



*The Claude W Smith, MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
2020 Application Information*



Thank you for your interest in our cardiovascular sonography program. If you have the interest and motivation to succeed in this growing and exciting field, complete the application and return it to:

The Claude W. Smith MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
2435 Forest Drive
Columbia, SC 29204

Or by email to:
Daniel.chambers@providencehospitals.com
Or
Mary.dougherty@providencehospitals.com

Our program awards a certificate in Echocardiography and Vascular Sonography. Graduates are eligible to sit for the ARDMS exam in these specialties. To learn more about our program, please visit

<https://www.yourprovidencehealth.com/for-healthcare-professionals/clinical-education/school-of-cardiovascular-technology>

Most of the details concerning the program, including course outlines, can be found at this site.

At Providence Health, we believe in providing you with the tools necessary to help you become successful in the field of noninvasive diagnostic cardiovascular sonography. Don't delay in sending in your application today. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call me directly at 803-256-5636, or by e-mail at Daniel.Chambers@providencehospitals.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Chambers".

Dan Chambers, RDCS, RVT
Director,
Claude W Smith MD School of Cardiovascular Technology



ADMISSIONS POLICY

The following criteria have been established to screen applicants for the cardiovascular ultrasound program offered by Providence Health. This policy is instituted in an attempt to offer a fair and equitable selection process that will support the mission statement of Providence Health and ensure success of the selected students. This policy is intended to be fair, forthright, and meet the growing demands of acceptance into the Claude W Smith MD, School of Cardiovascular Technology.

Please note: ***All applications must be accompanied by a thirty-five dollar, non-refundable application fee or it will not be processed.*** Incomplete applications will not be processed. Applications will be accepted starting January 1st through the deadline of March 1st of that calendar year for each fall class acceptance. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Applications received after this date will not be processed.

In addition to each application, official transcripts from all institutions attended and two letters of recommendation must be submitted at the time of application. If transcripts and/or letters of recommendation are not provided, the application will be deemed incomplete and will not be valid until the required documentation is supplied. All of the prerequisite courses should be completed at the time of application.

Course prerequisites

The following prerequisite requirements must be completed in order to apply to the program:

1. Human Anatomy and Physiology I with lab
2. Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab
3. Medical Terminology
4. College Algebra or higher
5. English Composition

A **MINIMUM overall GPA of the required prerequisites is 2.5** and a **MINIMUM science GPA of 2.75** is required for the candidate to be considered for admission.

Applicants will be scheduled for a clinical 'shadowing' experience with members of the Providence Health Imaging staff. This opportunity will provide first-hand insight into the field of noninvasive cardiovascular imaging. This is an opportunity to meet the instructors and staff, visit the classroom, learn about the career field of cardiovascular ultrasound, and ask questions concerning the program.

Please call Mary Dougherty at 803-256-5627, or Dan Chambers at 803- 256-5636 for more information.

Once the application has been received and a shadowing completed, the selection committee will review the applications and offer a written invitation for qualified candidates to participate in the final interview process. This interview will take place in April each year, date to be determined.



School of Cardiovascular Technology Tuition Policy

Please note: Tuition costs and fees are subject to change without notice.

As of the August 2020 start date, tuition for this eighteen month, CAAHEP accredited cardiovascular technology program is set at \$15,000. This charge covers tuition only and is subject to change without notice. A deposit of \$1,000 is due by August 1st. This deposit will be applied towards the total cost of tuition. The balance of the tuition can be paid in monthly payments starting in September with no interest charged. For more financing information, contact Mary Dougherty or Dan Chambers.

Additional Program Costs

Additional supplies needed for participation in class include: textbooks, sonographer liability insurance, and hospital scrubs. The student is responsible for the costs of these items, as they are not included in the price of tuition. Estimated costs for these items are as follows:

ALL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

Textbooks – approximately \$300 (used books are acceptable)

Scrubs - variable

Liability insurance – appx. \$75

Clinical site fees

SPI exam fee – currently \$225

Refund Policy

A tuition refund will be prorated according to time of withdrawal or termination up to one year from the time of enrollment in accordance to the SCCHE refund policy. After twelve months, no refund will be provided.

