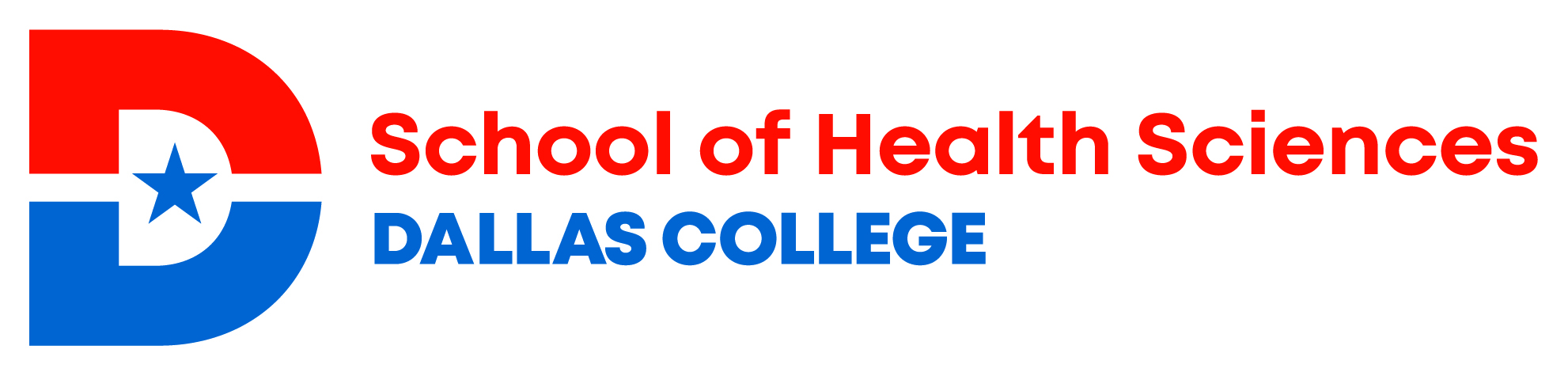
**2023-2024**

**Cardiac Sonography**

PROGRAM InFORMATION PACKET



[Program Summary and Accreditation 2](#_Toc140147109)

[A. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Checklist 3](#_Toc140147110)

[B. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Checklist- Advanced Technical Certificate 4](#_Toc140147111)

[Eligibility to Apply to Allied Health Associate Degree Programs 5](#_Toc140147112)

[C. General Admission Requirements to the College 5](#_Toc140147113)

[Official College Transcripts 5](#_Toc140147114)

[Initial Advisement 6](#_Toc140147115)

[Online Program Information Sessions 6](#_Toc140147116)

[D. Prerequisite Courses 6](#_Toc140147117)

[Advanced Technical Certificate 7](#_Toc140147118)

[E. Previous Coursework Evaluation toward Adult Cardiac Sonography 7](#_Toc140147119)

[Credit by Examination, CLEP and Advanced Placement Credit 8](#_Toc140147120)

[Determination of Application Eligibility Category 8](#_Toc140147121)

[Coursework from Institutions Outside of the United States 8](#_Toc140147122)

[F. Program Application Exam (HESI A2) 8](#_Toc140147123)

[G. Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) 10](#_Toc140147124)

[H. Digital Records (SurPath) 10](#_Toc140147125)

[I. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Materials Submission 11](#_Toc140147126)

[J. Application Filing Period(s) 12](#_Toc140147127)

[K. Preliminary Applicant Evaluation 12](#_Toc140147128)

[L. Selection Process 12](#_Toc140147129)

[M. Notification of Acceptance 14](#_Toc140147130)

[N. Curriculum Overview - Adult Cardiac Sonography Associate Degree 15](#_Toc140147131)

[O. Curriculum Overview- Adult Cardiac Sonography Advanced Technical Certificate 16](#_Toc140147132)

[P. Adult Cardiac Sonography General Information 17](#_Toc140147133)

[Adult Cardiac Sonography Contact Information 20](#_Toc140147134)

[Essential Requirements for the Cardiac Sonography Student 21](#_Toc140147135)

[Q. Estimated Expenses for the Adult Cardiac Sonography 23](#_Toc140147136)

****

**Adult Cardiac Sonography**

**Revised to assist students applying in Fall 2023 for Summer 2024 Program Entrance.**

# Program Summary and Accreditation

The Dallas College School of Health Sciences offers a 60-credit hour curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Adult Cardiac Sonography and a 37-credit hour Advanced Technical Certificate at the El Centro campus. This information packet contains application eligibility guidelines for both curriculum tracks for applications submitted in Fall of 2023. The next Adult Cardiac Sonography program cohort will begin on or about June 1st of 2024. The Adult Cardiac Sonography program starts a new cohort once a year (in summer) and is currently 3 semesters in length (not including [prerequisite courses)](#_D._Prerequisite_Courses).

The Adult Cardiac SonographyProgram prepares individuals to perform diagnostic examinations known as cardiac sonograms which provide thorough analysis of the heart and great vessels. Cardiac Sonographers utilize high frequency sound waves to obtain visualization of these soft tissue structures as requested by ordering physicians for the non-invasive diagnosis of heart disease and the evaluation of cardiac function through use of 2-D, grayscale, M-Mode, Doppler and Strain analyses, as well as volume imaging of the heart. Cardiac sonograms include anatomic imaging and measurement, in addition to both qualitative and quantitative assessment of blood flow velocities, the calculation of data, and the use of up-to-date ultrasound imaging equipment. The Adult Cardiac Sonography program sponsored by Dallas College at the El Centro campus is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs](https://www.caahep.org/) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology.

CAAHEP

9355 – 113th St. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

727-210-2350

Graduates of the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program are eligible to sit for designated registry exams through either the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography ([ARDMS](https://www.ardms.org/)) to obtain their Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer credential (RDCS) in Adult Echocardiography (AE) or through Cardiovascular Credentialing International ([CCI](https://cci-online.org/)) to obtain their Registered Cardiac Sonographer credential (RCS) board examinations once all other criteria required by each administering organization are met.

Acceptance to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program is via a **competitive selection process based on the point system outlined in** [**section L**](#_L._Selection_Process). This information packet details the procedure for program application. This information packet contains **specific application guidelines and requirements.** Submission of application materials verifies that an individual has: **1) read the packet thoroughly; 2) obtained all necessary documents from designated website addresses;** and **3) understood the policies and procedures for application and acceptance to the program.**

**Equal Educational Opportunity**

Educational opportunities are offered by Dallas College without regard to race, color,

religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

A. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Checklist: Associate of Applied Science

This checklist is organized toward an applicant just beginning their college experience. Some items may not be applicable if you have previous college credits.

