
Echocardiography Admissions Policy

Policy

West Virginia University Hospitals and those responsible for administering the Imaging Science Education Programs consider each applicant regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law. Program officials reserve the right to limit enrollment based on the quality of the applicant pool and current employment market conditions. Applicants must meet the following minimum admission requirements to be considered for admission to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Requirements for Admission Consideration

All the following criteria are required for admission consideration and documentation must be received on or before February 1st 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 website (<https://wvumedicine.org/radtech/ultrasound/>).
2. Applicant must possess, at minimum, an associate 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 have a "C" or better in the following college courses to be considered for admission into the program.
 - a. Algebra, statistics, or higher mathematics course
 - b. General college-level physics and/or radiographic physics
 - c. Communication skills
 - d. Human anatomy and physiology
 - e. Medical Terminology
4. Applicant is required to provide documentation of patient care experience, this can be from clinical experience associated with their degree or through a job. A minimum of 500 direct patient care hours is required over a calendar year. The hours should be at a hospital. Volunteer and shadowing hours will not be considered patient care experience.
5. Applicant must submit the following by February 1st to be considered for the program starting in July each year:
 - a. Program Application
 - b. Three Personal Reference Forms
 - c. Clinical Experience Form
 - d. Official transcripts of all post-secondary education (radiography school, college, etc.)
 - i. International colleges and university transcripts must be submitted through the World Education Service (WES). Per policy 1.018 Validation of Foreign Educational Records.

6. American College Test (ACT) scores or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores or Testing of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) scores
 - a. Minimum recommended composite score:
 - i. ACT (pre-April 2025) – 19 or ACT STEM – 19
 - ii. SAT – 900
 - iii. TEAS – 60
 - b. The post-April 2025 ACT exam **must include the Science section** in order to provide a STEM score or it will not be accepted. All ACT exams taken before April 2025 will have the Science section included in the composite score.
 - c. The ACT or SAT Writing component is not required or included in the minimum score.
 - d. ACT / SAT / TEAS requirement is waived for applicants possessing an Associate's degree or higher.
 - i. However, if the ACT or SAT or TEAS score is provided and it satisfies or exceeds the minimum recommended composite score, additional points will be awarded.
 - e. School Codes to send exam scores/transcripts
 - i. ACT – 4549
 - ii. SAT – 3863
 - iii. TEAS – Select "West Virginia University Hospitals – Imaging Science Education Programs"

Academic Evaluation

Program officials utilize an established, objective screening mechanism to assign academic points to a candidates based on their current level of academic achievement. The following categories are used to assign academic points.

1. ACT Composite or STEM score or SAT (Critical Reading & Math) score or TEAS score
 - a. Superscore is used for ACT Composite or STEM score
 - b. If multiple exams were taken (e.g. ACT & TEAS), only the highest one will be used
2. College-level coursework
 - a. Algebra, statistics, or higher mathematics course
 - b. General college-level physics and/or radiographic physics
 - c. Communication skills
 - d. Human anatomy and physiology
 - e. Medical Terminology
3. College / University Credit (based on GPA relative to number of hours completed)
4. College / University degree (BA, BS, MA, etc.)
5. Healthcare experience
 - a. Patient Care (clinical experience and /or current job experience accepted)
 - i. Hours earned through volunteer or shadow experiences will not be considered patient care experience.
 - ii. Clerical positions or other non-patient care experiences will not be considered patient care experience.
6. Military Service / VA Benefits Eligible: For applicants that will potentially be using VA educational benefits if accepted, WVUH will accept, review, and maintain a written record of previous education and training for each candidate. Such materials will be reviewed to determine if credit toward admission or program completion is possible.

Interview Evaluation

Interviews are granted to the top **(12)** academic candidates each year; however, the Education Coordinator / Program Director 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 of each year and candidates will be notified of their admission status no later than April 1st of each year.

Interviews are conducted by an admissions 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. Candidates must score a minimum average of **25 interview points** (out of a possible 40) to be considered eligible for admission to the program. (See Interview Form).

Spatial Reasoning Puzzles

At the time of the interview applicants may be asked to complete five spatial reasoning puzzles to assess their critical thinking, reasoning skills, spatial visualization, and problem-solving abilities. Points are assigned based on time to complete, completion of all puzzles, and accuracy.

Overall Evaluation

The Education Coordinator / Program Director will combine the Academic, Interview, and Puzzle points into a cumulative score for each candidate and rank them in descending order. The Admissions Committee will review the scores and finalize the assessment.

Selection

The Education Coordinator will rank the candidates in descending order and will extend offers to top candidates having the highest Total Point scores (available seats in the program, vary year to year with an average of five students). Should there be a tie between two candidates, the average interview score for each candidate will be used as a tiebreaker. The candidate with the highest interview score will receive the higher ranking. The remaining eligible 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. A copy of the student handbook
- c. Statement of Intent to Enroll (must 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 are given 7-10 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, program officials will consider the offer as null and 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 period or at a time specified by program officials. 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)
- (4) Complete all other WVUH mandatory orientation procedures.