

Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Advanced Technical Certificate Degree Program

Degree: Advanced Technical Certificate Degree in Pediatric Echocardiography

Length: 18 months, New program begins each spring in January.

Purpose: The Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program offers a one and a half year curriculum to prepare those who already have experience in adult echocardiography and a prior degree in healthcare for a career in Pediatric which is a highly specialized branch 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 pediatric heart patient. Pediatric Echocardiographers practice in a variety of settings including hospitals, diagnostic centers, doctor's offices, contract services, self-employment, sales, education, and research. The Advanced Technical Certificate Program is a condensed program taking into account the student's prior experience and training in allied healthcare and adult echocardiography. This program utilizes 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).

Currently, there is no programmatic accreditation for pediatric echocardiography programs in the country. This is the first program of its kind in the state of Texas. ACC will be working with 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) to begin to develop accreditation standards for this branch of Sonography. .

I. Admission Requirements: Application Deadline October 15

- A. To be considered for admission to the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Pedi Echo Program in the Advanced Technical Certificate option, the applicant must:
1. Be a high school or GED graduate and provide copies of transcripts and diploma if a high school graduate within the past 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 interview with the Program Director.
 4. Submit official transcripts of all previous college work to both the program and the admissions/records office.
 5. Have an Associates degree 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 any Allied Health physics course. A&P credits must be within the past 5 years. If you're A&P has expired please choose from the following:

- a. Re-take A&P II which includes the heart and blood vessels.
 - b. Take the A&P renewal test from the academic advising office to determine if you still have the knowledge.
 - c. Take DSAE 2303 Cardiovascular Concepts prior to enrollment. Offered every summer.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the responsibilities, personal qualities, duties and skills required by the profession through a professional observation. A minimum of 4 hours of pedi echocardiography are required.
 7. Upon acceptance complete a physical examination including chest x-ray, TB skin test, and verification of immunization status including documentation of all 3 Hepatitis B shots.
 8. Not currently on suspension or academic probation from ACC or any other college.
 9. Submit two (2) professional letters of reference on letterhead with current date, phone number, and signature.

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 records 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.

III. Alternate Enrollment:

A. Practicing Pediatric Echocardiographers who wish to earn an Advanced Certificate.

1. This option applies to those who are registered in Pedi Echocardiography 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.

Progression Policies:

See A.A.S. program

See Curriculum Outline for Advanced Certificate Degree Plan

Curriculum Outline

FICE 003539

CIP 51.0910

Alvin Community College

Advanced Technical Certificate

Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography – Pediatric Echocardiography

Program Pre-requisites

Associate Degree or higher in an Allied Health field (preferably Echocardiography) from an Accredited Institution and current registry in Adult Echocardiography is required.

Prior education must have included: Algebra, Physics, English, and Biology.

Rubric/#	Title	Type	Wkly Lec Hrs	Wkly Lab Hrs	Wkly Clin Hrs	Sem Cont Hrs	Sem Cred Hrs
First Semester (Spring 16 weeks)							
DSPE 2277	Neonatal/Pediatric Patient Care Skills	WECM	1	3	0	64	2
DSPE 2373	Intro to Pedi Echo Techniques	WECM	2	3	0	80	3
DSPE 2370	Clinical – DMST, Intro to Pedi Echo	WECM	0	0	16	256	3
	Semester Total		4	5	16	400	8
Second Semester (Summer 11 weeks)							
DSPE 2374	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 1	WECM	2	3	0	80	3
DSPE 2271	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo I	WECM	0	0	12	192	2
	Semester Total		2	3	12	272	5
Third Semester (Fall 16 weeks)							
DSPE 2377	Echo Eval of Congenital Heart Disease 2	WECM	2	3	0	80	3
DSPE 2471	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo II	WECM	0	0	24	384	4
	Semester Total		2	3	24	464	7
Fourth Semester (Spring 16 weeks)							
DSPE 2375	Advanced Pedi Echocardiography	WECM	2	3	0	80	3
DSPE 2472	Clinical – DMST, Pedi Echo III	WECM	0	0	24	384	4
	Semester Total		2	3	24	464	7
Total Credits Required						CTH	SCH
Advanced Technical Certificate						1600	27
Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography							
Specialty in Pediatric Echocardiography							

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