1. \_\_\_\_Download and read through the Adult Cardiac Sonography [program information packet](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-packets-sessions.aspx)
2. \_\_\_\_If you have questions about the program, email [AskSOHS@dallascollege.edu](mailto:asksohs@dallascollege.edu?subject=Questions%20about%20a%20health%20program)
3. \_\_\_\_Obtain the [immunization and physical examination](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-immunization-requirements.aspx) requirements document. *Some immunizations require multiple doses on a specific timeline over several months. Therefore, potential applicants should review their immunizations at least six to seven months prior to the application deadline.* Schedule and take your Hepatitis B titer test early.
4. \_\_\_\_Determine your [Application Eligibility Category](#_Eligibility_to_Apply).
5. \_\_\_\_Complete an [application for college admission](https://www.applytexas.org/), if not already a Dallas College student.
6. \_\_\_\_Submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges/universities to [studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu](mailto:studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu) or to Admissions – Eastfield Campus, 3737 Motley Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
7. \_\_\_\_See a [Success Coach](https://www.dallascollege.edu/resources/success-coaching/pages/default.aspx) (advisor) as needed for TSI counseling, placement testing, etc., and complete any developmental courses as may be determined from the test scores.
8. \_\_\_\_If desired, request an [Educational Plan](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=U1R-1i9z3EqUpEiI8tl9XR-JTZXG4gtGtI5xwkPieuFUOFdER1BQS1k5TU02R09FQTU0WFVDTEJQWSQlQCN0PWcu) for evaluation of external credit course work that applies to the Adult Cardiac Sonography curriculum.
9. \_\_\_\_Complete the Adult Cardiac Sonography prerequisite courses with [minimum GPA](#_D._Prerequisite_Courses):
   1. \_\_\_\_ENGL 1301 d. \_\_\_\_MATH 1314 or 1414 g. \_\_\_\_PSYC 2301
   2. \_\_\_\_BIOL 2401 e. \_\_\_\_SPCH 1311 or 1315 or 1321 h. \_\_\_\_DSAE 2303: > grade C
   3. \_\_\_\_BIOL 2402 f. \_\_\_\_3 credit humanities elective
10. \_\_\_\_Complete the appropriate [admissions exam](#_F._Program_Application)(s)
11. \_\_\_\_Obtain Basic Life Support CPR w/AED certification: classes may be located through the [American Heart Association](https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/healthcare-professional/basic-life-support-bls-training) or [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/bls-training/bls-for-healthcare-providers) (face to face instruction required)
12. \_\_\_\_Watch [the Cardiac Sonography Program online information session](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-packets-sessions.aspx) with speakers turned on.
13. \_\_\_\_Follow directions given in the online information session (viewed in the previous step) to request:  
    a. \_\_\_\_the access link to the Cardiac Sonography Application Instructions Packet, and  
    b. \_\_\_\_the ***Secure Link*** applicant portal for uploading all application documents.
14. \_\_\_\_Submit documentation of Hepatitis B vaccine and titer to the ***Secure Link.***
15. \_\_\_\_Submit other required materials to the ***Secure Link*** prior to the filing [deadline](#_J._Application_Filing):
    1. \_\_\_\_[Supporting documentation](#_I.__Adult) if applying under Application Eligibility Category 2 or 3.
    2. \_\_\_\_Completed Adult Cardiac Sonography Application
    3. \_\_\_\_Students’ Statement of Responsibility
    4. \_\_\_\_Acknowledgement of Immunization, CPR and Physical Exam Requirements form.
    5. \_\_\_\_Signed [Essential Requirements](#_Essential_Requirements_for) for the Cardiac Sonography Student form.
    6. \_\_\_\_Photocopy of your official Phi Theta Kapp membership card/certificate (if applicable)
    7. \_\_\_\_Copies of any educational plans
    8. \_\_\_\_Request for course substitution forms, HPRS portfolio credit confirmation forms, etc. or 5-year waiver forms if applicable.

B. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Checklist: Advanced Technical Certificate

This checklist is organized toward an applicant just beginning their college experience. Some items may not be applicable if you have previous college credits.

1. \_\_\_\_Download and read through the Adult Cardiac Sonography [program information packet](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-packets-sessions.aspx)
2. \_\_\_\_If you have questions about the program, email [AskSOHS@dallascollege.edu](mailto:asksohs@dallascollege.edu?subject=Questions%20about%20a%20health%20program)
3. \_\_\_\_Obtain the [immunization and physical examination](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-immunization-requirements.aspx) requirements document. *Some immunizations require multiple doses on a specific timeline over several months. Therefore, potential applicants should review their immunizations at least six to seven months prior to the application deadline* Schedule and take your Hepatitis B titer test early.
4. \_\_\_\_Verify eligibility to apply for the Advanced Technical Certificate by submitting an [Educational Plan](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx) request with documentation of healthcare degree and professional credential(s) including coursework in human anatomy and physiology, college level algebra, English, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and ECG monitoring.
5. \_\_\_\_Complete an [application for college admission](https://www.applytexas.org/), if not already a Dallas College student.
6. \_\_\_\_Submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges/universities to [studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu](mailto:studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu) or to Admissions – Eastfield Campus, 3737 Motley Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
7. \_\_\_\_See a [Success Coach](https://www.dallascollege.edu/resources/success-coaching/pages/default.aspx) (advisor) as needed for TSI counseling, placement testing, etc., and complete any developmental courses as may be determined from the test scores.
8. \_\_\_\_If desired, request an [Educational Plan](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx) for evaluation of external credit course work that applies to the Adult Cardiac Sonography curriculum.
9. \_\_\_\_Enroll and complete the following Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite course with a minimum grade of “C” or higher.
   1. \_\_\_\_DSAE 2303
10. \_\_\_\_Certificate applicants may also choose to enroll in or repeat the following courses which will be compared to those completed by associate degree applicants for a similar GPA for ranking:
    1. \_\_\_\_ENGlL1301 d. \_\_\_\_MATH 1314 or 1414 g. \_\_\_\_PSYC 2301
    2. \_\_\_\_BIOL 2401 e. \_\_\_\_SPCH 1311 or 1315 or 1321
    3. \_\_\_\_BIOL 2402 f. \_\_\_\_3 credit humanities elective
11. \_\_\_\_Complete the appropriate [admissions exam](#_F._Program_Application)(s)
12. \_\_\_\_Obtain Basic Life Support CPR w/AED certification: classes may be located through the [American Heart Association](https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/healthcare-professional/basic-life-support-bls-training) or [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/bls-training/bls-for-healthcare-providers) (face to face instruction required)
13. \_\_\_\_Watch [the Cardiac Sonography Program online information session](https://www.dallascollege.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-packets-sessions.aspx) with speakers turned on.
14. \_\_\_\_Follow directions given in the online information session (viewed in the previous step) to request:  
    a. \_\_\_\_the access link to the Cardiac Sonography Application Instructions Packet, and  
    b. \_\_\_\_the ***Secure Link*** applicant portal for uploading all application documents.
15. \_\_\_\_Submit documentation of Hepatitis B vaccine and titer to the ***Secure Link.***
16. \_\_\_\_Submit other required materials to the ***Secure Link*** prior to the filing [deadline](#_J._Application_Filing):
    1. \_\_\_\_[Supporting documentation](#_I.__Adult) for Application Eligibility Category 3.
    2. \_\_\_\_Completed Adult Cardiac Sonography Application
    3. \_\_\_\_Students’ Statement of Responsibility
    4. \_\_\_\_Acknowledgement of Immunization, CPR and Physical Exam Requirements form.
    5. \_\_\_\_Signed [Essential Requirements](#_Essential_Requirements_for) for the Cardiac Sonography Student form.
    6. \_\_\_\_Photocopy of your official Phi Theta Kapp membership card/certificate (if applicable)
    7. \_\_\_\_Copies of any educational plans
    8. \_\_\_\_Request for course substitution forms, HPRS portfolio credit confirmation forms, etc. or 5-year waiver forms if applicable.

