embedded, clinical, and summative assessments within a regular outcomes-assessment cycle. Didactic courses will use graded exams, quizzes, written assignments, and projects that are explicitly mapped to program learning outcomes (e.g., vascular anatomy, physics, pathology, ethics, communication). Laboratory and simulation experiences will assess hands-on skills through structured skills checklists, practical examinations, image critique, and faculty observation of scanning techniques, patient interaction, and safety practices. In the clinical education sequence, students will be evaluated by clinical preceptors and faculty using standardized clinical performance tools that measure competency in exam performance, patient care, professionalism, and teamwork across multiple vascular exam types.

Program-level mastery will be confirmed through a comprehensive capstone/registry-review course, cumulative practical examinations, and tracking of graduate performance on relevant national certification examinations (e.g., ARRT vascular credentials). The institution will also collect and review graduate and employer surveys, job placement data, and advisory board feedback to confirm that program outcomes align with workforce expectations. Assessment results will be analyzed

annually by faculty and program leadership and used to inform continuous improvement in curriculum, instruction, and clinical learning experiences.

6. Program Information on Composite Score, Licensure, Certification, and Accreditation

a. Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Score

- Provide the institution's most recent Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Score, whether published online, provided in written form by the U.S. Department of Education, or calculated by an independent auditor using the methodology prescribed by the U.S. Department of Education.

SCC Response:
Please see below

SECTION 3: Composite Score Calculation

COMPOSITE SCORE

	Ratio	Strength Factor	Weight	Composite Scores
Primary Ratio	0.33932	3.0000	30%	0.900000
Equity Ratio	0.20147	1.2088	40%	0.483530
Net Income Ratio	0.16681	3.0000	30%	0.900000
				2.283530

b. State Licensure

- Does a graduate of this program need to be licensed by the State to practice their profession in Indiana and if so, will this program prepare them for licensure?
- If so, please identify:
- The specific license(s) needed:
- The State agency issuing the license(s):

No. As of the date of this proposal, Indiana does not require a state license to practice as a diagnostic medical sonographer or vascular technologist. Accordingly, graduates of the AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology do not need state licensure in Indiana to work in their profession.

Although licensure is not required, most Indiana employers require or strongly prefer sonographers to hold a national professional credential such as:

- ARDMS Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)
- CCI Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS)
- ARRT Registered Technologist – Vascular Sonography (RT(VS)

The proposed curriculum is designed to meet commonly used eligibility pathways for these national certification examinations by providing the appropriate mix of didactic instruction, vascular ultrasound laboratory training, and supervised clinical education. The proposed associate degree trains students to be eligible to ARRT's Vascular Sonography credential. This preparation supports graduates in pursuing national certification, which is the de facto practice standard in Indiana, and positions them to meet licensure requirements in other states should Indiana adopt licensure in the future or graduates choose to practice elsewhere.

c. Professional Certification
   - What are the professional certifications that exist for graduates of similar program(s)?

Several nationally recognized professional certifications exist for graduates of vascular sonography and closely related diagnostic medical sonography programs. The primary credentials include:

- **Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)** – Awarded by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)/APCA; certifies competence in vascular ultrasound practice.

- **Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS)** – Awarded by Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI); a vascular ultrasound credential for professionals specializing in vascular studies.

- **Vascular Sonography – RT(VS)** – An ARRT credential recognizing radiologic technologists who specialize in vascular sonography.

• Will a graduate of this program be prepared to obtain national professional certification(s) in order to find employment, or to have substantially better prospects for employment, in a related job in Indiana?

Yes. The AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology is intentionally designed to prepare graduates to pursue national professional certifications that are widely recognized by Indiana employers and that significantly enhance employment prospects.