Transfer of Credits

We do not accept or recognize credits or course work from any other cardiovascular program toward the requirements of certification



Application for Admission

Year in which you are interested in starting:

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Number: (____) - _____ Evening Number: (____) - _____

E-mail address: _____

Colleges/Universities Attended	Dates	Degree Earned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Work Experience (please include dates)	Contact Person	Contact Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

How did you hear about our program?

We consider all applicants for admission without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation or any other legally protected status.



List two character references below. Submit two letters of reference from these individuals to complete your application

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Forward the completed application and an official, sealed copy of your college transcripts to:

The Claude W Smith, MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
Attn: Admissions Coordinator
2435 Forest Dr.
Columbia, SC 29204

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I certify that the information contained in this application is true. I further understand that falsification of information or incomplete statements herein will result in cancellation of this application. I agree that examination and verification of my employment or previous education, except as it pertains to age, race, gender, sex, color, creed, national origin, marital status or disability, may be made and used relative to my application status. I, therefore, authorize my former employers and other persons or organizations listed to provide this information and I release all concerned from any liability in connection therewith. I further certify that as of the intended date of enrollment, I will have graduated from an accredited high school or the equivalent and completed, in good standing, additional course work as listed on this application and/or attachments.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please review your application carefully. Incomplete applications may be returned and this could delay the application process.
Application revised 01/2020

FAQ's

1. How much does the program cost and what financing is available?

Answer: Beginning the 2020 session, the current cost of the program is \$15,000. This is for the entire 18 month program. It does not include the costs of the required textbooks, which can be purchased used, hospital scrubs, other clinical fees may apply. If you qualify for the GI Bill, we are VA approved. We do not directly accept payment from federal loans and are not approved for grants or loans available for most university students unless you are already in the CVT program at the University of South Carolina. After the initial \$ 1,000 down payment, the hospital will allow you to make monthly payments without incurring finance charges.

2. Do I have to have a college degree or attend the University of South Carolina to enter this program?

Answer: Being a student at South Carolina, or having a degree is not required, but some college level courses are. A student in at South Carolina is encouraged to speak with their counselor about the bachelors in cardiovascular technology, and attending this program. We are open to all that have academically qualified to apply to the program.

3. How hard is it to get a job when I graduate? What kind of salary should I expect? Do I automatically get a job at your hospital?

Answer: Nationwide, there is a very healthy job market for those new graduates skilled in cardiovascular imaging. It is even better if you have or have qualified for your national certification. Locally, we have a number of recent graduates in the area and open positions can be scarce, but full and part time positions do become available. Since 2008, everyone that has graduated the program and been able to look outside the greater Columbia area has been able to find full time work. You can expect to start at 25-27 dollars per hour, with many hospitals offering a bonus when you earn your national credentials. It is not uncommon for new graduates with credentials to start at \$55,000+ yearly. If we have open positions, our facility has and will hire new graduates, but it is very competitive and there are no guarantees.

4. When do you hold classes? Do you offer classes at night or on weekends?

Answer: Classroom work begins in August and usually runs through the end of May. Our classes are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Clinical rotations start in June and you must meet the clinical requirements of the program regarding hours and numbers of studies. The program requires 1390 clinical work hours. 40 clinical hours per week will take approximately nine months. You may work a minimum of 30 clinical hours per week.

5. I think your program may be right for me. Am I automatically accepted if I apply?

Answer: We usually receive 25-30 qualified applicants per year which is far more than we have room for in our program. We have found the interview process to be the best method to determine how we fill our classes. We understand that many well qualified applicants will not be accepted into the program and currently we have no way to automatically accept all who apply.

6. Are credits transferable?

Answer: The Claude W Smith MD School of Cardiovascular Technology has no educational affiliation with any other accredited or non-accredited program. As such, we do **not** accept or recognize credits or course work from any other cardiovascular program towards the requirements of certification. A student that is ARDMS registered in any of the sonography specialties is required to satisfactorily complete all course work prior to receiving certification, but is not required to re-take the ARDMS SPI exam.