Eligibility to Apply to Allied Health Associate Degree Programs

In order to apply during Fall for entrance into the Adult Cardiac Sonography program in the Summer to follow, an applicant must meet the conditions of ONE of the three [Application Eligibility Categories](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx), as well as meet other application requirements prior to the application deadline. The categories include:

Eligibility **Category** **1** Applicant – Completion of the six HPRS courses for the Health Professions Readiness Awards I and II, ***OR***

Eligibility **Category** **2** Applicant – Documentation of a minimum of two (2) years employment as a healthcare worker with direct patient care experience within the last three (3) years by successful completion of the Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio course, programmatic assessment exams, and/or course work demonstrating the skills/knowledge encompassing the content of the six HPRS courses, ***OR***

Eligibility **Category** **3** Applicant – Documentation of a current professional credential in a healthcare profession (such as General or Vascular Sonography, Invasive Cardiovascular Technology, Radiography, Nursing, or Respiratory Care, etc.) as approved by the Cardiac Sonography Program Director.

Note: Applicants with a Bachelor's or Associate’s degree in areas such as General or Vascular Sonography, Invasive Cardiovascular Technology, Radiography, Nursing, Surgical Technology, Respiratory Care, etc. may qualify to apply to the program through the [Advanced Technical Certificate curriculum track](#_O._Curriculum_Overview-).

# C. General Admission Requirements to the College

Applicants to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program must meet all [college admission requirements](https://www.dallascollege.edu/admissions/pages/default.aspx) as outlined in the official college catalog.

Applicants must have earned either a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) in addition to complying with Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements before they will be eligible to apply to the program. Students should consult Success Coach/advising office to determine their TSI status prior to application to a Health Sciences program such as the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program.

All students applying to or enrolled at a Dallas College campus are required to submit their Social Security number to the Registrar’s Office. Students who do not possess a Social Security number must complete a form obtained at the Registrar’s Office. For more information, consult a Registrar / Admissions Office at any Dallas College campus. Note: student opportunities for clinical placement may be limited without a social security number.

## Official College Transcripts

Prior to application to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program, potential applicants must have submitted ***official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities the applicant has attended whether the coursework is or is not relevant to the program application***. Transcripts from Dallas College (formerly Dallas County Community College District) campuses are not required.

The transcripts must be current with the **print date no earlier than three years** prior to the applicant’s anticipated admission to the program unless the student has not had a break in enrollment with Dallas College since the transcripts were originally submitted. If the official transcripts have not been submitted, the individual’s application will be voided.

Official transcripts must be sent electronically from the applicant’s previous colleges to [studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu](mailto:studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu). Transcripts sent by the applicant in pdf or other formats are not accepted. Transcripts may also be mailed from a college in a sealed envelope to: Dallas College, Attention: Admissions Processing,3737 Motley Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150.

## Initial Advisement

Students who are beginning college for the first time will follow the [Steps to Enrollment](https://www.dallascollege.edu/admissions/application/pages/default.aspx) which will guide them from applying to the college system to placement testing, selecting a degree plan, contacting a Success Coach, and enrolling in basic courses. <https://www.dallascollege.edu/admissions/pages/new-credit-students.aspx>

A student who has not completed college coursework should request a general Associate of Science Degree plan from [Success Coaching](https://www.dallascollege.edu/resources/success-coaching/pages/centers.aspx) as a starting point toward future application to a health sciences program.

***Note: Additional assessment testing in computer literacy and learning frameworks courses may be required for certain students***

## Online Program Information Sessions

Potential applicants are required to view an online [Adult Cardiac Sonography Information Session](https://www.dcccd.edu/health-packets-sessions/) where the program, application procedures, and acceptance policies are discussed in detail. The information session must be viewed as a PowerPoint presentation and further instructions to apply will be provided at the end of the presentation.

Potential applicants to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program are encouraged to seek out volunteer or shadow experiences at a healthcare facility, preferably in a Cardiac Sonography department. **Please Note**: The program does not arrange these experiences. Students may also request to visit a Cardiac Sonography class session and/or lab at the El Centro campus to observe current students and the program environment or to volunteer to be scanned. Email the Program Director: [Liberty Cowden](mailto:LCowden@DallasCollege.edu) for more information.

Potential certificate applicants with qualifying degrees from colleges and universities outside the U.S. must have their degrees evaluated by a transcript evaluation agency. This must be a course-by-course evaluation and not merely a validation of the degree. See [Foreign Coursework Evaluation Information](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx) for a list of evaluation agencies.

# D. Prerequisite Courses

Applicants must complete the prerequisite courses listed below with a **minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher** to apply to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program. The prerequisite GPA is considered in the point award ranking process.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prerequisite Courses | | | Lec Hrs | Lab Hrs | Cr Hrs |
| BIOL | 2401\* | Anatomy/Physiology I | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| BIOL | 2402 | Anatomy/Physiology II | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| ENGL | 1301 | Composition I | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| MATH | 1314\*\* | College Algebra | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| PSYC | 2301 | General Psychology | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| SPCH | 1311\*\*\* | Intro to Speech Communications | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2303 | Cardiovascular Concepts | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Humanities Elective+ | | | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | | | | | 26 |

\* BIOL 1406 – is a prerequisite course for BIOL 2401 and must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher within the last three years or a satisfactory score on the Biology CLEP exam.

\*\* MATH 1414 – College Algebra will also be recognized as the Sonography Prerequisite math course; however, it will be calculated as a three-credit hour course for ranking purposes only. Higher level math courses such as Calculus may be evaluated for substitution if a student did not complete a college algebra course.

\*\*\* SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking and SPCH 1321 – Business and Professional Communication may be accepted for speech requirement.

+ Humanities/Fine Arts elective must be selected from the Humanity, Creativity, and Aesthetic Experience section of the general Associate Degree of Arts/Science degree plan. See the current catalog of a full list of accepted courses. Preferred / recommended course: **PHIL 2306**. Other **acceptable courses include ARTS 1301, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, HUMA 1315, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1301, PHIL 1304, selected ENGL literature courses at the 2000 level or higher, sophomore level foreign languages such as SPAN 2311.**

**A minimum grade of “C” is required in each Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Course.**

## Advanced Technical Certificate Only those individuals who have earned a Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree and professional credential in a health care area **with direct patient care experience** may qualify to apply to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program for the Advanced Technical Certificate.

## See [Eligibility Category 3](#_Eligibility_to_Apply) on page 5 of this packet. Potential certificate applicants should submit their official transcripts at [studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu](mailto:studenttranscripts@dallascollege.edu), then submit their health care credentials and detailed work history to a Pathway Specialist at [ASKSOHS@dallascollege.edu](mailto:ASKSOHS@dallascollege.edu) so a Pathway Specialist may then review all 3: official transcripts, prof. credentials and detailed work history.