The curriculum will:

- Align coursework and clinical training with the content outlines and eligibility pathways for national credential: ARRT Vascular Sonography – RT(VS)
- Provide foundational science and imaging courses (anatomy and physiology, vascular pathology, ultrasound physics and instrumentation, patient care, ethics) that mirror examination domains.
- Include progressive vascular sonography lab courses where students master standard vascular protocols (e.g., carotid, venous, arterial, abdominal vascular exams), hemodynamic assessment, and image optimization.
- Require supervised clinical education in vascular labs and imaging departments so students can document the range and volume of procedures typically needed to support certification eligibility.
- Offer a capstone/registry review course focused on exam-style questions, case review, and test-taking strategies to support graduates in successfully attempting national boards.

While ultimate eligibility and credentialing decisions rest with the respective certifying organizations, graduates of this program will have the didactic preparation, hands-on skills, and clinical experience needed to pursue national vascular sonography certification. Holding one or more of these credentials is expected to improve both initial job placement and long-term career advancement for graduates working in Indiana's hospitals, outpatient imaging centers, and vascular laboratories.

• If so, please identify

SCC Response:

The graduate will be prepared to pursue the following national professional certifications:

- **Vascular Sonography – RT(VS)** – American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
    - Each specific professional certification:

SCC Response:

The following are specific professional certifications:

- **Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)** – American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS/APCA)
- **Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS)** – Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)
- **Vascular Sonography – RT(VS)** – American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

• The national organization issuing each certification:

SCC Response:

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

• Please explain the rationale for choosing each professional certification:

SCC Response:

The Vascular Sonography – RT(VS) credential from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) was selected because it is a nationally recognized advanced credential in vascular ultrasound that is highly valued by hospitals and integrated imaging departments. Many imaging employers in Indiana organize their staffing, credentialing, and quality programs around ARRT standards, and they prefer or require ARRT‑credentialed technologists for modality-specific roles (e.g., CT, MRI, vascular sonography).

For this program, the RT(VS) pathway offers several advantages:

- Alignment with a major national registry in imaging: ARRT is one of the primary certifying bodies for medical imaging professionals; RT(VS) signals that the vascular sonographer meets rigorous national standards for safety, ethics, and clinical competence.
- Career ladder for radiologic technologists: The credential provides a clear specialization option for individuals who already hold a primary ARRT credential (e.g., RT(R)) and wish to advance into vascular sonography, supporting internal career mobility and cross-training within imaging departments.
- Employer and patient confidence: Because ARRT emphasizes radiation safety, ethics, and continuous professional development, the RT(VS) credential reassures employers, accrediting bodies, and patients that the technologist's practice meets nationally benchmarked expectations.
- Portability and flexibility: ARRT credentials are recognized across states, so RT(VS) enhances graduates' ability to work in multiple jurisdictions and to adapt if Indiana or other states adopt more formal regulatory frameworks for sonography in the future.

• Please identify the single course or a sequence of courses that lead to each professional certification?

SCC Response:

For this AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology, no single course alone prepares a student for national certification. Instead, each credential is supported by a defined sequence of didactic, lab, and clinical courses that together address the exam content outlines and clinical experience expectations.

Below is how the program's curriculum is intended to align with each certification pathway:

ARRT – Vascular Sonography, RT(VS)

ARRT requires a primary ARRT credential plus postprimary vascular sonography preparation. This AAS program provides the vascular specialty knowledge and clinical competencies for those who already hold (or later obtain) a primary ARRT registration.

Course sequence leading to RT(VS) preparation:

- **Professional foundation**
    - BIO 101 – Basic Medical Terminology
    - BIO 104 – Healthcare Laws and Ethics
    - BIO 105 – Patient Care in Imaging
- **Vascular specialty and physics**
    - BIO 102 and BIO 106 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II
    - BIO 107 – Imaging Pathology
    - VAS 111 – Vascular Sonography I
    - VAS 1XX/2XX – Advanced Vascular Sonography (peripheral, cerebrovascular, abdominal)
    - SON/PHY 1XX – Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation
    - VAS Lab I–II – Vascular Sonography Laboratory
- **Clinical and exam preparation**
    - VAS Clinical I–III – Vascular Sonography Clinical Practicum (documented case logs aligned with ARRT vascular procedures list)
    - VAS 2XX – Vascular Sonography Capstone and Registry Review (including RT(VS) domains: patient care, safety, image production, procedures)

This sequence ensures that graduates who already meet ARRT's primary-credential requirement will have structured vascular coursework and clinical experience supportive of RT(VS) eligibility and success.

d. Professional Industry Standards/Best Practices

- Does the program curriculum incorporate professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s)?

