What is a Cardiovascular Technologist?

An echocardiographer/CV Technologist performs diagnostic examinations and therapeutic interventions of the heart and/or blood vessels using ultrasound technology. The CV tech provides direct patient care and may work in the hospital cardiovascular lab, in private cardiovascular practices, or in rehabilitation facilities.

Learn more about these careers at www.cci-online.org, or www.asecho.org. The Cardiovascular Technology Program is accredited by CAAHEP, upon the recommendation of Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology.

Length of Program

4 semesters (not including prerequisite courses); Program courses must be taken in sequence within the prescribed time frame.

Semester Program Begins

Fall Semester; Full time; Day classes only

General Admission Application Process

1. Apply to Gwinnett Technical College at www.gwinnetttech.edu, submit all transcripts from high school and previous college work, and take the COMPASS test, if required. (You must be accepted into Gwinnett Tech prior to applying to a program of study.)

2. Applicants are initially accepted into the Healthcare Science Certificate program while completing the required prerequisite courses.

Program Application Process

1. All applicants are required to submit a Health Essay with their Cardiovascular Technology program packet. The Health Essay and program packets forms are available online at http://www.gwinnetttech.edu/enrollment/forms-documents/.

2. For Fall 2017 semester admission, the program application, health essay and all prerequisites must be completed by May 20th, 2017.

All of the following by deadline:

- Composition and Rhetoric-ENGL 1101,
- College Algebra-MATH 1111,
- Statistics-MATH 1127,
- Conceptual Physics and Lab- PHYS 1110 and PHYS 1110L**,
- Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab-BIOL 2113 and BIOL 2113L*,
- Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab-BIOL 2114 and BIOL 2114L*

Additional Required Courses*

- Introduction to Psychology-PSYC 1101,
- First Year Experience – FYES 1000

One of the following:

- Introduction to Humanities-HUMN 1101,
- Art Appreciation-ARTS 1101, Music Appreciation-MUSC 1101 or
- American Literature-ENGL 2130

*Additional Required Courses – recommended that courses are taken prior to program start date, but can be taken during program. See advisor for more information. Transfer students with 30 + transferrable credit hours will be exempt from taking FYES 1000

*Courses may not be more than 5 years old at time of program application

**Courses may not be more than 10 years old at time of program application

Competitive Admissions

Acceptance into the Cardiovascular Technology program is based on: Overall GPA, prerequisite GPA on ALL attempts, Health Essay and Interviews

Program Costs & Requirements

Uniform scrubs, shoes, books, liability insurance, criminal background check and drug screen; immunizations for clinical rotations, exam fees for certification. More cost may be added as program is developed.

For more information:

Tavia Thurmond, Program Support Specialist for Health Information Systems
thurmond@gwinnetttech.edu or 678-226-6404 or Building 200, office room 213

Everyone is welcome to attend our Information Session held on the 1st Saturday of each month* at 9:00 a.m. in Building 200, Room 104

*There will NOT be an Information Session in January*

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Nature of the Work
Cardiovascular technologists assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac (heart) and peripheral vascular (blood vessel) ailments. Technologists may specialize in different areas of practice: invasive cardiology or non-invasive (echocardiography).

**Invasive cardiology (Cardiac Catheterization).** CVTs work with physicians to perform cardiac catheterization procedures in which a small tube, or catheter, is threaded through a patient's peripheral artery to the heart. These tests are used to diagnose a wide variety of cardiac and vascular disease. If diagnosed, technologists will assist the physician in treatment of the disease. Some of these procedures may involve balloon angioplasty, pacemaker insertion, and stent placement.

**Non-Invasive cardiology (Echocardiography).** Technologists who use ultrasound to examine the heart chambers, valves, and vessels are referred to as cardiac sonographers, or echocardiographers. They use ultrasound instrumentation to create images called echocardiograms that are used to visualize and measure cardiac and vascular structures and function. These tests are used to diagnose a wide variety of cardiac and vascular disease.

Work Environment
Cardiovascular technologists spend a lot of time walking and standing. Heavy lifting may be involved to move equipment or transfer patients. Those who work in catheterization laboratories may face stressful working conditions because they are in close contact with patients with serious heart ailments. Some cardiovascular technologists may have the potential for radiation exposure. In addition, those who use sonography can be at an increased risk for musculoskeletal disorders such as carpal tunnel syndrome, neck and back strain, and eye strain. Technologists generally work a 5-day, 40-hour week that may include weekends. Those in catheterization laboratories tend to work longer hours and may work evenings. They also may be on call during the night and on weekends.

Employment
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians held about 49,400 jobs in 2012. About 77 percent of jobs were in hospitals (public and private), primarily in cardiology departments. The remaining jobs were mostly in offices of physicians, including cardiologists, or in medical and diagnostic laboratories, including diagnostic imaging centers. Employment of cardiovascular technologists is expected to increase 29 percent through the year 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Earnings
Median annual wages of cardiovascular technologists and technicians were $49,410 in May 2012. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $26,610, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $77,020. Median annual wages of cardiovascular technologists and technicians in 2008 were $48,590 in offices of physicians and $46,670 in hospitals.

Research the Career

| Invasive Track | www.acp-online.org | www.sicp.com |
| Echocardiography: | www.asecho.org | sdms.org |
| Credentials: | www.cci-online.org | ardms.org |