Prior to applying to the Advanced Technical Certificate program, an individual must complete:

**DSAE 2303 – Cardiovascular Concepts with a minimum grade of “C” or higher and must submit official transcripts and other documentation indicating the completion of college level coursework in human anatomy, human physiology, college algebra, English, pharmacology, and pathophysiology or have coursework which includes that content.**

Applicants to the Advanced Technical Certificate directly compete with applicants who are pursuing the Associate Degree. Although a certificate applicant is not required to complete all the Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Courses, their transcripts will be evaluated for equivalent coursework to determine a similar grade point average calculation to that of an Associate Degree applicant. Therefore, a potential certificate applicant should request an [Educational Plan](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=U1R-1i9z3EqUpEiI8tl9XR-JTZXG4gtGtI5xwkPieuFUOFdER1BQS1k5TU02R09FQTU0WFVDTEJQWSQlQCN0PWcu), which will indicate the coursework that will be considered for the grade point average calculation. See below for more information on requesting an educational plan.

A certificate applicant may wish to complete some or all the [Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Courses](#_D._Prerequisite_Courses) to increase their grade point average and competitiveness in the applicant pool.

Potential certificate applicants with qualifying degrees from colleges and universities outside the U.S. must have their degrees evaluated by a transcript evaluation agency. This must be a course-by-course evaluation and not merely a validation of the degree. See [Foreign Coursework Evaluation Information](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx) for a list of evaluation agencies.

# E. Previous Coursework Evaluation toward Adult Cardiac Sonography

Official transcripts are fully evaluated by the Dallas College Transcript Evaluation Center after a student has been enrolled for at least one regular semester. However, students can request an Educational Plan, an evaluation of their previous coursework toward a Health Sciences program. The [Educational Plan](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=U1R-1i9z3EqUpEiI8tl9XR-JTZXG4gtGtI5xwkPieuFUOFdER1BQS1k5TU02R09FQTU0WFVDTEJQWSQlQCN0PWcu) is a preliminary, unofficial degree plan for advisement purposes and only reflects specific courses toward a health sciences program. Educational Plans are optional and are not required for application to a health sciences program. They are usually completed within 4-8 weeks. An Educational Plan should be requested at least one semester prior to a program application filing deadline if possible.

The School of Health Sciences and the Allied Health Admissions Office reserve the right to accept or reject any coursework completed at other colleges presented for transfer evaluation toward Health Science programs.

## Credit by Examination, CLEP and Advanced Placement Credit

Credit through CLEP, High School Advanced Placement (AP) Exams and Credit by Examination may be awarded for a limited number of courses toward Health Sciences programs including MATH 1314, PSYC 2301, and PSYC 2314. CLEP credit is not awarded for ENGL 1301. Advanced Placement (“AP”) credit for ENGL 1301, PSYC 2301, and MATH 1314 is acceptable if the credit appears on a college transcript as ENGL 1301, PSYC 2301, and MATH 1314 equivalency. A letter grade is not awarded for “AP” credit.

**Note:** **An applicant may present credit by exam, CLEP, or “AP” credit for a prerequisite course. Credit will be acknowledged but not calculated with the grade point average.**

## Determination of Application Eligibility Category

As part of the Educational Plan review process, coursework for potential applicants completing the HPRS courses for Category 1 are automatically considered. Category 2 and Category 3 applicants should include additional documentation such as an employer/supervisor letter verifying direct patient care experience and the length of that experience, a professional healthcare credential, etc. with the Educational Plan request form which will assist them in determining their Application Eligibility category. See [Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Materials Submission (Documentation of Application Eligibility)](#_I.__Adult) documents needed for Categories 2 and 3.

## Coursework from Institutions Outside of the United States

Only courses such as college algebra/calculus, human anatomy/physiology, chemistry, physics, and microbiology may be considered for transfer to Health Sciences program from colleges or universities outside the United States. No other courses will be considered. Microbiology, chemistry, and physics must be within the five-year time limit. [Foreign Coursework Evaluation](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-health-resources.aspx) is a multi-step process which may take several weeks. The student must be enrolled in credit classes at a Dallas College campus before the evaluation process can be initiated.

# F. Program Application Exam (HESI A2)

Adult Cardiac Sonography utilizes the HESI A2 , a computerized test as an application condition. Applicants must earn a score of at least 70% on each of the following 5 components: **Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary/General Knowledge, Math, and Anatomy/Physiology**. Applicants are awarded points for each component based on the scores attained, according to the table below.

**Applicants who choose to submit satisfactory HESI A2**  **test results prior to the initial application deadline, will be awarded 1 point toward the ranking.** The applicant is not required to submit HESI A2 test results initially, prior to the initial application filing deadline. If preferred, the applicant may opt to take the HESI A2 exam once they are considered a “Qualified Applicant”. The applicant must then sit for, complete and submit the HESI A2 results prior to: **March 1st** in order to retain their “Qualified” applicant status.

HESI A2 Scoring Table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HESI A2 Test Score | Points Awarded |
| 70-80 | 1 |
| 81-85 | 2 |
| 86-90 | 3 |
| 91-95 | 5 |
| 96-100 | 6 |

HESI A2 Scoring Example

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HESI A2 Component | Score | Points Awarded |
| Reading Comprehension | 94 | 5 |
| Grammar | 96 | 6 |
| Vocabulary/General Knowledge | 88 | 3 |
| Math | 83 | 2 |
| Anatomy/Physiology | 98 | 6 |

Please note the following important information regarding the HESI A2:

* Test scores are valid for **two years** from the date of testing to the application filing deadline date.
* Applicants may take the HESI A2 at any approved testing site including the testing center at the El Centro campus. The approximate cost of the HESI A2 test at the El Centro campus Paramount Testing Center) is $57.00.
* Applicants are responsible for **securing their own testing appointment at the location of their choice.** The procedure for making testing appointments and payment varies among testing sites. Applicants are responsible for **submitting their satisfactory score sheet, either with their program application materials or after the application has been submitted but must be prior to Friday, March 1st .**
* HESI A2 testing appointments at the El Centro campus fill quickly. Applicants are encouraged to schedule their HESI A2 several weeks prior to a testing deadline. ***Note:* Score sheets may not be available for download from the Elsevier website for 2-3 days. Do not assume that you will have your score sheet in time to submit if you test on the testing deadline date.**
* The **HESI A2 Study Guide** is available at various bookstores including the Follett Bookstore at the El Centro campus. A **HESI A2 Prep** course is periodically offered by the Continuing Education Division. Contact Continuing Education at [continuinged@dcccd.edu](mailto:continuinged@dcccd.edu) for dates and times of the prep course.
* **There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the HESI A2 test for application to the Cardiac Sonography program.** If the applicant desires to retake the HESI A2, **ALL FIVE SECTIONS** must be retaken in one sitting. Only one score sheet should be submitted with scores of 70 or higher on each of the five required component sections. Scores on individual test sections which are printed on separate score sheets cannot be combined. If more than one score sheet is submitted, the scores from the latest HESI A*2* testing attempt will be considered the official scores.
* Before retesting, the applicant is encouraged to review the study guide and/or enroll in the HESI A2 prep course to prepare for the retest opportunity.