SCC Response:

Yes. The AAS in Vascular Sonography Technology curriculum is intentionally built around current professional industry standards and best practices in noninvasive vascular ultrasound.

In particular, the program:

- Aligns with national professional practice guidelines issued by organizations such as the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), including recommended protocols for carotid, peripheral arterial, venous, and abdominal vascular exams; documentation and reporting standards; and expectations for patient safety, communication, and interprofessional collaboration.
- Incorporates national certification content outlines (ARRT RT(VS)) into course objectives and assessment plans, ensuring that didactic, lab, and clinical components address the core domains of vascular anatomy and hemodynamics, ultrasound physics and instrumentation, vascular pathology, exam procedures, and professional/ethical practice.
- Reflects vascular laboratory accreditation standards (e.g., Intersocietal Accreditation Commission – IAC Vascular Testing) by emphasizing quality assurance activities, standardized protocols and policies, measurement and documentation consistency, and continuous quality improvement processes used in accredited vascular labs.
- Integrates patient-centered and safety-focused best practices, including HIPAA/privacy compliance, infection control, ergonomics and sonographer safety, and communication strategies that promote cultural competence and

health literacy.

These standards and best practices are embedded in course syllabi, skills checklists, and clinical evaluation tools and are reviewed regularly with input from the program's advisory board, clinical partners, and certification exam updates so that the curriculum remains current with the expectations of the vascular sonography profession.

• If so, please identify:

SCC Response:

The program curriculum incorporates the following professional industry standards and best practices:

- **Vascular ultrasound practice guidelines and exam protocols**
    - **Organization/Agency:** Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU)
    - **Examples:** Recommended protocols for carotid duplex, peripheral arterial and venous studies, abdominal/visceral vascular exams, reporting standards, and vascular lab quality practices.
- **Scope of Practice, Clinical Standards, and Code of Ethics for Sonographers**
    - **Organization/Agency:** Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS)
    - **Examples:** SDMS Scope of Practice for the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, SDMS Clinical Practice Standards, and SDMS Code of Ethics, which inform course objectives in patient care, professionalism, and interprofessional communication.
- **Practice Parameters for Vascular Ultrasound Examinations**
    - **Organization/Agency:** American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)
    - **Examples:** AIUM practice parameters for performance and documentation of peripheral venous, arterial, and cerebrovascular ultrasound examinations, including image optimization, measurement standards, and documentation requirements.
- **Accredited Vascular Laboratory Standards and Quality Assurance**
    - **Organization/Agency:** Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) – Vascular Testing
    - **Examples:** IAC Standards and Guidelines for Vascular Testing, including policies on exam protocols, staff qualifications, quality assurance, documentation, and continuous quality improvement activities in vascular labs.
- **National Certification Content Outlines and Professional Practice Standards**
    - **Organizations/Agencies:**
        - American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) – Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)
        - Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) – Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS)
        - American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) – Vascular Sonography (RT(VS))
    - **Examples:** Exam content domains in vascular anatomy and hemodynamics, physics and instrumentation, vascular pathology, exam protocols, patient care, and ethics, used to shape didactic, lab, and clinical course outcomes.
- **Patient Safety, Infection Control, and Privacy Best Practices**
    - **Organizations/Agencies:**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Standard precautions and infection-control guidance
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) – Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and ergonomics/sonographer safety recommendations
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules

- **Examples:** Standard precautions, safe handling of blood and body fluids, ergonomic scanning techniques, and protection of patient health information integrated into patient-care, lab, and clinical courses.

