



West Virginia University Hospitals
Imaging Science Education programs

Echocardiography program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. When does the Echocardiography program start and when is the deadline for applications?

The Program will begin on or near July 1st of each year. Applications will be accepted until March 16th for the program starting in July 2018. Applications that are not received or are not complete (this includes receipt of all required transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, etc.) by the March 16th deadline **will not be considered** for the enrollment year.

2. What is the basic format of the program?

The program is a full-time, 35 hours per week, postsecondary educational program consisting of approximately 40% didactic (classroom) and 60% clinical education. All clinical and classroom education will be conducted within the Heart and Vascular Institute at West Virginia University Hospitals.

3. What am I eligible for upon completion of the program?

Graduates will earn a certificate in Echocardiography and will be eligible to apply for the ARDMS SPI & Adult Echocardiography and/or the CCI Registered Cardiac Sonographer credentialing exams

4. How many students apply and how many are accepted into the program each year?

The number of applications submitted will vary but is expected to be between 10 & 20 each enrollment year. Each year, the top 12 academic candidates will be granted an interview and 4-5 of those will be offered positions. Four (4) additional students will be waitlisted in the event that any of the selected 4 students decline the position.

5. When are students notified of their application status?

Candidates are notified in late March regarding whether or not they are granted an interview. Interviews are scheduled in April and candidates are notified whether or not they have been accepted by late April.

6. If I'm not accepted this year, do I have to reapply next year?

Yes, you must resubmit a new application if you wish to reapply for the next year. Application files are kept for one (1) year, so if you reapply **within 1 year**, you **will not** need to resubmit your ACT/SAT scores or your academic transcripts unless you have completed additional course work or retaken the ACT/SAT exam(s) during that time frame. If an applicant does not apply in consecutive years, their complete file will be discarded.

7. If not selected this year, what can I do to improve my chances of admission if I re-apply next year?

Enrollment into the Echocardiography program is competitive and obviously, everyone cannot be selected. The following are recommendations that may improve your chances of admission:

- a. Complete additional college level course work in the following science related areas:
Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Physics.
- b. Complete additional college level course work in the following mathematics related areas:
Geometry, Computer Science, or any higher-level mathematics course.
- c. Retake and improve your composite score on the ACT or SAT exam
- d. Obtain experience in patient care if the opportunity presents itself, such as volunteer work.

- e. Thoroughly research the profession of Echocardiography. Know as much as you can about the imaging sciences and the specifics related to your chosen career.

8. What are the costs associated with attending the program?

Tuition – The Echocardiography program tuition is \$1500.00 per semester (\$3000.00 for the full 12-month program). Students are assessed a \$50.00 **nonrefundable** admission fee upon acceptance into the program.

Books & Supplies – The cost of textbooks is estimated at approximately \$300.00. This is an estimated value and may be subject to change depending on instructor preference and market prices.

Uniforms – Upon acceptance to the program, students are provided with information on purchasing their uniforms. Students should expect to spend approximately \$200-\$300 on uniforms for the two years.

Trajecsys - Each enrolled student will be required to pay a one-time fee of \$100.00 for usage of this clinical tracking system during the 12 month program

Graduation fees – Students are assessed a \$25.00 graduation fee payable two weeks prior to graduation.

Credentialing Exam Fees – Upon graduating from the program, students will make application to one of the respective credentialing agencies to obtain a certification in Echocardiography. The following fees are current at the time of this publication.

ARDMS

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| 1. Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) | \$225.00 |
| 2. Adult Echocardiography | \$250.00 |

CCI

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| 1. Registered Cardiac Sonographer | \$350.00 |
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9. Is student housing available?

WVUH **does not** own or operate a student housing facility; therefore, it is the student's responsibility to obtain and finance housing if they choose to live in the Morgantown area.

10. What are the hours of attendance and allotted time off?

The normal hours of attendance are Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00 PM. All clinical and classroom assignments are conducted within the sponsoring institution's facilities and students are not required to travel to clinical sites outside of the Morgantown area. Students **do not** participate in weekend, holiday or midnight clinical rotations.

Consistent with the desired qualities of a medical professional, student are **required** to be on time for their scheduled clinical/classroom assignments and miss as little as time as possible over the 1 year program. Attendance is monitored closely and students may be dismissed for violations of the attendance policy. Students are allotted 6 personal leave days over the 1 year period and are scheduled off on all of the WVU Hospital recognized holidays. In addition, students are granted 3 weeks of scheduled vacation each year (1 week in April & 2 weeks in December).

11. How does this type of education differ from other post-secondary education programs?

Students enrolled in the Echocardiography program are expected to be mature, responsible adults that are willing to make a commitment to the Institution and the profession. This commitment is

evidenced by demanding high quality academic work, exceptional patient care /clinical skills, and good attendance. The first few months may seem difficult as the program does require a lot of the student's time and because all of the information and experiences are new. It may seem like working and going to school because you are required to be in attendance for up to 8 hours on certain days and then you will find it necessary to spend additional time completing assignments and/or preparing for examinations. Students are responsible for simultaneously completing the didactic (classroom) and clinical components of the program. Therefore, each student will have to dedicate a lot of time to his or her education.

A critical aspect of the student's education is the clinical component. Students are assigned to clinical rotations very early in the program; therefore, they will be immediately exposed to certain aspects of health care that may be unpleasant to the untrained individual. Students should expect to experience adult & pediatric patients with a variety of conditions such as fractures, severe deformities, malignancies, bleeding, and contagious diseases. In addition, students will be required to provide care regardless of the patient's sex, race, socioeconomic status, and/or physical condition. It is imperative that students respond in a mature, reassuring, and professional manner when providing healthcare to the patient population while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding the patient and their condition.

12. What are the requirements for candidates that are selected for the program?

The 4-5 selected applicants will be given approximately 10-15 business days to respond to the offer of admission by completing the following prior to the established deadline:

- Read the Student Handbook
- Sign and return a "Statement of Intent to Enroll" form, which acknowledges acceptance of the specified terms.
- Sign and return the Essential Performance Standards form
- Submit the \$50.00 non-refundable admissions fee.

Prior to the July start date; each accepted student will be required to:

- Complete a health assessment and a vaccination record review conducted by the Employee Health department.
- Complete the criminal background investigation process.
- Complete the drug screening / testing process.
- Complete all other WVUH mandatory orientation procedures.

Additional questions may be directed to Grace Casaclang-Verzosa, MD, RDCS at grace.verzosa@wvumedicine.org or by phoning 304-598-4000 ext. 72999.