See [HESI A2](https://www.dcccd.edu/HESI) for more information on paying for and scheduling the HESI A2 exam.

# G. Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA)

The Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) is a job skills assessment tool that determines an individual’s compatibility with sonography. Questions cover both cognitive and non-cognitive skills. The assessment looks at an applicant’s aptitude in areas such as visualization, dexterity, judgement and problem solving. The assessment is timed. 4 hours are allowed to complete the assessment.

The Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA) is scheduled in late February and early March prior to Spring Break. Applicants should be available during those weeks. A minimum of 4 testing times will be available. The assessment will be proctored through the Dallas College - El Centro Campus Paramount Testing Center.

# H. Digital Records (SurScan: SurPath)

Students who are chosen for the Adult Cardiac Sonography program are required to have a current physical examination, current health care coverage, specific immunizations, a tuberculosis screening, and American Heart Association CPR certification at the BLS – Basic Life Support level. The School of Health Sciences utilizes SurPath, a medical record management company, to verify these requirements for program students.

FOR APPLICATION PURPOSES ONLY:

Applicants must submit documentation of their Hepatitis B immunization record and/or their Hepatitis B titer to the Dallas College Applicant Portal.

Once a student has been chosen for the Adult Cardiac Sonography program, they must then submit all remaining documentation for the following items: a current physical exam, current health care coverage, specific immunizations (or exemptions), screenings and CPR directly to SurScan: [SurPath](https://dallascollege.surpath.com/Account/Login) for verification of whether these records are complete.

***Important Note: Some of the immunizations require multiple doses on a specific timeline over several months. Therefore, potential applicants to this program should begin their immunizations at least six to seven months prior to the application deadline.***

# I. Adult Cardiac Sonography Application Materials Submission

Selection Process for Program Entrance for June 2024

**Important: Read the instructions carefully**

After verifying their Application Eligibility Category, completing the Adult Cardiac Sonography prerequisite courses, and acknowledging the physical exam, immunizations and CPR documentation, the student is ready to submit their application materials. **Incomplete application materials will result in disqualification.**

The application materials must be uploaded to the designated Dallas College ***Secure Link*** applicant portal as pdf documents by the **Application Filing Deadline**: 12/31/23 by 11:59pm.

Application materials must include the following to be considered complete and valid:

1. DOCUMENTATION OF APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY
2. ***Eligibility Category 1 Applicant*** –

Completion of the six HPRS courses will be verified on official transcripts and/or the advising report.

1. ***Eligibility Category 2 Applicant*** –

The following documentation must be submitted with application materials:

1. Official letter from your place of employment on original healthcare facility letterhead with the ink signature of your supervisor verifying your employment position, specific duties, and employment dates (within the last three (3) years in a health care setting)
2. A photocopy of the Non-traditional Equivalent Credit Assessment form signed by the HPRS Coordinator and Division Dean if credit for one or more HPRS courses was awarded through the prior Learning Assessment Portfolio process ***or*** if credit was awarded through a programmatic assessment exam.
3. If an applicant under Category 2 enrolled and completed one or more HPRS courses through traditional enrollment, the coursework will be verified on official transcripts and/or the advising report.

***c.) Eligibility Category 3 Applicant*** –

The following documentation must be submitted with application materials:

1. Photocopy of approved current professional healthcare credential.

and

1. Official transcript or other official document authenticating the completion of the qualifying degree or certificate.
2. All applicants must submit a completed **Adult Cardiac Sonography Program Application** form**.**
3. All applicants must submit a signed **Statement of Students’ Responsibility** form**.**
4. All applicants must submit a completed **Acknowledgement of Immunization, CPR and Physical Exam Requirements** form**.**
5. All applicants must submit either **Proof of Hepatitis B Immunizations and Titer** or exemption.

**Submitting incomplete application materials will disqualify the application and the student will not be considered further in the application process. Students are advised to retain a photocopy of all materials submitted for application.**

# J. Application Filing Period(s)

The official filing period for the next selection process to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program is:

**October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

Complete application materials must be submitted to the ***Secure Link*** **Applicant Portal** by the **Application Filing Deadline (11:59pm on December 31st , 2023). Application materials are not accepted in person or by conventional mail.** Early submission of an application during a specific filing period does not influence ranking for admission.

# K. Preliminary Applicant Evaluation

After the Application Filing Deadline, application materials will be evaluated for completion. All preliminary applicants who have met the application guidelines and submitted all required documentation will become known as “Qualified Applicants”. Only Qualified Applicants will progress forward in the application process and be invited to complete the **HESI** and the **Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA)**, which are the next steps in the application process.

Please note: The decision to repeat a course successfully completed with a grade of “C” or higher in order to improve an applicant’s GPA rests solely with the applicant. The last grade earned on a repeated course will be the grade of record. Applicants may also consult a Success Coach at [successcoach@dcccd.edu](mailto:successcoach@dcccd.edu) for assistance.

# L. Selection Process

Once the qualified applicants have completed the HESI A2 and the Ultrasound Student Assessment, they undergo ranking via the point system outlined below (141 ranking point maximum):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ranking Criteria** | **Ranking Point Potential** |
| Cumulative GPA: Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Courses  DSAE 2303  HESI A2 Scores  Submitting Satisfactory HESI A2 results prior to application deadline  Ultrasound Student Assessment (USA)  Bonus Points | **30**  **10**  **30**  **1**  **60**  **10** |
| **Total Ranking Points:** | **141** |

**Cumulative GPA: Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Courses – 30 point maximum**

Points are awarded for the GPA on the Sonography Prerequisite Courses according to the scale below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GPA** | **Points** |
| 4.00  3.99 – 3.75  3.74 – 3.50  3.49 – 3.25  3.24 – 3.00 | **30**  **25**  **20**  **10**  **5** |

**DSAE 2303 Final Grade: 10 point maximum**

Points are awarded for the Final Grade on this Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Course according to the scale below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Final Letter Grade** | **Points** |
| A  B  C  < C | **10**  **5**  **1**  **0** |

**HESI A2 Score Points: 30 point maximum**

Points are awarded for the score on each of the 5 required sections of HESI A2 according to the score below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Points** |
| 100 - 96  95 - 91  90 - 86  85 - 81  80 - 70 | **6**  **5**  **3**  **2**  **1** |

**Submitting HESI A2** **test results: 1 point maximum**

One point is awarded for submitting HESI A2 test results, when satisfactory results for all 5 sections are submitted prior to the initial application filing deadline.

