

Cardiac Ultrasound Admissions/Enrollment

2026-2027 Academic Year

Application Process

The Cardiac Ultrasound Program begins accepting applications March 1. The application deadline each year is June 1 to be considered for the Fall Semester start date. Please select 'Fall 2026' in the 'Anticipated Starting Semester' field of the application.

Please note, if the application window of the Cardiac Ultrasound Program is closed it will not appear in the 'Program of Interest' list within the application. Applicants will only be able to submit their application when the application window is open.

Technical Standards

The following standards, demands and skills are the cornerstone of the healthcare environment. Standards are not conditions for admissions to the program, but they do indicate abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the Cardiac Ultrasound Program.

To be successful in the Cardiac Ultrasound Program, applicants and current students must meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Behavioral Standards

The student must be able to accomplish the following safely, efficiently and competently, with or without reasonable accommodation:

- Demonstrate appropriate responses to situations involving the critically ill, medical emergencies and death.
- Prioritize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Understand and apply clinical instruction from department personnel.
- Interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors and co-workers from all backgrounds by demonstrating such qualities as respect, politeness, collaboration, teamwork and discretion.

Physical, Interpersonal, Communication, Mobility, Tactical, Hearing, and Visual Demands

- Position and/or roll patients from side to side when necessary

- Move or transfer patients out of a wheelchair, stretcher and other devices
- Move heavy equipment including ultrasound machines, patient gurneys and other cardiovascular equipment
- Monitor patient in dim light
- Accurately analyze imaging and instrumentation monitors to acquire images of patient's anatomy at appropriate level within level of training
- Differentiate among subtle shades of color and greyscale used in imaging and other cardiovascular procedures
- Explain a cardiovascular imaging examination or cardiovascular procedure to groups of medical professionals for critique, education and conferences
- Interpret and analyze data from patient charts and confirm procedural requests
- Correlate data for the purpose of performing an examination or cardiovascular procedure according to protocol, professional guidelines and hospital policies and procedures
- Accurately perform cardiovascular procedures appropriate within level of training
- Manipulate mechanical and patient care equipment. i.e., keyboards, dials, switches, push buttons, plug in devices and blood pressure equipment
- Utilize devices such as laser printers and have a working knowledge of digital devices such as personal computers, tablets and intelligent phones
- Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and lights
- Use hospital lab equipment which requires fine motor skills, coordination and dexterity
- Perform examinations on patients of varying body sizes
- Work in a stationary position for an extended period of time

Requirements

Admission to the Cardiac Ultrasound Program is a selective process and a limited number of applicants are accepted each year. The applicant should demonstrate a dependable, mature demeanor and interact well with other people. The student should have a genuine desire to care for the sick, and have the ability to work well under pressure.

The application process is open to individuals who meet all of the following minimum criteria at the start of the program.

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Hold one of the following credentials:
 - An associate's degree (healthcare field preferred)
 - Completion of an accredited healthcare program
 - A bachelor's degree in any field
3. Complete the following prerequisite post-secondary coursework with a minimum grade of "C":
 - Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab
 - A non-remedial, college-level math course
 - A communications course (English, speech, or composition)
 - Physics (preferred but not required)
4. Complete a four-hour shadowing observation at a Cleveland Clinic Facility. Shadowing may be coordinated with the assistance of the Program Director if needed. Additional details are provided under "Admission documents and requirements" below.
5. Maintain current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.

When an applicant repeats a prerequisite course, the program will consider the highest grade earned for admission and GPA calculations. For example, if a student initially earns an "F" and later earns a "C" in the same course, the program will use the "C" as the official grade for admissions/evaluation purposes.

Conditional Admittance

Applicants who are currently enrolled in one or more of the program's prerequisite courses may still apply before the deadline. Applicants must provide documentation confirming enrollment in all outstanding prerequisite courses at the time of application.

To remain eligible for the program, applicants must complete all of the following requirements prior to the program start date:

- Complete all prerequisite courses before the program start date
- Submit an updated official transcript prior to the first day of the program that demonstrates successful completion of all prerequisite coursework with a minimum grade of “C” including:
 - Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab
 - A non-remedial, college-level math course
 - A communications course (English, speech, or composition)
 - Physics (preferred but not required)
- Meet all academic and documentation deadlines, as failure to satisfy these requirements will render the applicant ineligible to begin the program.

Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers certification is required for enrollment into the program but will not be asked for at the time of application. Once officially accepted into the program, you will be prompted to upload your certificate to the Campus Cafe applicant portal prior to the start of the program. Training from the following provider(s) is accepted:

- American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support

Failure to complete and submit valid certification before the first day of the program will render the applicant ineligible to begin the program.

If you have questions, please contact the Registrar at SOHPRegistrar@ccf.org for clarification.

