

Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography

281-756-5650

Advanced Technical Certificate

Degree: Advanced Technical Certificate Degree in either Adult Echocardiography, Pediatric Echocardiography, or Vascular Sonography

Purpose: The Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program offers a one and a half year curriculum to prepare those who already have a degree in an allied healthcare related field for a career in Adult Echocardiography, Pediatric Echocardiography, or Vascular Sonography which are branches of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. **This is not an entry-level certificate. It is above and beyond the healthcare degree the student already has.** Upon graduation, students will possess the skills necessary to perform ultrasound and related diagnostic exams of the heart and blood vessels. Echocardiographers and Vascular Sonographers practice in a variety of settings including hospitals, diagnostic centers, doctors' offices, contract services, self-employment, sales, education, and research. The Advanced Technical Certificate Program is a condensed version of the A.A.S. option taking into account the student's prior experience and training in allied healthcare. This program utilizes the same clinical sites all around the greater Houston - Galveston area. Graduates of this program may also earn their credentials by taking the national registry exam offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI).

This program is accredited through the Joint Review Committee for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) which is under the umbrella of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), 1361 Park St., Clearwater, FL 33756, Tel: 727-210-2350. All three specialty tracks and both degree options are accredited.

I. Admission Requirements: Application Deadline October 15 - Please call DCVS department to obtain an official packet.

- A. To be considered for admission to the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program in the Advanced Technical Certificate option, the applicant must:
1. Attend one of the FREE MANDATORY DCVS information sessions. Go to www.alvincollege.edu/DCVS for information session dates and registration.
 2. Be a high school or GED graduate.
 3. Have an Associate degree or higher in an allied healthcare related field from an accredited institution with demonstration of program pre-requisites of: ENGL 1301, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, MATH Core, PHYS 1401, SCIT 1420 or other Allied Health Physics course. A&P credits must be within the past 5 years. If the A&P is expired take DSAE 2303 Cardiovascular Concepts prior to enrollment in the program (Offered every semester).
 4. Apply to ACC and fulfill the college admission requirements. Must not currently be on suspension or academic probation from ACC or any other college or dismissal or failure from any other sonography program.
 5. Submit official transcripts of all previous college work to both the Program and the Admissions/Registrar's Office.
 6. Must have a current professional healthcare credential or medical license such as RN, RT, RRT, or RDMS (RDMS or RCS for pediatric echocardiography). Submit copy of current credential cards.
 7. Take the USA (Ultrasound Student Assessment) exam. Contact the ACC Testing Center to schedule the USA Examination.
 8. Demonstrate professionalism, desirable affective attributes, understanding of the responsibilities, personal qualities, duties and skills required of the Sonography profession by completing a professional observation. A minimum of 4 hours of observation in Adult Echocardiography, Pediatric Echocardiography, and Vascular Sonography is required for a total of 12 observatory hours. (Adult Echo - 4 hrs, Pedi Echo - 4 hrs, Non-Invasive Vascular - 4 hrs). Call 281-756-5625 to schedule your observation hours. These are required at the time of application.
 9. Complete and submit the application to the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program and attend one of the mandatory DCVS information sessions. See the Webpage for dates and registration. Use the check list provided in the application packet to ensure all components of the requirements are met.
 10. **Completed immunizations required at the time of application include: Hepatitis B (all 3 injections AND/OR positive Hep B titer), MMR (2 doses or positive titer) and Varicella (2 doses or positive titer), current TDaP (within 10 years). If records are not available then updated immunizations or titer tests are required to show immunity. History of disease is NOT accepted.**
 11. Submit two reference forms. References must be professional or academic, current, and sealed. See required form in application packet for instructions.
 12. Complete the personal statement.
 13. Include a current photo. May be from a copy of driver's license, passport photo or current student ID with photo.
 14. Upon acceptance, pass a criminal background check and drug screen.
 15. Upon acceptance, complete a physical examination including chest x-ray or TB skin test, vision test, and verification of immunization status. Upload all required information to the document tracker.
 16. Complete the AHA (American Heart Association only) Healthcare provider course for CPR prior to October and submit copy of card.
 17. Once accepted attendance at New Student Program Orientation is mandatory.
 18. Full acceptance is contingent upon: complete application with all requirements met, attendance at the mandatory new student orientation, successful completion of criminal background check, drug screen and physical exam.
 19. Timeline: October - Applications due, November - Acceptance packets are sent, criminal background checks, document tracker and physical exam is completed, December - Mandatory orientation, January - Start program.

- B. Transfer and non-traditional students must:

1. Meet the above criteria.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on all courses being transferred to the DCVS program.
3. Provide program and Registrar's Office with official transcripts from each prior institution.
4. Provide the DCVS program with a course description or syllabus for each course being considered for transfer.
5. Not currently on suspension or academic probation from any college or sonography program.
6. Credit may be awarded for support courses equivalent to those included in the DCVS program as determined by examination of the syllabus of the transfer course. A grade of C or better must be achieved for transfer courses.
7. Transfer students must complete a minimum of 11 credit hours at ACC to be awarded a Certificate from this institution.

II. Prior Learning Assessment Opportunity:

- A. Who is eligible for prior learning assessment?
 1. Practicing Echocardiographers and Vascular Sonographers who wish to earn their degree.