**USAScore Points: 60 maximum points**

Points are awarded for the total weighted score of the two required sections of the USA according to the score below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Points** |
| > **20.0**  > **17.0** yet <**19.9**  > **14.0** yet <**16.9**  > **10.0** yet <**13.9**  > **5.0** yet < **9.9**  > **0.1** yet < **4.9**  < **0.0** | **60**  **50**  **40**  **30**  **20**  **10**  **0** |

**Bonus Points: 10 maximum points**

Bonus Ranking points will be added for the following:

1. Completion of Bachelor’s degree or Higher – Healthcare Related 2 points (or)

Completion of Bachelor’s degree or Higher – Other Field or Discipline 1 point

1. Completion of SCIT 1420 – Physics for Allied Health: Final Grade > A 2 points (or)

Completion of SCIT 1420 – Physics for Allied Health: Final Grade > B 1 point

1. Phi Theta Kappa membership (submit certificate/card with application) 2 points
2. Completion of Philosophy 2306 – Introduction to Ethics 2 points
3. Completion of DMSO 1110 – Intro. to Diag. Med. Sonography: Final Grade > B 1 point
4. Applying solely to Adult Cardiac Sonography during current filing period 1 point

Total Ranking Points for the above items are calculated for each student and a final ranked list of applicants is generated. If two or more applicants have the same Total Ranking Points, the points score awarded in the USA Clinical section will be used to break the tie.

# M. Notification of Acceptance

Individuals who receive an acceptance email are required to return a confirmation form within a

specified time frame to verify their space in the class. Failure to return the confirmation form by the

specified date or failure to attend the scheduled preregistration/orientation seminar for the accepted

class will result in forfeiture of their space in that program. **Notification emails are sent by April 1st.**

**Note:** There is no “waiting list” for the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program. Application materials submitted during an official filing period are not “held over” to the next year’s official filing period. Students who are not selected for admission to the Cardiac Sonography Program and/or students who decline the offer of acceptance to this program and who later determine that they would like to apply for a future opportunity to enter the Cardiac Sonography program would need to completely re-apply during the applicable application filing period.

# N. Curriculum Overview – Adult Cardiac Sonography Associate of Applied Science Degree

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prerequisite Courses | | Title | Lecture  Hours | Lab  Hours | Ext.  Hours | Contact  Hours | Credit Hours |
| BIOL | 2401\* | Anatomy & Physiology I | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| BIOL | 2402 | Anatomy & Physiology II | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| ENGL | 1301 | Composition I | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| MATH | 1314\*\* | College Algebra | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| PSYC | 2301 | General Psychology | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| SPCH | 1311\*\*\* | Intro to Speech Communications | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2303 | Cardiovascular Concepts | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| Humanities Elective+ | | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| Prerequisite Semester(s) Subtotal | | | **24** | **6** | **0** | **480** | **26** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 – SUMMER 2024 | | | | | | | |
| Program  Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DMSO | 2343 | Advanced Ultrasound Physics | 3 | 1 | 0 | 64 | 3 |
| DSAE | 1270 | Intro to Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography)Techniques | 2 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 2 |
| DSAE | 1203 | Intro to Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Evaluation | 1 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 2 |
| DSAE | 1164 | Practicum – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 10 | 160 | 1 |
| Semester 1 Subtotal | | | **6** | **3** | **10** | **304** | **8** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 2 – FALL 2024 | | | | | | | |
| Program  Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DSAE | 2404 | Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Eval. of Pathology I | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| DSAE | 2335 | Advanced Echocardiography (Cardiac Sonography) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2660 | Clinical – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 30 | 48 | 6 |
| Semester 2 Subtotal | | | **6** | **3** | **30** | **624** | **13** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 3 – SPRING 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Program Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DSAE | 2437 | Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Eval. of Pathology II | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| DSAE | 2355 | Echo. (Cardiac Sonography) Professionalism/Registry Review | 3 | 1 | 0 | 64 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2661\*\* | Clinical – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 30 | 480 | 6 |
| Semester 3 Subtotal | | | 6 | 4 | 30 | 640 | 13 |
| AAS Degree Total | | | **42** | **16** | **70** | **2048** | **60** |

\*\* DSAE 2661 – Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician contains the Capstone experience in the Adult Cardiac Sonography associate degree program.

O. Curriculum Overview- Adult Cardiac Sonography Advanced Technical Certificate

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prerequisite Course(s) | | Title | Lecture  Hours | Lab  Hours | Ext.  Hours | Contact  Hours | Credit Hours |
| DSAE | 2303 | Cardiovascular Concepts | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| Equivalent Coursework in:  Anatomy and Physiology,  College Level Algebra,  College Level English,  Pharmacology, and Pathophysiology | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prerequisite Semester(s) Subtotal | | | **3** | **0** | **0** | **48** | **3** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 – SUMMER 2024 | | | | | | | |
| Program  Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DMSO | 2343 | Advanced Ultrasound Physics | 3 | 1 | 0 | 64 | 3 |
| DSAE | 1270 | Intro to Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography)Techniques | 2 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 2 |
| DSAE | 1203 | Intro to Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Evaluation | 1 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 2 |
| DSAE | 1164 | Practicum – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 10 | 160 | 1 |
| Semester 1 Subtotal | | | **6** | **3** | **10** | **304** | **8** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 2 – FALL 2024 | | | | | | | |
| Program  Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DSAE | 2404 | Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Eval. of Pathology I | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| DSAE | 2335 | Advanced Echocardiography (Cardiac Sonography) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2660 | Clinical – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 30 | 48 | 6 |
| Semester 2 Subtotal | | | **6** | **3** | **30** | **624** | **13** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 3 – SPRING 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Program Courses | | **Title** | **Lecture**  **Hours** | **Lab**  **Hours** | **Ext.**  **Hours** | **Contact**  **Hours** | **Credit Hours** |
| DSAE | 2437 | Echocardiographic (Cardiac Sonography) Eval. of Pathology II | 3 | 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 |
| DSAE | 2355 | Echo. (Cardiac Sonography) Professionalism/Registry Review | 3 | 1 | 0 | 64 | 3 |
| DSAE | 2661\*\* | Clinical – Diagnostic Med. Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician | 0 | 0 | 30 | 480 | 6 |
| Semester 3 Subtotal | | | **6** | **4** | **30** | **640** | **13** |
| ATC Total | | | **21** | **10** | **70** | **1616** | **37** |

\*\* DSAE 2661 – Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician contains the Capstone experience in the Adult Cardiac Sonography associate degree program.

# P. Adult Cardiac Sonography General Information

Shape

1. The Adult Cardiac Sonography program accepts 14\* students annually for their Summer (June) class. Many of the Adult Cardiac Sonography program courses are conducted in a synchronous online format; however, the program director or course instructor has the prerogative to require on-campus classroom activities. Therefore, the program should be considered a full-time program with day and evening classes.

\* The School of Health Sciences reserves the right to make changes in program enrollment capacity.

2. The following information regarding the Adult Cardiac Sonography program is intended to provide potential applicants with insights into the challenges that are inherent to the field of adult cardiac sonography and ensure that applicants have a realistic understanding of this health care profession as their career choice.

Professional Considerations for the Field of Adult Cardiac Sonography

The Adult Cardiac Sonography student:

* Must be physically able to care for patients which will involve lifting and transferring patients, reaching across patients while scanning, standing for long periods of time, and moving heavy equipment for some distance in the hospital setting.
* Should expect clinical experiences which are centered on older or elderly patients; the student must be comfortable with the prospect of working around critically ill patients and those on ventilators.
* Will be exposed to body fluids and patients with infectious diseases (protective and precautionary procedures will be employed).
* May have high stress clinical experiences involving life and death situations and the student may be involved in resuscitation.
* Must have good spatial perception from a two-dimensional TV monitor including color differences and the ability to hear subtle Doppler shift signals.
* Should recognize that this profession is considered essential personnel and may require a graduate from the program to work evening and weekend shifts and be available on-call.

