What is a Cardiovascular Technologist? A cardiovascular technologist performs diagnostic examinations and therapeutic interventions of the heart and/or blood vessels. The CV tech provides direct patient care and may work in the hospital cardiovascular lab, in private cardiovascular practices, or in rehabilitation facilities.

GTC students choose ONE concentration to complete: Invasive (Cardiac Catheterization) or Non-Invasive (Echocardiography). Learn more about these careers at www.cci-online.org, or www.asecho.org. The Cardiovascular 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

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

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

3. All applicants are required to submit a Health Essay before the file completion deadline. Essay forms are available at the One-Stop Office or online at www.gwinnetttech.edu/forms

Prerequisite Courses

All of the following: ENGL 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1127, PSYC 1101
PHYS 1110 and PHYS 1110L**, BIOL 2113 and BIOL 2113L*, BIOL 2114 and BIOL 2114L*

Additional Required Courses

One of the following: HUMN 1101, ARTS 1101, MUSC 1101 or ENGL 2130
FYSE 1000 should be taken prior to program start date

*These courses cannot be more than 5 years old at time of program application. **Physics courses cannot be more than 10 years old at time of program application.
***COMP 1000 cannot be more than 5 years old at time of program graduation.

Program Deadlines

For Fall 2015 semester admission, the Health Essay must be submitted and all prerequisites must be completed by May 20th, 2015.

Competitive Admissions

Acceptance to the Cardiovascular Technology program is based on: overall GPA, prerequisite GPA on all attempts, completion of other general education courses (COMP 1000, ALHS 1090, and other ALHS courses), evaluation of the Health Essay, and interviews. Applicants must choose the desired track, either Invasive or Non-Invasive at the time of application.

Program Costs & Requirements

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

For more information, contact: Tavia Thurmond, Program Support Specialist for Health Information Systems tthurmond@gwinnetttech.edu 678-226-6404 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 246
*There will NOT be an Information Session in January*

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Cardiovascular Technology

Quick Facts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2010 Median Pay</th>
<th>$49,410 per year / $23.75 per hour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry level education</td>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of jobs, 2010</td>
<td>49,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job growth, 2010-2020</td>
<td>29% (much faster than average)</td>
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</tbody>
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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, non-invasive—which includes echocardiography—or vascular technology.

*Invasive cardiology (Cardiac Catheterization).* Cardiovascular technologists specializing in invasive procedures assist physicians with cardiac catheterization procedures in which a small tube, or catheter, is threaded through a patient’s artery from a spot on the patient’s groin to the heart. 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.

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 2010. 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 2010. 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
Credentials: www.cci-online.org, ardms.org