• The specific professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s):

SCC Response: The curriculum is built around the following **specific** professional standards and best practices:

- SVU Vascular Technology Guidelines (e.g., SVU carotid duplex, peripheral arterial, peripheral venous, and abdominal vascular testing protocols and reporting standards)
- SDMS Scope of Practice for the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- SDMS Clinical Practice Standards for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- SDMS Code of Ethics for the Profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- AIUM Practice Parameters for Vascular Ultrasound (e.g., peripheral venous ultrasound, extracranial cerebrovascular ultrasound, peripheral arterial ultrasound)
- IAC Standards and Guidelines for Vascular Testing Accreditation (protocols, documentation, quality assurance, and staff qualifications)
- ARRT Vascular Sonography (RT(VS)) Content Specifications and Clinical Experience Requirements
- CDC Standard Precautions and Infection Control Guidelines (applied to imaging/clinical environments)
- OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and ergonomics/sonographer safety recommendations
- HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules for protection of patient health information in imaging and clinical settings.

• The organization or agency, from which the professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s) emanate:

SCC Response: The professional standards and best practices used in this program come from the following organizations and agencies:

- **Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU)**
- **Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS)**
- **American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)**
- **Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) – Vascular Testing**
- **American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)**
- **Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)**
- **American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)**
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules**

e. Institutional Accreditation

- Accrediting body from which accreditation will be sought, and the timetable for achieving accreditation.

SCC Response: Stellar Career College Indiana is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).
Reason for seeking accreditation.
SCC Response: This is not applicable.

f. Specialized Program Accreditation

- Does this program need specialized accreditation in order for a graduate to become licensed by the State or to earn a national professional certification, so graduates of this program can work in their profession or have substantially better prospects for employment?

SCC Response:

Specialized accreditation is not required for a graduate to become licensed by the State or to earn a national professional certification. This associate degree program prepares students to take American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) – Vascular Sonography (RT(VS)) credential.

- If so, please identify the specialized accrediting agency:

SCC Response: This is not applicable.

g. Transferability of Associate of Science Degrees

- Since CHE/BPE policy reserves the Associate of Science designation for associate degrees whose credits apply toward meeting the requirements of a related baccalaureate degree, please answer the following questions:
- Does a graduate of this A.S. degree program have the option to apply all or almost all of the credits to a related baccalaureate degree at your institution?
- If so, please list the baccalaureate degree(s):

SCC Response:

SCC is applying for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Therefore, an Associate of Science credit transfer requirement (as stated above) does not apply to this application.

This institution has been approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) to offer baccalaureate degrees and is currently awaiting corresponding approval from ACCSC. Upon receipt of AAS degree-granting authority from ICHE/BPE, Stellar Career College will actively pursue articulation agreements with other local and national institutions of higher learning to facilitate transfer credit opportunities for its graduates.

• Does a graduate of this A.S. degree program have the option to apply all or almost all of the credits to a related baccalaureate degree at your institution?

SCC Response:

This is not applicable. This is an associate degree application.

• If so, please list the baccalaureate degree(s):

This is not applicable. This is an associate degree application.

7. Student Records (Institutions that have Previously Operated)

a. Are all student transcripts in a digital format?

SCC Response: Yes, all student transcripts are in digital format. The digital format of the student's

transcript is stored in a cloud-based student information system of Stellar Career College.

- If not, what is the percentage of student transcripts in a digital format?

SCC Response:100% of student transcripts are in digital format.

- What is the beginning year of digitized student transcripts?

SCC Response: SCC began the digitization process of student transcripts in 2003.

- Are student transcripts stored separately from the overall student records?

SCC Response: No, all student transcripts and student records are stored in the same cloud-based student information system of SCC.

b. How are student records stored?

SCC Response: Student records are stored in the cloud-based student information system of Stellar Career College. The institution also maintains a digital backup copy of all student records including student transcripts and certificates of completion in its local server.

- Where is the computer server located?

SCC Response: Our student information system is hosted on cloud servers provided by DigitalOcean. The physical servers are located in DigitalOcean's U.S. data centers.

- What is the name of the system that stores the digital records?

SCC Response: The name of the system that stores the digital records is Stellar Career College Student Information System (SIS).

c. Where are the paper student records located?