3. Students who must be absent from clinical experience due to a physical or mental illness, surgery, or pregnancy will be required to obtain a ***written physician release*** before returning to the clinical setting. A maximum of two days of clinical experience can be missed in a semester. The student will be dropped from the course if absences exceed the two clinical day limit. Students anticipating surgery or delivery of a baby and who will require a longer recuperation period before a physician release can be obtained are urged to wait to apply to the program.

4. Many of the Adult Cardiac Sonography Prerequisite Courses, including many of the HPRS courses in one of the Application Eligibility Categories are offered online. See the presentation [Getting Ready for Online Learning](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/online-learning/getready/pages/default.aspx) to see if you are a good candidate for online learning.

5. Students are responsible for obtaining their own living accommodation. It is also necessary for students to consider transportation costs to the college, as well as hospitals throughout the Metroplex. Clinical rotations vary among select hospitals. Any parking fees at a Dallas College campus (El Centro or other) and/or a hospital clinical site are the responsibility of the student.

6. Applicants to the health sciences programs at the El Centro campus must submit physical examination and immunization documentation to SurPath no later than the program application deadline. Download more information at [Physical Exam and Immunization Requirements](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/pages/ecc-immunization-requirements.aspx).

The physical examination must be on the **official physical form** and must have been documented no earlier than 12 months prior to the application deadline. The specific immunizations and screenings are indicated on the health form. **Note: Additional proof of immunizations including titers may be required by hospital clinical sites.**

7. All applicants must be certified in BLS – Basic Life Support CPR certification as designated by the **American Heart Association** and a photocopy of the front and back of the card must be submitted to SurPath no later than 30 days post program acceptance. The CPR certification must not expire prior to the anticipated program start date and must not expire during a semester when enrolled in the program. CPR classes are available through the Continuing Education Office at the El Centro campus, the American Heart Association, various hospitals, independent instructors, etc. **Online CPR certification classes must include an in-person skills check off on a manikin. Online CPR certification classes, including those offered by the Red Cross, are not valid for application to Health Sciences programs.**

8. Proof of current personal healthcare insurance coverage is required for all health sciences students. **If documentation of coverage is not submitted to SurPath with immunization records, proof of coverage must be submitted by the first day of the semester if a student is accepted to the program.** Students must secure their own coverage and the insurance policy must cover the student at any hospital facility. Information on college student policies and rates can be found at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>.

9. Clinical opportunities may be limited for students without Social Security numbers. If accepted to the program, a student must contact a Designated School Officer ([International@dcccd.edu](mailto:International@dcccd.edu)) concerning their eligibility to obtain a Social Security number before graduation from the program for future employment opportunities.

10. Criminal Background Check / Drug Screening

All students enrolled in Health Sciences programs are required by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council member facilities to undergo a [Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen](https://dcccd-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/ldc5680_dcccd_edu/EdTYVb8-pypEicfRsZzn9B4BVmnViMQ75Qbn5yVV8nbNGA?e=ySwjjW) prior to beginning their clinical experience. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately $90.00) for these screenings. **This procedure is conducted *after* a student has been accepted to their respective program.**

These screenings are forwarded to the School of Health Sciences for review and verification that a student can attend clinical rotation. All background check and drug screening results become the property of the School of Health Sciences and will not be released to the student or any other third party.

A clinical affiliate/facility reserves the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The clinical affiliate/facility reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student’s expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical facility. Failure to comply will result in the student’s immediate expulsion from the clinical facility. Furthermore, regardless of testing or testing results, a clinical affiliate/facility reserves the right to expel a student from their facility.

***Note:*** ***Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Sciences program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Sciences program.***

11. Students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more during a fall or spring semester and 3 credit hours or more during a summer semester are entitled to a free [DART Go-Pass](https://www.dcccd.edu/resources/dart-gopass/pages/default.aspx) for that semester. DART passes are available two weeks after the semester begins.

12. Individuals who were first-time college freshman students in Fall 2007 or after are subject to the guidelines of section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code which prohibits a student from dropping more than six (6) college level credit courses during their entire undergraduate career.   
See [Six Drop Rule](https://econnect.dcccd.edu/DroppingFacts.jsp) for more information.

13. Clinical assignments for the Adult Cardiac Sonography program vary from semester to semester including but not limited to the list below:

* Baylor Scott and White Heart and Vascular
* Baylor Scott & White – Irving
* Baylor Scott & White – Plano
* Cardiovascular Consultants – Grapevine
* Heart Consultants of North Texas
* Heart Place – Richardson
* Hunt Regional Medical Center – Greenville
* Medical City – Arlington
* Medical City – Dallas
* Medical City – Denton
* Medical City – Lewisville
* Medical City – Ft. Worth
* Parkland Hospital and Health System
* Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital – Dallas
* Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital – Denton
* Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital – Plano
* UTSW University Hospital – Clements
* UTSW – Clinical Heart and Vascular Center
* Children’s Medical Center Dallas
* City Hospital at White Rock
* John Peter Smith Hospital
* Methodist Charlton Medical Center
* Methodist Dallas Medical Center

14. Dallas College charges a higher tuition rate for courses in which a student registers for the third or more times. The [Third Attempt Policy](https://www.dcccd.edu/paying-for-college/cost-tuition/third-course-attempt/pages/default.aspx?utm_source=shortcut+url&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=financial+aid&utm_term=thirdcourseattempt) includes courses taken at any of the Dallas College campuses since the Fall 2002 semester. Developmental courses are not considered in this policy.

15. A student may apply to more than one Dallas College School of Health Sciences program during a given filing period. However, if the student receives an acceptance letter to a specific program, confirms their intent to enter that program, and registers for program courses, their application to any other Health Sciences program that may share that filing period will be null and void.

Further, an individual accepted for admission and currently enrolled in a Dallas College Health Sciences program may not apply or be considered for admission selection for another Dallas College Health Sciences program unless their current program of study will complete before the second program curriculum begins.

Note: An individual cannot earn both, the Associate’s degree and the Advanced Technical Certificate in this program.

16. Financial Aid: Students should apply for [financial aid](https://www.dcccd.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid/pages/default.aspx) well in advance of program application.

17. Students who are accepted to the Adult Cardiac Sonography program who reside in Collin or Tarrant Counties may qualify for the “Dallas Resident” tuition rate through reciprocity.

## Adult Cardiac Sonography Contact Information

**Liberty Cowden**, BAAS, AAS, RDCS AE

Program Director

Adult Cardiac Sonography

El Centro campus/Paramount

301 North Market

Dallas, TX 75202

Telephone: (972)-860-5052

E-Mail: [LCowden@DallasCollege.edu](mailto:LCowden@DallasCollege.edu)

**Program information packets are revised by September 1st of each year and at other times throughout the academic year as necessary. Program guidelines are subject to change. Students are responsible for ensuring they have the latest program information packet:**

[**Adult Cardiac Sonography information packet/information session**](https://www.dcccd.edu/health-packets-sessions)

**Visit the** [**Adult Cardiac Sonography**](https://www.dcccd.edu/cd/credit/cardiac-sonography/pages/default.aspx) **webpage.**

**Like us on** [**Facebook.**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECC.AlliedHealthandNursing)

\*An applicant may view the Program Information Session multiple times. An applicant is responsible for reviewing the Information Session available during the application filing period. Otherwise, the applicant risks not having the most up-to-date information.

