

## **Echocardiography Admissions Policy**

West Virginia University Hospitals and those responsible for the administration of the Imaging Science Education Programs consider each applicant without regards to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law. The program coordinator reserves the right to limit enrollment based upon the quality of the applicant pool and current employment market conditions. Admission to the Echocardiography Program is governed in accordance with the following minimum admission requirements.

### **Requirements for Admission Consideration**

All of the following criteria are required for admission consideration and documentation must be received on or before **February 1<sup>st</sup>** of the year in which the student is applying for admission.

1. Applicant **must** review the Essential Performance Standards form located on the program's web-site <http://wvumedicine.org/radtech/echocardiography/>
2. Applicant **must** possess, at minimum, an Associate's degree (*or pending graduate*) of a 2-year postsecondary, Allied Health education program that is patient care related. Allied Health occupations include, but are not limited to Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Registered Nurse, and Licensed Practical Nurse.
3. Applicant **must** submit the following by the **February 1st** deadline to be considered for the program starting in July:
  1. Program Application
  2. Three Personal Reference Forms
  3. Official high school grades or G.E.D. scores
  4. Official transcripts of all post-secondary education
  5. American College Test (ACT) scores or Scholastic Aptitude Test scores (SAT)
    - i. Minimum required composite score: ACT  $\geq 19$ , or SAT  $\geq 900$ .
    - ii. Requirement may be waived for applicants possessing a baccalaureate degree.
    - iii. ACT School Code - 4549      SAT School code - 3863

### **Transfer, Advanced Placement and Part-Time Student Policy**

The Echocardiography program does not admit student sonographers on a transfer basis. The program has a structured curriculum design that does not provide enough time or flexibility to accommodate a transferring student. The West Virginia University Hospitals, Echocardiography Program does not provide for any advanced placement. Due to the nature of the educational process relative to the clinical education requirements and competencies, the program does not provide for student attendance on a part time basis. Part time hours would

disrupt the coordination of the student's clinical education relative to his or her didactic education.

### **Academic Evaluation**

Program officials utilize an established, objective screening mechanism to assign academic points to a candidate based on their current level of academic achievement. The following categories are evaluated in assigning academic points:

1. American College Test (ACT) scores or Scholastic Aptitude Test scores.
2. Applicant must document completed college level course work in the following:
  - a. Mathematics (Statistics, Calculus, Trigonometry or Algebra accepted)
  - b. General physics (Radiology physics is accepted)
  - c. Communication skills ( English, Speech, or Composition accepted)
  - d. Human Anatomy and Physiology
  - e. Patient Care (clinical experience and/or current job experience accepted)
3. College level education grades to include:
  - a. Cumulative GPA/Weighted Average
  - b. Mathematics (cumulative)
  - c. Physics
  - d. Communications
  - e. Human Anatomy & Physiology (cumulative)
4. College / University Credit (based on GPA relative to number of hours completed)
5. College / University degree (BA, BS, MA, etc.)
6. Healthcare Experience

### **Interview Evaluation**

Interviews are granted to the top candidates each year; however, the Education Coordinator reserves the right to limit or expand this number based on the quality of the applicant pool. Applicants not receiving an interview will be notified by mail. Interviews will be conducted in March or April of each year and candidates will be notified of their admission status no later than the end of April of each year.

Interviews are conducted by an admission's committee consisting of a least three members selected by the education coordinator and may include faculty members, department managers and /or clinical staff. Using a standardized form, total interview scores from each committee member will be calculated and averaged for each candidate.

## Overall Evaluation

The Admission committee will review the total academic and interview scores and finalize the assessment by assigning up to 5 additional points to the candidates score based on programmatic fit and the candidates projected ability to be successful in the program.

## Selection

The Education Coordinator will rank the candidates in descending order and will extend offers to top candidates having the highest overall scores (available seats in the program, vary year to year with an average of 4 students). The next 3 candidates will be waitlisted in the event one or more of the top candidates do not accept the position. Waitlisted positions expire once a class is filled and do not carry over to the next admission year.

