

Frequently Asked Questions

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 February 1st for the program starting in July 2021. Applications that are not received or are not complete (this includes receipt of all required transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, etc.) by the February deadline will not be considered for the enrollment year.

2. What is the basic format of the program?

The program is a full-time, 40 hours per week, postsecondary educational program consisting of approximately didactic (classroom) and clinical education. The program typically consists of 1,880 total hours, which includes an estimated 366 hours in didactic education and 1,514 hours in the clinical setting. All clinical will be conducted within the Heart and Vascular Institute at West Virginia University Hospitals. Didactic education will be held in the WVU Health Sciences Building (subject to room availability).

3. Can I transfer from another program or enroll in a Part-time option?

No, the Echocardiography program is structured for a 12-month accelerated certificate program only.

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

The number of applications submitted will vary from year to year. Each year, the top 12 academic candidates will be granted an interview and 4-5 of those will be offered positions in the program. 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 the beginning of February (shortly after the application period closes) regarding whether or not they are granted an interview. Interviews are scheduled in late February and candidates are notified whether or not they have been accepted by the first week of March.

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, 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. You can also contact the Education Coordinator for additional suggestions if you feel inclined.

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 or re-take college level course work to improve your academic points (see admissions policy)
- b. Retake and improve your composite score on the ACT or SAT exam
- c. Obtain experience in patient care
- d. Thoroughly research the profession of Echocardiography and inquire about shadowing opportunities

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 12month 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

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

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

CCI

1. Registered Cardiac Sonographer \$350.00

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. Is financial aid available?

This program is not eligible for financial aid.

11. Is WVU Medicine tuition reimbursement available for this program?

Students in the Echocardiography Education Program may be eligible for WVU Medicine Employee Tuition Reimbursement program. Students must meet all policy eligibility requirements and should follow program guidelines for submissions. The Employee Tuition Reimbursement Policy is available on Connect>Policies and Protocols>WVUHS. To view eligibility requirements for tuition reimbursement and frequently asked questions, please visit HROneSource at HROneSource.org and click on the Benefits icon. Click the *Tuition Programs* link for additional information. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact HROneSource at 833-599-2100 or submit a Service Request online at HROneSource.org.

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

The normal hours of attendance are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 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.

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 2 weeks of scheduled winter vacation.

12. 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 demonstrated 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 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 and 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.

Additional questions may be directed to:

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