## Essential Requirements for the Cardiac Sonography Student

**Applicants to the Cardiac Sonography program are required to read the Essential Requirements for the Cardiac Sonography Student, sign the document as an acknowledgement that they understand this information, and submit the document with their application materials.**

Successful completion of the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program requires the acquisition of general knowledge and basic skills needed to perform safely and adequately as a Cardiac Sonographer.

Faculty in the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program have a responsibility for the welfare of the patients treated or otherwise affected by students enrolled in the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program, as well as for the welfare of students enrolling in the program. To fulfill this responsibility, the program set forth the following minimum essential requirements that must be met, with or without reasonable accommodation, to participate in the program and graduate. The Adult Cardiac Sonography Program, as part of Dallas College at the El Centro campus, is committed to the principle of equal opportunity. The program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran status.

Admission and retention decisions for the program students are based not only on prior satisfactory academic achievement, but also on non-academic factors which serve to ensure that the candidate can complete the essential requirements of the program for graduation. Essential requirements, as distinguished from academic standards, refer to those cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities that are necessary for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for the development of professional attributes required of all students at graduation.

The program curriculum requires essential abilities in information acquisition. The student must have the ability to master information presented in the course work in the form of lectures, written material, and projected images. Additionally, the student must have the cognitive abilities necessary to master relevant content in basic science and clinical courses based on industry standards for entry level technologists.

The student must be able to safely and accurately perform all aspects of the role the Adult Cardiac Sonographer performs in the health care system. The student must have sufficient upper and lower body coordination to safely handle equipment used in the cardiology field and assist in transferring and transporting patients and performing CPR. The student must have fine manual dexterity to manipulate transducers and other equipment. The student must also possess the integrity and strength in their upper extremities (including neck, arms, elbows, wrists, hands, and fingers) to sustain a pinch &/or palmer grip on a transducer and sustain a repetitive and prolonged pressure on a transducer in contact with a patient’s chest or other body region. The student must have visual acuity to observe the ECG/hemodynamic monitor CRT screens at a distance and distinguish the red, blue, and other color palettes presented in Color Doppler signals. The student must have acute hearing, enough to clearly distinguish vocal commands in a noisy environment and in which the speakers’ mouths may be covered with masks and be capable of distinguishing the pitch variations of audible Doppler signals. The student must have touch discrimination to discern veins to perform venipuncture.

The student must be able and willing to work with blood and with organisms that may be infectious. The student must be willing and able to work in environments where the possibility of contact with communicable disease and patient bodily fluids exists. He/she must assume the risk of exposure to ionizing radiation; that risk is minimal, however, if the student observes proper radiation safety precautions.

The student must possess the emotional stability required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities. He/she must be able to work accurately and safely under stress, e.g., work under time constraints; read and record numbers accurately; perform repetitive tasks; concentrate in distracting situations; and make subjective evaluations and decisions where mistake may have a high impact on patient care. He/she must be able to adapt to changing environments and be able to prioritize tasks.

The student must have the capability to quickly comprehend and absorb urgent and/or complex verbal directions and instructions and have the critical thinking capability to accurately, efficiently and effectively follow through on these directions in what could be very loud, stressful and/or urgent situations.

The student must be able to communicate effectively in written and spoken English in order to transmit information to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on the student’s ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervisory help and consultation in a timely manner.

The student must possess attributes that include integrity, responsibility, and tolerance. He/she must show respect for self and others, work independently as well as with others, and project an image of professionalism.

These technical standards identify many of the requirements for admission, retention, and graduation of applicants and students, respectively. Graduates are expected to be qualified to enter the field of Adult Cardiac Sonography. It is therefore the responsibility of the student with disabilities to request those accommodations that he/she feels are reasonable and needed to fulfil the essential requirements described.

The student’s successful completion of the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program depends on his/her ability to carry the subject matter from one experience to another. What is learned in class and/or clinical one day must be incorporated into the performance in class and/or clinical in future situations.

Common threads that run through the entire Adult Cardiac Sonography Program include:

1. Aseptic technique
2. Medical terminology
3. Knowledge of pharmacology with math skills
4. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology
5. Knowledge of electrocardiograms
6. Knowledge of hemodynamics
7. Awareness of psychological and physiological aspects of noninvasive cardiovascular care
8. Legal and ethical aspects
9. Proper documentation
10. Cardiology procedures skills
11. Safety precautions
12. Communication skills

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the expectations of a Cardiac Sonography student by reading and acknowledging the aforementioned information. I further understand that I must sign this document and submit it with my application materials.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date

Q. Estimated Expenses for the Adult Cardiac Sonography Program

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prerequisites | | | |
|  | Dallas County Resident | Out of County | Out of State |
| Tuition/Textbooks | $2,054.00 | $3,510.00 | $5,200.00 |
| HESI A2 TEST | $57.00 | $57.00 | $57.00 |
| SurPath (includes background/drug) | $154.00 | $154.00 | $154.00 |
| USA Assessment Tool | $50.00 | $50.00 | $50.00 |
| Physical Exam and Immunizations + | $225.00 | $225.00 | $225.00 |
| CPR Certification\*\* | $65.00 | $65.00 | $65.00 |
| Subtotal | **$2,605.00** | **$4,061.00** | **$5,751.00** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 | | | |
|  | Dallas County Resident | Out of County | Out of State |
| Tuition/Textbooks | $632.00 | $1,080.00 | $1,600.00 |
| Uniforms/Lab Coats (2 each) | $210.00 | $210.00 | $210.00 |
| Shoes | $60.00 | $60.00 | $60.00 |
| Subtotal | **$ 902.00** | **$1,350.00** | **$1,870.00** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 2 | | | |
|  | Dallas County Resident | Out of County | Out of State |
| Tuition/Textbooks | $1,027.00 | $1,755.00 | $2,600.00 |
| Subtotal | **$1,027.00** | **$1,755.00** | **$2,600.00** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 3 | | | |
|  | Dallas County Resident | Out of County | Out of State |
| Tuition/Textbooks | $1,027.00 | $1,755.00 | $2,600.00 |
| Subtotal | **$1,027.00** | **$1,755.00** | **$2,600.00** |
| Program Total | **$5,561.00** | **$8,921.00** | **$12,821.00** |

\* This estimate does not include tuition and textbooks for the six HPRS courses required in Application Eligibility Category 1, which is approximately $1,027.00 for a Dallas County resident.

\*\* Tuition now includes textbook costs. A [Tuition Payment Plan](https://www.dcccd.edu/paying-for-college/payments/pages/payment-plans.aspx) option is available in fall and spring semesters.

+ Estimated cost of a physical exam, immunizations, and CPR certification.