

Pediatric 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 **April 31st** 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 Allied Health Associate's degree (or pending graduate) OR Baccalaureate Degree in any subject
3. Applicant must be a graduate (or pending graduate) of a formal training program in Adult Echocardiography with a cumulative grade of 2.75 or higher
4. Applicant **must** be a registered cardiac sonographer (RCS or RDCS) OR at a minimum (if pending program completion), successfully passed the SPI portion required for the ARDMS registry examination
5. Applicant **must** have a verifiable shadowing experience in an exclusive Pediatric Echocardiography Lab before April 31st
6. Applicant **must** submit the following by the **April 31st** deadline to be considered for the program starting in July:
 1. Program Application
 2. Three Professional References
 3. Documentation of shadowing experience and hours
 4. Official transcripts of all post-secondary education
 5. Official transcripts of Adult Echocardiography education
 6. Proof of active Cardiac Sonographer registry or documentation of successful completion of the ARDMS SPI Exam



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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. 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)
2. College level education grades to include:
 - a. Cumulative GPA/Weighted Average
 - b. Mathematics (cumulative)
 - c. Physics
 - d. Communications
 - e. Human Anatomy & Physiology (cumulative)
 - f. Adult Echocardiography courses (cumulative)
 - g. Clinical Experience courses (cumulative)
3. College / University Credit (based on GPA relative to number of hours completed)
4. College / University degree (BA, BS, MA, etc.)
5. 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 during the first week of May each year and candidates will be notified of their admission status no later than May 15th 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. The need for a virtual interview based on geographical location or other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Education Coordinator.

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.



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Selection

The Education Coordinator will rank the candidates in descending order and will extend offers to top candidates having the highest overall scores (up to 2 seats). The next 2 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:

- (5) Complete a health assessment and a vaccination record review conducted by the Employee Health department.
- (6) Complete the criminal background investigation process. (See WVUH Policy V.036)



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- (7) Complete the drug screening / testing process. (See WVUH Policy V.035)
- (8) Complete all other WVUH mandatory orientation procedures.