SCC Response: The paper student records are stored in fireproof file cabinets at each corresponding campus. Each campus location has its own fireproof file cabinets that stores paper student records.

d. What is the beginning year of the institutional student record series?

SCC Response:

The institution maintains physical student record files for a minimum of five years and electronic student files are maintained for at least seven years. Permanent records, i.e. transcripts and certificates of completion are maintained permanently since 2003 (the original accreditation year of (SCC). SCC ensures compliance with the state regulations in which it operates as well as maintains compliance with the requirements for student records of its accreditor ACCSC. The institution currently has physical files since 2015 (last five years) and electronic student record files since the year 2013 (last seven years). A physical student file is created at the time of new admission. All physical student files are maintained in fire-safe cabinets. Effective September 1, 2020, SCC has also started scanning all files available at the institution on the last days of its fiscal year, i.e. December 31 for preparation of its annual Financial Aid Audits that is done for the US Department of Education. Upon graduation of students, all student files are scanned into electronic files. All electronic files are saved in the institution's secure server as well as are uploaded to a cloud-based secure backup system daily.

e. What is the estimated number of digital student records held by the institution?

SCC Response: As of October 30, 2025, the institution estimates maintaining approximately 2,850 digital student records, reflecting annual increases in new applications, enrollments, and completions.

f. What is the estimated number of paper student records held by the institution?

SCC Response: The institution estimates maintaining approximately 1,050 paper student records from 1989 to 2003. All records from 2003 to the present (approximately 2,850 records) are maintained in digital format.

g. Aside from digital and paper, does the institution maintain student records in other formats such as microfiche?

SCC Response: SCC does not maintain student records in any other format.

- If so, what is the most significant format?

SCC Response: This is not applicable.

- If so, what is the estimated number of student records maintained in that format?

SCC Response: This is not applicable.

h. Does the institution maintain a staff position that has overall responsibility and authority over student records?

SCC Response: Yes and see below.

- If so, what is the name, title, and contact information for that individual?

SCC Response:For Chicago, IL and Crown Point, IN Campuses:

Mr. AK Buss
Registrar
Stellar Career College
205 W. Randolph Street, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60606
E: akbuss@stellarcollege.edu
T: (312) 687-3000
F: (312) 374-6223

For Modesto, CA Campus:

Ms. Kristina Nielsen
Campus Director, Registrar
Stellar Career College

4300 Sisk Rd., Modesto
CA 95356
E: kristina@stellarcollege.edu
T: (209) 545-5200
F: (209) 545-3995

i. Has the institution contracted with a third-party vendor such as Parchment to have student records digitized, maintained, and serviced?

SCC Response: No, the institution has not contracted with a third-party vendor. All records are maintained in-house.

j. Approximately what is the average number of requests for student records or verification of attendance that the institution receives in a day and week?

SCC Response: At present, SCC received about 5 to 10 requests per week.

This Section Applies to All Institutions

k. Is there anything that the Commission should consider with regard to the institutional student records?

SCC Response: None, all records are maintained in-house. SCC does not have anything that the Commission should consider regarding institutional student records.

l. What is the digital format of student transcripts?

SCC Response: The digital format of the student's transcripts is stored in cloud-based student information system of Stellar Career College.

m. Is the institution using proprietary software? If so, what is the name?

SCC Response: SCC is not using any proprietary software. SCC has developed and maintains its own Student Information System.

n. Attach a sample transcript specifically for the program being proposed as the last page of this program application.

SCC Response: A sample transcript is attached below.

che.IN.gov

Stellar Career College

205 West Randolph Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60606, United States
Tel: (312) 687-3000 Email: info@stellarcollege.edu

Student Name: TEST Student
SSN: ***-**-5555
Program: AAS In Vascular Sonography Technology
Award: Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

Enrollment ID: 2026-02-51.0901-001
Start Date: 02-10-2026
Enroll Status: Active
Last Att. Date: 02-10-2026

