

Program Admission Information

The Cardiovascular program admits one class annually with courses beginning the first week of January. While competitive, we admit the most qualified applicants annually. Interviews are held in September and October. Upon acceptance, applicants need proof of hospital-required vaccinations and CPR certification.

Two Pathways:

- **12-month pathway:** Patient-centered care degree or certification in fields such as radiologic technology, nursing, respiratory therapy, CNA, RN or practitioner.
- **15-month pathway:** Entry level, no prior patient experience

Qualifications and Application Process

Applicants must:

1. Have a high school diploma.
2. Complete prerequisite coursework with a letter grade of "C" or higher:
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab
 - Physics 1
 - Statistics or Algebra
 - Medical Terminology

Submit all required documents by the first Friday in September.



Accreditation Status

The cardiovascular sonography program at CommonSpirit – Memorial Hospital has a site visit scheduled for pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org). This step in the process is neither a status of accreditation nor a guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

CAAHEP

9355
113th Street N, #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
Phone: (727) 210-2350
Fax: (727) 210-2354
caahep.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS)

6021 University Blvd.
Suite 500
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone: (443) 973-3251
jrcdms.org

Interested in applying to the Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography program?

For More Information

Keri Patridge, Program Director
Phone: (423) 495-6853
Email: keri.partridge@commonspirit.org



Scan QR code to learn more about the Memorial Hospital Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program.

CommonSpirit
Memorial Hospital

2525 deSales Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

CommonSpirit.org

CommonSpirit
Memorial Hospital

Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program

Launch a rewarding career in a high-demand field.



Sonographer Skills

Diagnostic cardiovascular sonographers are at the forefront of patient care, requiring a blend of technical skill, compassion and critical thinking.

Successful sonographers possess:

- **Verbal communication:** Clearly instruct patients, build rapport.
- **Visual assessment:** Observe patient condition, interpret images.
- **Physical stamina:** Maneuver equipment (beds, stretchers, wheelchairs), perform chest compressions, lean, push and pull.
- **Manual dexterity:** Operate transducers, handle sterile items.
- **Professionalism:** Interact respectfully with patients, colleagues and staff.
- **Written communication:** Accurately document findings.
- **Aural acuity:** Respond to patient voices, alarms and critical codes.

Important Note: The physical demands of this role are significant. If you have concerns about meeting these standards, please discuss them with the program director.

Entry-Level Sonographers

Entry-level sonographers are trained across three key learning domains for both adult cardiac and vascular sonography:

- **Cognitive (Knowledge):** Mastering ultrasound physics, anatomy, physiology, pathology and interpreting findings
- **Psychomotor (Skills):** Expertly performing procedures, operating equipment and acquiring diagnostic-quality images.
- **Affective (Professional Behavior):** Demonstrating ethical conduct, effective communication, responsibility and teamwork.

Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography Program

This program is designed to create highly skilled, ethical and patient-centered cardiovascular sonographers.

Program Structure

This is an intense 12-15 month program, requiring full-time commitment (40 hours/week in class, scan lab or clinic). We recommend working no more than 16 hours per week while enrolled.

Our key goals include:

- **High-quality education:** Deliver comprehensive didactic instruction and immersive clinical training in a hospital-based setting.
- **Clinical proficiency:** Prepare students to perform accurate, efficient echocardiographic and vascular sonographic examinations in diverse clinical environments.
- **Professionalism & ethics:** Instill strong foundations in professional behavior, ethical practice, and compassionate patient communication.
- **Critical thinking:** Develop students' ability to assess situations, adapt to patient needs, and make sound diagnostic judgments.
- **Career readiness:** Ensure seamless transition into full-time sonography roles upon graduation.
- **Certification & growth:** Support eligibility for CCI or ARDMS certification and encourage lifelong professional development.

Program Outcomes

Upon completing the program, graduates will be able to:

- Identify appropriate indications for cardiac and vascular ultrasound exams.
- Obtain pertinent patient histories and vital signs.
- Acquire and identify standard views for echocardiography and vascular diagnostic exams.
- Apply knowledge of cardiac and vascular pathology to produce complete, disease-specific tailored exams.
- Demonstrate exemplary patient care and professionalism in all settings.

Program Effectiveness Data

Metric	Result
Credentialing Exam Pass Rate	100%
Program Retention Rate	75% (3 of 4 students retained)
Graduate Satisfaction Rate	93.8% average rating
Employer Satisfaction	100%
Job Placement Rate	100%

