

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 either 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 students 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.

- I. Admission Requirements: Application Deadline October 15. Please contact the 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. Be a high school or GED graduate and provide copies of transcripts (if High School graduate within the past five (5) years)
 2. Apply to ACC and fulfill the college admission requirements, including THEA or equivalent.
 3. Complete the application to the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program and meet with the Program Director or attend a DCVS information session.
 4. Submit official transcripts of all previous college work to both the program and the admissions/Registrar's Office.
 5. Have an Associates 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 1314, PHYS 1401 or Allied Health Physics course. A&P credits must be within the past 5 years. If you're A&P is expired take DSAE 2303 Cardiovascular Concepts prior to enrollment in the program (Offered every semester).
 6. Must have a professional credential such as RN, RT, RRT, or RDMS (RDCS or RCS for pediatric echocardiography). If you do not have a current professional credential, you must take the ACT and score a minimum of 19 or higher.
 7. Demonstrate understanding of the responsibilities, personal qualities, duties and skills required by the profession through 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, Vascular – 4 hrs.)
 8. Must have all three (3) HEPATITIS B shots in order to apply. Required immunizations are: Hep. B.(all 3 injections), MMR, Varicella, TDaP.
 9. Not currently on suspension or academic probation from ACC or any other college.
 10. Submit two (2) reference forms. References must be professional or academic, current, and sealed.
 11. Submit personal statement.
 12. Include a current passport photo or copy of driver's license or current student ID with photo.
 13. Once accepted, pass a criminal background check and drug screen.
 14. Upon acceptance, complete a physical examination including chest x-ray, TB skin test, vision test, and verification of immunization status.
 15. Complete the AHA (American Heart Association only) Healthcare provider course for CPR due by October 15th.
- 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 another college.
 6. Credit may be awarded for support courses equivalent to these 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 12 credit hours at ACC to be awarded a Certificate from this institution.
- II. Alternate Enrollment:**
- A. Practicing Echocardiographers and Vascular Sonographers who wish to earn an Advanced Certificate.**
1. This option applies to those who are registered in Adult Echocardiography or Vascular Sonography with at least 2 years of experience and would like to earn the Advanced Certificate.
 2. DCVS program courses may be challenged in sequence. Credit is awarded by examination. Admission requirements and pre-requisites are still required. Requires advance permission from program director.
- B. 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. Requires advance permission from program director.
- C. 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.**
- D. DSAE 2303 - Cardiovascular Concepts may be taken prior to acceptance.**
- III. Progression Policies:** See A.A.S. program

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Adult Echocardiography

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

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
FIRST YEAR		
First Semester (Spring)		
*DMSO 1210	Introduction to Sonography	2
DSAE 1318	Sonographic Instrumentation	3
DSAE 1303	Introduction to Echocardiography Techniques	3
DSAE 1360	Clinical - DMST, Intro to Echocardiography	<u>3</u>
		11
Second Semester (Summer)		
*DSAE 2303	Cardiovascular Concepts	3
DSAE 2404	Echo Evaluation of Pathology I	4
DSAE 2361	Clinical - DMST, Echocardiography I	<u>3</u>
		10
SECOND YEAR		
First Semester (Fall)		
DSAE 1340	Diagnostic Electrocardiography	3
DSAE 2437	Echo Evaluation of Pathology II	4
DSAE 2461	Clinical - DMST, Echocardiography II	<u>4</u>
		11
Second Semester (Spring)		
DSAE 2335	Advanced Echocardiography	3
DSAE 2462	Clinical - DMST Echocardiography III	<u>4</u>
		7

Total Credits Required for Adv Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Adult Echocardiography 39

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

** Prerequisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline. Deadline is October 15th.

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Vascular Sonography

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

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
FIRST YEAR		
First Semester (Spring)		
*DMSO 1210	Introduction to Sonography	2
DSAE 1318	Sonographic Instrumentation	3
DSVT 1300	Principles of Vascular Technology	3
DSVT 1360	Clinical - DMST, Intro to Vascular	<u>3</u>
		11
Second Semester (Summer)		
*DSAE 2303	Cardiovascular Concepts	3
DSVT 2430	Cerebral Vascular Evaluation of Pathology	4
DSVT 2361	Clinical - DMST, Vascular I	<u>3</u>
		10
SECOND YEAR		
First Semester (Fall)		
DSAE 1340	Diagnostic Electrocardiography	3
DSVT 2418	Peripheral Vascular Evaluation of Pathology	4
DSVT 2461	Clinical - DMST, Vascular II	<u>4</u>
		11
Second Semester (Spring)		
DSVT 2335	Advanced Vascular Technology	3
DSVT 2462	Clinical - DMST, Vascular III	<u>4</u>
		7

Total Credits Required for Adv Technical Cert. Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography - Non-Invasive Vascular.....39

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

** Prerequisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline. Deadline is October 15th.

Advanced Technical Certificate Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography – Pediatric Echocardiography

CAAHEP accreditation for Pediatric Echocardiography is in progress.

**** Program Pre-requisites:**

Associate Degree or higher in an Allied Health field (preferably Echocardiography) from an Accredited Institution and current registry in Adult Echocardiography with at least one year experience. Prior education must have included: Algebra, Physics, English, and Anatomy & Physiology.

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
FIRST YEAR		
First Semester (Spring 16 weeks)		
DSPE 2255	Neonatal/Pediatric Patient Care Skills	2
DSPE 1300	Introduction to Pedi Echo Techniques	3
DSPE 2360	Clinical – DMST, Intro to Pedi Echo	<u>3</u>
		8
Second Semester (Summer 11 weeks)		
DSPE 2357	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 1	3
DSPE 2261	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo I	<u>2</u>
		5
SECOND YEAR		
First Semester (Fall 16 weeks)		
DSPE 2349	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 2	3
DSPE 2461	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo II	<u>4</u>
		7
Second Semester (Spring 16 weeks)		
DSPE 2359	Advanced Pedi Echocardiography	3
DSPE 2462	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo III	<u>4</u>
		7

Total Credits Required A.T.C. Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Specialty in Pediatric Echocardiography 27

Deadline to apply is October 15th.

****Prerequisite courses must be completed or in progress by the application deadline.**