INSTITUTION CREDITS

02-10-2026 to 05-09-2026

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
BIO 102	Human Anatomy And Physiology I	3	3	A+	12.00
BIO 104	Healthcare Laws And Ethics	3	3	A+	12.00
BIO 105	Patient Care In Imaging	3	3	A+	12.00
BIO 106	Human Anatomy And Physiology II	3	3	A+	12.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	12	12	48.00	4.00
Cumulative	12	12	48.00	4.00

05-10-2026 to 08-09-2026

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
BIO 107	Imaging Pathology	3	3	A+	12.00
VAS 111	Vascular Sonography I	3	3	A+	12.00
VAS 112	Vascular Sonography I Lab	4	4	A+	16.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	10	10	40.00	4.00
Cumulative	22	22	88.00	4.00

08-10-2026 to 11-09-2026

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
VAS 113	Vascular Sonography II	3	3	A+	12.00
VAS 114	Vascular Sonography II Lab	4	4	A+	16.00
ENG 111	English Composition I	4.5	4.5	A+	18.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	11.5	11.5	46.00	4.00
Cumulative	33.5	33.5	134.00	4.00

11-10-2026 to 02-09-2027

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
VAS 211	Vascular Sonography III	3	3	A+	12.00
VAS 221	Vascular Sonography III Lab	2	2	A+	8.00
VAS 231	Registry Review	3	3	A+	12.00
ENG 212	English Composition II	4.5	4.5	A+	18.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	12.5	12.5	50.00	4.00
Cumulative	46	46	184.00	4.00

08-10-2027 to 11-09-2027

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
VAS 121	Externship I	13	13	A+	52.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	13	13	52.00	4.00
Cumulative	83	83	332.00	4.00

02-10-2027 to 05-09-2027

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
DMS 221	Fundamentals Of Sonography V	3	3	A+	12.00
Psych 114	Introduction To Psychology	4.5	4.5	A+	18.00
MAT 113	Mathematics	4.5	4.5	A+	18.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	12	12	48.00	4.00
Cumulative	58	58	232.00	4.00

05-10-2027 to 08-09-2027

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
DMS 231	Fundamentals Of Sonography VI	3	3	A+	12.00
DMS 241	Fundamentals Of Sonography VII	3	3	A+	12.00
BIO 211	Healthcare Information Technology Management	6	6	A+	24.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	12	12	48.00	4.00
Cumulative	70	70	280.00	4.00

11-10-2027 to 02-09-2028

Code	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
VAS 221	Externship II	13	13	A+	52.00

	Attempted	Earned	Points	GPA
Current Quarter	13	13	52.00	4.00
Cumulative	96	96	384.00	4.00

Total credits earned, including 96 transfer credits:

*** End of Transcript ***

AK Buss, Registrar

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Stellar Career College

Modesto, CA, Main School:	4300 Sisk Road Modesto, CA, 95356	(209)545-5200
Chicago, IL, Branch Campus:	205 W Randolph Street, Suite 200 Chicago, IL, 60606	(312)687-3000
Crown Point, IN, Branch Campus:	5521 Lincoln Hwy Crown Point, IN, 46307	(219)900-5700

HISTORY

Stellar Career College (formerly Computer Tutor Business & Technical Institute) was established in 1986 in Modesto, California by Lenore Hughes to improve children's reading, comprehension and mathematical skills. Computer Tutor began offering computer software training and clerical programs to adults in 1989. Accounting courses were added in 1992. In 1997, R. George Rawe became the Director of Computer Tutor. In 1998, medical and computer technical programs were added. Because of the expanded program offerings, the name was changed to Computer Tutor Business and Technical Institute in July 2002. Computer Tutor first received accreditation from ACCSC in March 2003. In February 2014, the Institution moved to a new location at 4300 Sisk Rd. Modesto, CA. Effective August 1, 2017 Stellar Career College, LLC became the new owner of the school with Zulfiqar Satti designated as President and CEO. In February 2018, Computer Tutor Business and Technical Institute changed its name to Stellar Career College.