This option applies to those who are registered in Adult or Pedi Echocardiography or Vascular Sonography with at least 2 years of experience and would like to earn their Associate Degree. Requires advance permission from program director
 2. Individuals who have had prior learning of or experience with the subject matter of a particular course.
- B. DCVS program courses may be challenged in sequence through Prior Learning Assessment. Credit is awarded by departmental examination, national registry credential, experience or self-study and distance education.
- C. Admission requirements, pre-requisites and academic courses are still required.
- D. Former ACC DCVS program graduates who wish to cross-train:
 1. Must be graduates of ACC - DCVS.
 2. Must be registered in either Echo or Vascular.
 3. Must apply by October 15th.
 4. Number of openings is dependent upon current student volume in regular programs.
 5. Graduates who are registered and would like to cross-train without entering the full A.T.C. program may take the lecture and lab courses in sequence on a space available basis. Contact the program Director for more information. Requires advance permission from program director.

III. Auditing

- A. Practicing Echocardiographers and Vascular Sonographers who wish to take courses for refresher or registry exam review.
 1. This option is available to all Sonographers with advanced permission from program director
 2. These students may register as an audit to sit in on any course offered through the DCVS Program for refresher or registry review on a space available basis. Contact the program Director for more information.

IV. Get a Head Start:

- A. DMSO 1210 - Introduction to Sonography may be taken by any student who wishes to gain more information about the profession prior to being accepted into the program.
- B. DSAE 2303 - Cardiovascular Concepts may be taken prior to acceptance and or to renew expired Anatomy and Physiology knowledge.
- C. DSAE 1340 - Diagnostic Electrocardiography may be taken prior to acceptance to lighten load during program.

V. Progression Policies: See A.A.S. program

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Adult Echocardiography (CIP 51.0910)

Program Pre-requisites: Associate Degree or higher in an Allied Health field from an Accredited Institution. Prior education must have included: Algebra, Physics, English, Anatomy & Physiology I & II. Must hold a professional registry credential or medical license.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
First Semester (Spring 16 week)		
** DMSO 1210	Introduction to Sonography	2
DMSO 1342	Intermediate Ultrasound Physics	3
DSAE 1303	Introduction to Echocardiography Techniques	3
DSAE 1360	Clinical - DMST Intro to Echo	<u>3</u>
		11
Second Semester (Summer 11 week)		
** DSAE 2303	Cardiovascular Concepts	3
DSAE 2304	Echo Evaluation of Pathology I	3
DSAE 2361	Clinical - DMST Echo I	<u>3</u>
		9
Third Semester (Fall 16 week)		
** DSAE 1340	Diagnostic Electrocardiography	3
DSAE 2337	Echo Evaluation of Pathology II	3
** DSAE 2461	Clinical - DMST Echo II	<u>4</u>
		10
Fourth Semester (Spring 16 week)		
DSAE 2335	Advanced Echocardiography	3
* ** DSAE 2462	Clinical - DMST Echo III	<u>4</u>
		7

Total Credits Required for Adv Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Adult Echocardiography37

* Capstone Course

** Courses may be taken prior to acceptance. DSAE 2303 may be taken in advance of acceptance to renew expired A&P credits

Pre-requisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline. Deadline is October 15th.

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography – Pediatric Echocardiography (CIP 51.0910)

Program Pre-requisites: Associate Degree or higher in an Allied Health field from an Accredited Institution and current registry in Adult Echocardiography is required. Prior education must have included: Algebra, Physics, English, Anatomy & Physiology I & II. Must hold a professional registry credential or medical license.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
First Semester (Spring 16 week)		
DSPE 1265	Practicum – DMST, Intro to Pedi Echo	2
DSPE 1300	Introduction to Pedi Echo Techniques	3
DSPE 2255	Neonatal/Pediatric Patient Care Skills	<u>2</u>
		7
Second Semester (Summer 11 week)		
DSPE 2257	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 1	2
DSPE 2261	Clinical - DMST Pediatric Echo I	<u>2</u>
		4
Third Semester (Fall 16 week)		
DSPE 2249	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 2	2
DSPE 2461	Clinical - DMST Pediatric Echo II	<u>4</u>
		6
Fourth Semester (Spring 16 week)		
DSPE 2259	Advanced Pedi Echocardiography	2
* DSPE 2462	Clinical - DMST Pediatric Echo III	<u>4</u>
		6
Total Credits Required A.T.C. Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Specialty in Pediatric Echocardiography		23

* Capstone Course

Pre-requisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline. Deadline is October 15th.

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Vascular Sonography (CIP 51.0910)

Program Pre-requisites: Associate Degree or higher in an Allied Health Field from an Accredited Institution. Prior education must have included: Algebra, Physics, English, Anatomy & Physiology I & II. Must hold a professional credential.

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
First Semester (Spring 16 week)		
DMSO 1210	Introduction to Sonography	2
DSAE 1342	Intermediate Untrasound Physics	3
DSAE 1300	Principles of Vascular Technology	3
DSAE 1360	Clinical – DMST Introduction to Vascular	<u>3</u>
		11
Second Semester (Summer 11 week)		
** DSAE 2303	Cardiovascular Concepts	3
DSVT 2330	Cerebral Vascular Evaluation of Pathology	3
DSVT 2361	Clinical - DMST Vascular I	<u>3</u>
		9
Third Semester (Fall 16 week)		
** DSAE 1340	Diagnostic Electrocardiography	3
DSVT 2318	Peripheral Vascular Evaluation of Pathology	3
DSVT 2461	Clinical - DMST Vascular II	<u>4</u>
		10
Fourth Semester (Spring 16 week)		
DSVT 2335	Advanced Vascular Technology	3
* DSVT 2462	Clinical - DMST Vascular III	<u>4</u>
		7

Total Credits Required for Adv Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Vascular Sonography 37

* Capstone Course

** Courses may be taken prior to acceptance. DSAE 2303 may be taken in advance of acceptance to renew expired A&P credits.

Pre-requisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline. Deadline is October 15th.