

Cardiovascular Technology – Invasive and Sonography (Associate Degree)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. CVT 101, 102 and 103 are prerequisites for the Cardiovascular Technology programs.

1. When are CVT 101 and 102 offered?

A. CVT 101 and 102 are offered in the fall and spring semesters at the Lancaster Campus and must be taken together. They are co-requisites and must be passed with a C or better. These classes always fill within the first few minutes. Prerequisites are Math 020, BIOL 111 or 121. **These courses are restricted to students in CVT major codes.**

2. When is CVT 103 (clinical) offered?

A. CVT 103 must be scheduled the semester following successful completion of CVT 101 and 102. You must receive a C or better in both courses to register for CVT 103.

Q. How many students are selected into the Cardiovascular Technology programs yearly?

A. Cardiac Sonography accepts 10 students and Invasive Cardiovascular Technology accepts 8 students.

Q. When does the Invasive and Cardiac Sonography selection take place?

A. Applications are available in October of each year and the deadline for submission is in December (date varies).

Q. Are some courses more important than others in the selection process?

A. Biology 121, 122, Math 103 and CVT 101, 102 and 103 are predictors of success in the CVT programs and are more heavily weighted in the point systems used for selection into the programs.

Q. When are students notified of acceptance to the Cardiac Sonography or Invasive programs?

A. Students are notified in writing of acceptance to the program by January 15.

Q. How long is the clinical portion of the Cardiac Sonography or Invasive program?

A. The program begins in May of each year and is 15 months in length (including 2 summers). This does not include general education requirements, which are usually completed prior to clinicals. During spring term, clinicals (hospital portion) are three 8-hour days; summer semester (May-August), clinicals are four or five 8-hour days. In addition, there is classroom time and practice in the lab scheduled on your own time. Students in the current cardiac sonography class recently said "it's like being in A&P lecture and lab for 15 months"! During fall term there is a lot of extra time spent in the lab to keep up. Working full-time is not advisable.

Q. I am a CCT (Certified Cardiographic Technician). What do I need to do to be in the CVT programs?

A. If you are a CCT with at least one year of clinical experience you can apply for credit for CVT 101, 102 and 103. You follow the same procedure as all other students, but you must present your certification to the program director to receive a substitution/waiver for those courses.

Q. Do I need to meet with an advisor?

A. Yes, academic advising is critical to your progression through the program. CVT advisors are Betty Smith (call 780-2380 to schedule an appointment) in Harrisburg, Susan Herr-Lancaster (call 358-2877 to schedule an appointment), Heather Burns-York (call 718-0328, ext. 3513 to schedule

an appointment), Debra Schneider-Lebanon (call 270-4222 to schedule an appointment), Lisette Newhard-Gettysburg(call 337-3855 to schedule an appointment).

Q. Can I get a D in my CVT courses and still pass?

A. No, C is the minimum passing grade for any CVT course.

Q. Am I eligible to work upon graduation or do I need to take a test?

A. You are eligible to work, but there are credentialing exams through Cardiovascular Credential International (CCI) or the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS).

Q. Cardiac Sonography is just doing sonograms of the heart in a lab, right (non-invasive)?

A. Cardiac Sonography can also be performed in the emergency room or the operating room. Transesophageal echocardiography, putting a tube down the patient's throat into the esophagus to better visualize the heart, is done in the operating room or the cardiology department. This procedure is done on a daily basis. For contrast studies, CVTs also start IVs. Students rarely, but on occasion, would need to go to the morgue or work with patients who are preparing for heart transplantation.

Q. Is there anything else I need to know about Invasive CVTs that I may not have realized?

A. In a busy lab, on a daily basis Invasive CVTs can be required to start an IV and put in a Foley catheter. During contrast studies, patients are given fluids and may not be able to void, so a catheter may be placed into the bladder through the urethra. Emergencies sometimes occur and CVTs may need to provide Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and otherwise participate in care for critically ill patients. Students may be required to go to the operating room, emergency room or intensive care to perform procedures. Some patients are emergency and require immediate critical care and decision making skills. Students rarely, but on occasion, would need to work with patients who are preparing for heart transplantation.