The candidates selected for admission will receive:

- a. Acceptance letter
- b. Access information for the student handbook
- c. Statement of Intent To Enroll (to be signed and returned)
- d. Essential Performance Standards Form
- e. Invoice for Admission Fee

All other applicants interviewed will receive a written verification of their non-admission or waitlisted status.

## Acceptance

The 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:

1. Read the Student Handbook
2. Sign and return the Statement of Intent to Enroll form
3. Sign and return the Essential Performance Standards form
4. Submit a \$50.00 check to WVUH for the admissions fee

If an applicant fails to respond to the offer of admission by the established deadline, the program coordinator will consider the offer as void, and will proceed by offering the position to a wait-listed applicant.

## Enrollment

Enrollment is contingent upon the student satisfactorily completing the following screening and assessment procedures within the guidelines specified by West Virginia University Hospitals (WVUH). These screenings will be conducted during the orientation time frame or at a time specified by program coordinator. Students will be provided with additional information regarding these procedures prior to the program start date.

Students will be required to:

- (1) Complete a health assessment and a vaccination record review conducted by the Employee Health department.
- (2) Complete the criminal background investigation process. (See WVUH Policy V.036)
- (3) Complete the drug screening / testing process. (See WVUH Policy V.035)

### **Recruitment**

As part of the requirements of the Essentials and Guidelines for an Accredited Program of Echocardiography, adequate announcement and advertising that accurately reflects the program must be practiced. To comply with this, our program information is available on the WVUH Radiologic Technology Education Programs' website. We provide application packets upon request. Letters and advertising materials are sent out to many radiography programs in the state and surrounding areas.

## **Weighted Values for Applicant Admission Points**

The following values will be assigned to the applicant's previous academic achievements and the personal interview. Points assigned to each candidate will be summated and utilized as criteria for admission consideration:

### **I. ACT/SAT scores**

<b>ACT Composite Score</b>	<b>SAT Score</b>	<b>Points Assigned</b>
≥ 30	≥ 1350	4
≥ 26	≥ 1200	3
≥ 22	≥ 1040	2
≥ 18	≥ 899	1
< 18	< 899	0

### **II. College level coursework**

Applicants are awarded academic credit points towards admission for each of the following course categories based on the following letter grade scale:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points Assigned</b>
College-level Mathematics (cumulative)	A	5
Physics	B	4
Communications	C	3
Anatomy & Physiology (cumulative)	< C	0

### III. Radiography / College / University Credits

Points are awarded to applicants based on the applicant's average GPA (cumulative college/university plus radiography). Points are awarded based on the following scale:

Associate Degree		Baccalaureate Degree		Graduate Degree	
GPA	Points Assigned	GPA	Points Assigned	GPA	Points Assigned
$\geq 3.59$	3	$\geq 3.59$	6	$\geq 3.59$	9
$\geq 2.99$	2	$\geq 2.99$	5	$\geq 2.99$	8
$\geq 1.99$	1	$\geq 1.99$	4	$\geq 1.99$	7
$< 1.99$	0	$< 1.99$	0	$< 1.99$	0

### IV. Healthcare Experience

Points are assigned to candidates that document healthcare related work experience not including any clinical education:

Category	Points Assigned
Health Related $\geq 3$ years	3
Health Related $\geq 2$ years	2
Health Related $\geq 1$ year	1
No Health Related Experience	0

**V. Personal Interview**

Individual interviewer points in the following categories are summated and averaged to obtain an overall average interview score (see interview form). Points are assigned based on the range below:

Category	Points Assigned (see Interview form)
Appearance	1 – 5 points
Affability/Attentiveness	1 – 5 points
Emotional - Stability	1 – 5 points
Personality	1 – 5 points
Communication Skills	1 – 5 points
Comprehension	1 – 5 points
Knowledge of Profession	1 – 5 points
Initiative & Drive to succeed	1 – 5 points
Initiative towards Program Admission	1 – 5 points

**VI. Programmatic / Institutional Fit**

Points are awarded by the Admission committee relative to the candidates programmatic fit and projected ability to successfully complete the program.

Interview Score	Points Assigned (see Interview form)
> 40	5
> 35	3
< 35	0