On July 9, 2019 the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Chicago, Illinois campus of Stellar Career College. On September 26, 2019 ACCSC approved the Chicago Campus. On February 25, 2020 US Department of Education approved the Chicago Campus. Due to COVID-19 pandemic launch of classes at the Chicago campus were delayed. On October 26, 2020 first set of classes for various training programs was launched at the Chicago Campus. On March 08, 2022, Stellar Career College Indiana was granted authorization to offer 3 associate degree programs and 13 diploma programs by the Indiana Commission of Higher Education (ICHE). We are proud to continue providing consistent, high quality, instructor-led training as we have been offering for over 30 years.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

This educational record is subject to the U.S. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. It is furnished for official use only and may not be released to or accessed by outside agencies or third parties without the written consent of the student.

ACCREDITATION

Stellar Career College (SCC) is institutionally accredited by Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

COURSE NUMBERING LEGEND

001-099	Development Courses
100-199	Freshman-Level Courses
200-299	Sophomore-Level Courses

GRADING SYSTEM

Official Grading Scale: A+/4.0:94%-100%, A-/3.7: 90%-93%, B+/3.3: 84%-89%, B-/3.0: 80%-83%, C+/2.5:70%-79%, F/0.0: 0%-69%, INC: Incomplete, TC: Transfer Credit, W: Withdrawal and in Quality Points if points do not apply it will be considered as 'n/a' (not applicable).For details, please refer to the College Catalog.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Violations of the Academic Honesty Policy Include, but are not limited to the following: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, facilitation, falsification of injury and/or misrepresentation of external performances/commitments. A student found responsible for any act of academic dishonesty may be awarded a grade of "HF" for the course. However, they may petition to have the grade removed during their last term as long as there are no further incidents of dishonesty.

COURSE WITHDRAWALS

After the add/drop period, students may withdraw from a course and a grade of 'W' will appear on their transcript. A student can have no more than eight course withdrawals during his or her enrollment in the college without the approval of the Director of Academic Affairs/Program Director.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974: In accordance with federal law, the information in this transcript may not be copied, divulged or forwarded to parties other than the original addressee. If this transcript is no longer needed by the recipient, it must be either destroyed or returned to the Office of the Registrar at Stellar Career College.

Incomplete Grades: A student is eligible to receive an incomplete for a course: 1) The student must provide to the instructor a documentation of the extenuating circumstance(s) that prevent him/her from satisfying the course requirements and learning outcomes of that particular course. 2) The student, at the time of applying for an incomplete, must have completed two-thirds of the term and have a passing grade.

Transfer Credit: Transfer credit is awarded for courses successfully completed at a regionally accredited institution or an institution whose accrediting organization is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Although credits transfer in from other institutions, grades do not. Transfer courses are listed on the transcript with a grade of "TC." A student's SCC grade point average is based solely on SCC courses.

8. **Projected Headcount and FTE Enrollments and Degrees Conferred**

- Report headcount, FTE enrollment, and degrees conferred data in a manner consistent with the Commission's Student Information System
- Report a table for each campus or off-campus location at which the program will be offered.
- If the program is offered at more than one campus or off-campus location, a summary table, which reports the total headcount and FTE enrollments and degrees conferred across all locations, should be provided.
- Round the FTE enrollments to the nearest whole number.
- If the program will take more than five years to be fully implemented and to reach steady state, report additional years of projections.

Projected Headcount and FTE Enrollments and Degrees Conferred					
February 05, 2026					
Institution/Location: Stellar Career College at Crown Point, IN					
Program: AAS Vascular Sonography Technology					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Enrollment Projections (Headcount)					
Full-Time	10	10	10	10	20
Part-Time	10	10	10	10	20
Total	20	20	20	20	40
Enrollment Projections (FTE*)					
Full-Time	10	10	10	10	20
Part-Time	10	10	10	10	20
Total	20	20	20	20	40
Degrees Conferred Projections	0	10	10	10	20
Degree Level: Associate					
CIP Code: -51.0910; State - 51.0910					
FTE Definitions:					
Undergraduate Level: 30 Semester Hrs. = 1 FTE					
Undergraduate Level: 24 Semester Hrs. = 1 FTE					