Admission Documents and Requirements

An applicant is required to complete the following items after submitting their initial application in Campus Cafe in order for their application to be considered. Please note that documents marked with an asterisk (*) are **not** considered during the evaluation of applications and will **not** affect an applicant’s eligibility or admission decision. They are required, however, for administrative purposes. To begin, please select ‘Fall 20XX’ in the ‘Anticipated Starting Semester’ field of the application.

1. Submit your non-refundable \$20.00 application fee payment in [Momentum](#) and upload a copy of your payment confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.*

2. Complete the [Applicant Demographic Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.*
3. Compose an essay and upload the completed essay form to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe (Essay form found on the Admissions webpage).
4. [Schedule](#) and complete the required shadowing experience and shadowing form and upload the completed shadowing form to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe (Shadowing form found on the Admissions webpage).
5. Upload a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
6. Upload your current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support certification to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.**
7. If the applicant's native language is not English, official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Duolingo English Test (DET) are required. Applicants must have a total minimum score of 75 with written and speaking sections no less than 17 for the TOEFL. A minimum score of 105 is required for the DET. Exam date must be within two years of the program's start date. If applicable, complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Duolingo English Test (DET) and upload a copy of your results to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
 - The English Proficiency exam cannot be waived based on prior learning or work experience. This policy ensures that all students meet the same standardized language requirements, which supports academic success and helps maintain fairness and consistency in the admissions process.
8. Request one professional and one personal recommendation letter. Recommendation letters are required to be submitted by the letter writer via email to CardiacUSProgram@ccf.org. The letters will be uploaded to your applicant portal by program administration.
9. Request official post-secondary transcripts. You are required to submit official transcripts from every school you have attended. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES) on a course-by-course basis. If applicable, upload a copy of your WES transcript evaluation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. High school transcripts are not required. Once received, the transcripts will be uploaded to your applicant portal by program administration.

You can submit your official transcripts through one of two methods:

1. Electronically (preferred):

Request delivery to CardiacUSProgram@ccf.org

2. By mail (all paper transcripts must be submitted in an official sealed envelope):

Cleveland Clinic
Cardiac Ultrasound Program
Attention: Amy Dillenbeck
9500 Euclid Avenue/J1-5
Cleveland, OH 44195

****The BLS certification is an admissions document that is required to be completed prior to the beginning of the program. Please see the “Conditional Admittance” section for more information.**

Enrollment Documents and Requirements

If an applicant is accepted into the program the following items are required in order to enroll in the program. Please review the [health requirements](#) before submitting your documentation.

1. Complete and sign an Enrollment Agreement in Campus Cafe via DocuSign.
2. Complete the [Student IPEDS Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
3. Upload your negative tuberculosis (TB) test documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The TB test must be completed within 12 months prior to the start of the program.
4. Upload your immunization documentation for chicken pox (varicella) or positive titer to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
5. Upload your immunization documentation for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
6. Upload your positive hepatitis B vaccination/titer or completed waiver to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe (Hepatitis B vaccination/titer waiver found on the Admissions webpage).

7. Upload your tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The booster is required within the past 10 years.
8. Influenza immunization documentation is required during flu season (November 1 through March 31). The applicant is required to upload documentation to the applicant portal in Campus Cafe if completing their application during flu season or will be required to obtain and submit documentation when the vaccination becomes available.
9. Complete the required onboarding tasks in SilkRoad. Onboarding will include a background check. Additional information will be provided following completion of the above items.

Selective Admissions Criteria

- Academic preparation: Candidates will be evaluated on the strength of their academic preparation based on the degrees that they have received (including the level and area of study), grades in their prerequisite courses, previous healthcare experience described in their resume, overall GPA, and the strength of their letters of recommendation.
- Interview - Candidates will be judged based on their demonstration of:
 - Teamwork & Collaboration
 - Integrity
 - Problem Solving
 - Communication
 - Knowledge of the Echocardiography field and program expectations
 - Interest in the program
 - Time management
 - Self-awareness

Once ranked, students will be notified of their acceptance status. An additional 10-15% of the applicant pool will be notified that they are alternates for admission. They will be notified if they have an offer of acceptance once accepted students place deposits.

Background Check

It is required for students in the Cardiac Ultrasound program to take one of the two national registry credentialing examinations before the end of the summer semester. These examinations are offered by Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) and the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (ARDMS). Students with criminal activity on their background check may be deemed ineligible by the

credentialing agencies to sit for the registry examinations, regardless of whether the student has been permitted to enroll in the program. Because successful completion of a registry examination is required for graduation, students who are not eligible to sit for the required credentialing examination(s) will be unable to graduate from the program. Credentialing bodies such as CCI and ARDMS have rules indicating that they may take action against an applicant, candidate, or registrant in the case of conviction, plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere to any crime.

Students are strongly encouraged to contact CCI and/or ARDMS directly prior to enrollment if they have questions regarding eligibility for national registry examinations based on personal history.

Cardiovascular Credentialing International® (CCI®)

<http://www.cci-online.org/>

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers® (ARDMS®)

<http://www.ardms.org/>