

SPRING 2022

## Certificate of GED Scholarship

RECIPIENT

Mychala Dinges

**CITY:** Amboy, IL

**DEGREE PROGRAM:** Diagnostic Med Img Sonography



Hi! My Name is Mychala Dinges and I am currently about to start my second semester of ultrasound school at the College of DuPage. I currently work at a local coffee shop on all of my breaks to help pay for my tuition but with the help of your graciousness, I will be able to focus completely on my studies and be the best student I can be.

I chose to apply to the College of DuPage's Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sonography Program because I wanted to help people get the diagnosis they deserve. I went through my own medical and health journey starting at the age of 13 where I underwent many surgeries, hospital stays, tests, etc. I remembered how amazing and kind each of the staff members was at the hospital including doctors, nurses, imaging techs, housekeepers, and everyone in between and I knew I wanted to be a part of that. I looked into nursing school at one point but realized that was just not for me, although I completely commend all nurses for what they do because they are amazing. I then stumbled upon medical imaging and went to shadow some of the different modalities including X-ray, MRI, CT, and Ultrasound. I ended up falling in love with ultrasound and how tech involved it is. The ultrasound tech has to put all the pieces together and go search for the pathology and I just loved the puzzle and how we as ultrasound techs have to put everything together. So I started taking prereqs back at my home college Sauk Valley Community College where I knew I would end up transferring to College of DuPage if I were to get into the program. I finished up the prereqs and applied in the spring of 2021 to get into the program for the fall of 2021. I ended up getting into the program and am loving it. I love the small class size and the professor-to-student ratio.

I am also getting ready to start clinicals here in about a week and a half and I'm very nervous but also very, very excited. I am so ready to help people and help the radiologists diagnose them so they can get the treatment they need. After graduating I plan on finding a job close to home, hopefully at one of my clinical sites, and saving up for a year or 2 and then potentially moving into the city or out of state so I can experience life outside of a small town in Illinois. I would love to move to Florida to be in the warmth and closer to Disney World but I am extremely close with my family so that would be very hard to move away, but you never know what the future holds. I am just very grateful for this opportunity to focus more on my studies, so thank you again.