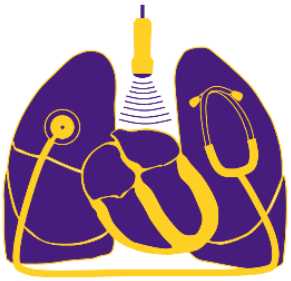
LSU Health NEW ORLEANS

School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Cardiopulmonary Science



Frequently Asked Questions: Cardiovascular Sonography Program

1. **Is the program accredited?**

   Yes, the adult echocardiography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org). The vascular technology portion is not accredited but graduates are permitted to take the RVT exam offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) once they have attained the RDCS credential, which typically occurs with graduation.

2. **How long has the program been in existence?**

   The program as it is currently structured has been in existence since 2008. Accreditation was first achieved in 2004.

3. **What has been the job placement rate over the past three years?**

   100%. Every graduate who has wanted to work in cardiovascular sonography has found a job. There is currently a relatively high demand for sonographers.

4. **What percentage of graduates achieve a registry credential in echocardiography?**

   100%.

5. **What is the program's retention rate?**

   92% retention rate from 2021 to 2023.

6. **How many students can enroll each year?**

   Typically, 8 to 10.

7. **What is the process to have my academic transcript(s) reviewed to determine what courses will transfer?**

   Send a copy of an unofficial or official transcript from each university that you have attended or are currently attending to jzamja@lsuhsc.edu. You will receive your calculated prerequisite GPAs (overall and science) and list of any missing prerequisites.

Course listings from Louisiana universities and colleges, which meet program's prerequisites, are available on the website.

What is the…

Instructor to student ratio	1:3
Instructor-to-student ratio in the classroom:	1:8 to 1:25
Instructor-to-student ratio in the training lab:	1:4 or 5
Instructor-to-student ratio in clinical practicums:	1:1 to 1:2

8. **What are the program's estimated annual costs?**

Annual Tuition and fees:

Resident	$11,292	Non-resident	$23,287
Books:	$750		
Other fees:	$125		
Uniforms & equipment:	$150		
TOTAL: Resident	**$12,317**	Non-resident	$24,312

Tuition and fees: https://www.lsuhsc.edu/tuition/alliedhealth.aspx

9. **When and where do students attend clinicals?**

Clinics begin at the start of the 3rd semester and continue each semester thereafter. Thirty-seven clinical sites offer students a diverse clinical experience, whereby students gain clinical skills in managing challenging patient populations in numerous clinical settings.

A list of clinical sites is found here;
http://alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/cp/clinicalaffiliates.aspx

10. **How many clinical hours of training do students receive?**

Approximately 1500 hours.

11. **Where do graduates work after graduation?**

Graduates work in hospitals, clinics, or physician offices. Some have become physicians, perfusionists, or physician assistants.

12. **What makes this program distinct and exceptional?**

- ✓ Students earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Cardiopulmonary Science.
- ✓ Experienced faculty who hold advanced degrees (physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and management).
- ✓ **Cadaver dissection in human gross anatomy course**.

- ✓ **Interprofessional education: team-based learning about, from and with students from all six schools (over 19 academic programs) within the LSU Health Sciences Center**

13. **Is there a recent graduate or current student with whom I could chat?**

    The program director can provide you with the contact information of a recent graduate or current student.

    Andy Pellett, Ph.D., RDCS, FASE
    Professor of Cardiopulmonary Science and Physiology
    Email: apelle@lsuhsc.edu
    Phone: (504) 568-4229

14. **What are the course prerequisites for the program?**

    All prerequisite courses (as part of the 51 semester credits specified) require a grade of "C" or better, and applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (4.0 scale) for all prerequisites.

Prerequisite Courses "C" or better, GPA ≥ 2.5	Credit Hours 51
English Composition	6
Humanities	9
Sociology (General)	3
Psychology (General)	3
Art Elective (Theater, Dance, Music, Art)	3
Mathematics (Algebra and Trigonometry or higher)	6
Chemistry (General and Laboratory)	4
Biology (General and Laboratory)	8
Physics (General)	3
Microbiology (General)	3
Human Physiology	3



15. **What are the occupational risks associated with this profession?**

    Cardiovascular sonographers are at risk for musculoskeletal injuries. An excellent review of these conditions can be found here.

Apply here.