

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 CVT 100, Math 022, 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.

3. Can I take the noncredit Cardiology Technician program instead of CVT 101, 102, 103?

A. Yes, you can take the noncredit Cardiology Technician program, obtain CCT certification and work for six months in a cardiovascular department or physicians practice to fulfill that requirement for the CVT clinical application.

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 March of each year and the deadline for submission is in May (date varies).

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

A. Biology 121, 122, Math 111 and CVT 100, 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 May 30.

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

A. The program begins in August of each year and is 15 months in length (including 2 fall semesters).

This does not include general education requirements, which are usually completed prior to clinicals. During summer term, clinicals (hospital portion) are three 8-hour days; Fall II semester (August-December), 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 spring 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 6 months of clinical experience you can apply for credit for CVT 100, 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. 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 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.

Q. I have a criminal background. Will I be able to do your program and sit for the certification exam and be hired by a health care facility?

A. If you have committed an offense, submit a [Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Request Form \(SP-164\)](#) and/or the FBI check and present the results to the program director for a determination of your ability to complete the program. For employment, that is between you and the facility.