

How many students are accepted into the program? How many students are accepted into each discipline?

A total of approximately forty students are accepted to the School of Health Sciences programs each year. Each discipline accepts from seven to thirteen students depending on the program stream (see below). Programs are limited in enrolment due to a set number of clinical sites. Students require a small student to preceptor ratio to have effective clinical instruction. A benefit of this is that small class sizes allow for low student to faculty ratios as well.

- *Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound (DMUT) – 7 seats*
- *Nuclear Medicine Technology (NUMT) – 8 Seats*
- *Radiological Technology (RADT) – 13 Seats*
- *Respiratory Therapy (RSPT) – 12 Seats*

What is the expected workload for a health sciences student?

Students are required to take a full academic course load during the Fall and Winter terms. This includes lecture class time as well as labs and tutorials. During the Spring term (May-June) students will participate in clinical practicum which involves fulltime clinical experiences. There is no option to complete School of Health Sciences programs on a part-time basis.

What are the starting salaries for health science professionals?

Starting salaries (Full-time work) can range from \$60,000 - \$80,000+ depending on the geographical location and discipline.

What is the average GPA or high school average that successful applicants have to get into the program?

*All of the programs at the School of Health Sciences are competitive in application selections. The GPA or high school average depends on the other candidates applying, and thus is variable from year to year. There is also some variability in average GPA or high school average between the individual programs. Applicants should refer to the pre-requisite grades for minimum application requirements (www.dal.ca/shs). **Applicants should note that meeting the minimum requirement does not guarantee acceptance due to the competitive nature of the programs.***

I am not a Maritime resident, will my application be considered?

The School of Health Sciences gives priority admission to current residents of the Maritime Provinces. Should there not be a sufficient number of eligible Maritime applicants to fill all seats, applicants from outside the Maritimes will be considered.

Is there an advantage to applying right after high school or are my chances better if I have university experience?

Admission to the School of Health Sciences is determined based on the percentage of applicants from each pre-requisite category. Students applying right from high school will be ranked compared to only those others from the high school pool, and similarly those with university degrees (or any university experience) will be ranked compared to only those others with previous university experience.

What are the advantages of taking a four year degree versus a two or three year diploma?

In attempts to enhance the professional capabilities of healthcare professionals, the four year degree program prepares graduates for the evolving nature of healthcare practice by furthering the student's education in pathophysiology, ethics, culture and diversity, interprofessional competence, research methodology, critical appraisal of academic literature, evidence-informed practice, problem-based learning and areas of clinical specialty practice. Completion of a 4-year degree will provide graduates with an

expanded career pathway into such areas as university teaching, research, management, graduate studies etc.

I understand that there are clinical rotations that must be completed in each year as part of the program. Will I be able to complete those rotations in my home town?

Assignments to clinical sites are based on meeting the learning needs of each year of study. Students will be required to rotate through a variety of sites over the duration of the program. You may be placed in your clinical site of choice, or you may be required to go to a site that is not of your choice. The sites may be in a city, or in a community setting. The sites may be in Nova Scotia, or in another province. Students may incur additional expenses related to site placement.

What are you looking for in the Letter of Intent?

The Admissions Committee members will review and score all Letters of Intent for applications to the School of Health Science programs. First and foremost, the committee is looking to see that the 4 questions are answered clearly, are well articulated and that the candidate demonstrates an ability to formulate an argument for their admission to the program. The committee is seeking candidates who, through researching the profession, are able to present an accurate, informed view about the profession for which they have applied (ie. Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiological Technology and/or Respiratory Therapy), demonstrating that they understand the profession and the role members of the profession play in the healthcare system.

What are you looking for in the resume?

The Admissions Committee members will review and score all resumes for the applications to the School of Health Science programs. The committee is looking for the resume to have all required information as outlined on the SHS Admissions page, and that it is a professional presentation of the candidate's educational, employment and volunteer experiences. Candidates who are accepted into the SHS programs should demonstrate high academic achievement, as well the ability to be actively involved in their community and have gained experience (work related or volunteer) that indicates their suitability to work in the healthcare field. Experiences spent caring for others in some manner is encouraged.

Where can I go to research the field I am applying to?

Candidates are encouraged to thoroughly research the profession by job shadowing, speaking with a member of the profession, and searching reputable resources beyond what is listed below. The following links or resources listed below are a good starting point. For information on job shadowing with the Nova Scotia Health, click here (<http://www.nshealth.ca/job-shadowing>)

Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound:

www.sonographycanada.ca/

<http://www.ardms.org/Discover-ARDMS/careers-in-sonography/Pages/Career-Center.aspx>

<http://www.sdms.org/resources>

Nuclear Medicine Technology:

www.camrt.ca

www.nsamrt.ca

<http://www.imageofcare.ca/>

Radiological Technology:

www.camrt.ca

www.nsamrt.ca

<http://www.imageofcare.ca/>

Respiratory Therapy:

<http://www.csrt.com/>

<https://www.nscrt.com/>

<http://www.nbart.ca/en/>

What are the challenges related to pursuing a career in any of these fields?

Please refer to the Statement of Fitness for the specific programs to read about challenges associated with a career in that field. These statements can be found on the School of Health Sciences website. (www.dal.ca/shs)