



Medical University Hospital Authority

D.B.A.

*The Claude W Smith, MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
Application Information
For the 2023-25 Program*

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:

MUSC Laurel Street Pavilion
The Claude W. Smith MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
2001 Laurel St.
Columbia, SC 29204

Or by email to:

doughema@musc.edu

Our program awards a certificate in Echocardiography and Vascular Sonography. Graduates are eligible to sit for the ARDMS exam in these specialties.

At Medical University Hospital Authority, 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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Chambers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

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 Medical University Hospital Authority. This policy is instituted in an attempt to offer a fair and equitable selection process that will support the mission statement of Medical University Hospital Authority 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 forty dollar, non-refundable application fee or it will not be processed. Make check payable to MUSC-Columbia Medical Center. Incomplete applications will not be processed. The application deadline for each fall class acceptance is March 1st of that calendar year. NO EXCEPTIONS. Applications received after this date will not be processed.

In addition to each application, official transcripts of the required prerequisites, and two letters of recommendation must be submitted at the time of application. If transcripts and/or letters of recommendation are not provided by the close of the application period, the application will be deemed incomplete. **All of the prerequisite courses must be completed at the close of the application period. All prerequisites must have been completed within the past ten years prior to the program start date. For example, prerequisites for the August 2022 start date must have a completion dated after August 2012 to be considered.**

Course prerequisites:

The *MINIMUM* educational requirement is *EITHER* transcripts from the University of South Carolina showing progress towards a BSCVT degree OR the following college level prerequisites:

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

Applicants will be scheduled for a clinical 'shadowing' experience. 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 for more information.

Once all pertinent documents are received, an application committee will review and evaluate the applications. Due to the high volume of applications, and the limited number of students that will be accepted, the committee will put forward only the candidates that will be offered an invitation to be interviewed for acceptance. This interview will take place in April each year, date to be determined.

There is no 'automatic' acceptance into the program. All applications put forward by the applications committee will be considered. Final selections will be based on the application documents and candidate interview. Please speak with a member of the staff for more information on this process.

School of Cardiovascular Technology

Tuition Policy

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

As of the August 2022 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 required 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, first payment due on September 1, with no interest charged. All checks and money orders should be made out to MUSC-Columbia Medical Center. For more financing information, contact Mary Dougherty.

Tuition payments are mailed to
Columbia Medical Center Northeast
Attention Donna Marie Morrison
110 Gateway Corporate Blvd, Suite 250
Columbia, SC 29203

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 \$35+ site dependent

SPI exam fee – currently \$225

GI Bill

A *Covered Individual* is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

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:

MUSC Laurel Street Pavilion
The Claude W Smith, MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
Attn: Mary Dougherty
2001 Laurel St.
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 date of the application deadline, 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.

FAQ's

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

Answer: Beginning the 2022 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, or hospital scrubs. Other clinical fees may apply. **We do not directly accept payment from federal loans and are not approved for grants or loans. A student in the University of South Carolina CVT program remains enrolled in the university and continues to maintain eligibility for previously approved loans.** After the initial \$ 1,000 down payment, the hospital will allow you to make monthly payments without incurring finance charges.

2. Does the program accept VA benefits?

Answer: Yes, if you qualify for the GI Bill, we are VA approved.

Covered Individual will need to

Submit a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance no later than the first day of program start date.

Submit a written request to use such entitlement.

Provide additional information necessary to the proper certification of enrollment by the educational institution.

Provide payment for the amount that is the difference between the amount of the student's financial obligation and the amount of the VA education benefit disbursement.

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

Answer: Having a degree is not required, but some college level courses are. A student at South Carolina is encouraged to speak with their counselor about the bachelors in CVT. We are open to all that have academically qualified to apply to the program.

4. 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. 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, every graduate earning a national credential has been able to find full time work. You can expect to start at 26-30 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 \$60,000+ yearly.

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

Answer: The starting date will be on August 18, 2022 and the ending date will be February 23, 2024.

Our classes are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Clinical rotations start in June and finish at the end of February. 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. We do not currently have night or weekend courses.

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

Answer: We usually receive 30-35 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.

7. Are credits transferable?

Answer: Prerequisites may be taken at any accredited college or tech school. 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.