

# Advanced Technical Certificate in Echocardiography

2022-2023 Program Guide

**Admission requirements are subject to change.**

**Priority Application Deadline**  
May 15th

**Classes Begin\***  
Fall Term – August

## ABOUT THIS LIMITED-ACCESS PROGRAM

The Echocardiography Program is designed to prepare health professionals to perform echocardiograms in the clinical setting. It is a limited access, bachelor's-level program and admission to Valencia does not guarantee acceptance to the program. Program applicants must also submit a School of Allied Health Echocardiography Program Application and be accepted to the program. Applicants must hold an eligible degree from a regionally accredited institution and a current eligible professional credential. The program begins in fall term. **Although applications submitted prior to the priority application deadline are more likely to be processed for the upcoming term, applications can be submitted after the priority deadline.** Students who meet all admission requirements are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the class is filled; then students are placed on the waiting list for the next program start date. Applicants who decline entry for their identified admission term must reapply to the program.

The program is designed for working professionals and consists of 18 credits of didactic, lab and clinical course work. In the first, second and fourth terms, an on-campus lab is required one evening per week on Valencia's West Campus in West Orlando and clinicals are required in the second, third and fourth terms in a healthcare facility in Orlando. There is flexibility to the extent possible in the schedule for the clinicals.

Cardiovascular Technologists, Nurses, Radiographers and Respiratory Therapists who complete the Echocardiography ATC will be eligible to sit for the Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) specialty examination. After 12 months of full-time clinical cardiac ultrasound experience, Echocardiography ATC Program completers who are Cardiovascular Technologists, Nurses, Radiographers or Respiratory Therapists will be eligible to sit for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) and Adult Echocardiography (AE) Exams.

Sonographers who already hold an active American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) credential and have completed the ARDMS Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) examination within the past five years will be eligible to sit for the ARDMS Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDMS) credential upon completion of the Echocardiography ATC.

\* <https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/calendar/>

## PROGRAM ADMISSIONS AND ACCEPTANCE CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Review this Echocardiography Program Guide and the program requirements for the Advanced Technical Certificates in the online Valencia catalog:  
<https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/degrees/advancedtechnicalcertificates/echocardiography/#text>
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Submit a completed Valencia application for admission <https://valenciacollege.edu/admissions/> selecting the *Bachelor's Degree & ATC* options and be in Active student status. Bachelor-level applicants must create a new application account.

- \_\_\_\_ 4. Have an address in the state of Florida.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Submit the documentation to request Florida Residency for tuition purposes.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Submit to Valencia's admissions office an official transcript that indicates you have earned an associate degree, or higher, from a regionally accredited institution in Cardiovascular Technology, Nursing, Radiography, Respiratory Care or Sonography. Students who hold the appropriate professional certification and any Associate in Science degree, Associate in Applied Science degree, or higher from a regionally accredited institution in any other field may also be considered for admission.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Receive notification from Valencia's Admissions Office of *admission as a candidate* for the Advanced Technical Certificate in Echocardiography.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. After receiving your notification of admission to Valencia as a *candidate* for the Echocardiography Program, *then* submit the School of Allied Health Program Application for the Echocardiography Program with a copy of your current professional credential for Cardiovascular Technology (CCI – RCIS or RCES) or Sonography (ARDMS – RDMS, RVT, RMSKS, RPVI or RMSK) or Nursing (State Board of Nursing – RN) or Radiography (ARRT – R or S) or Respiratory Care (NBRC-RRT) and the application fee. The School of Allied Health Echocardiography program application is available via <https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/programs/health-sciences/echocardiography/>
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Following program acceptance from the School of Allied Health, participate in the Echocardiography Program Orientation.
- \_\_\_\_ 10. Prior to beginning the Non-Invasive Cardiology Concentration Clinical Practice, the following documentation must be provided and the estimated cost is \$190 plus the cost for any needed immunizations and/or CPR:
  - Current criminal background check and fingerprinting
  - Drug screening
  - Physical exam form
  - Record with up-to-date immunization data
  - Current specific CPR certification

## **COST**

The estimated total cost for the Advanced Technical Certificate in Echocardiography, including Florida Resident tuition for the 18 credits of program requirements, special course fees, and associated expenses such as the background check and immunizations is approximately \$2500. This estimate does not include books.

## SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH CURRICULUM

### Echocardiography Advanced Technical Certificate

Course	Title	Credits
RET 4440C	Cardiac Ultrasound I	3
RET 4443	Cardiac Ultrasound Physics	2
RET 4441C	Cardiac Ultrasound II	3
RET 4942L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice I	2
RET 4943L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice II	2
RET 4442C	Cardiac Ultrasound III	3
RET 4944L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice III	<u>3</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

+ This course must be completed with a grade of C or better.

\* This course has a prerequisite; check description in Valencia catalog.

Courses are scheduled to accommodate working professionals and the courses are sequential. The theory courses are taught online with an on-campus lab component. The clinicals are arranged at assigned clinical sites with which Valencia College has affiliation agreements. *To be placed in a Clinical Practice course, you must submit the Request Form by the applicable deadline.*

<b>Term I - Fall Term:</b>		<b>Credits</b>
RET 4440C	Cardiac Ultrasound I (online with on-campus lab)	3
RET 4443	Cardiac Ultrasound Physics (online)	2
<b>Term II - Spring Term:</b>		
RET 4441C	Cardiac Ultrasound II (online with on-campus lab)	3
RET 4942L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice I (assigned clinical site)	2
<b>Term III - Summer Term:</b>		
RET 4943L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice II (assigned clinical site)	2
RET 4442C	Cardiac Ultrasound III (online with on-campus lab)	3
<b>Term IV - Fall Term:</b>		
RET 4944L	Cardiac Ultrasound Clinical Practice III (assigned clinical site)	<u>3</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

#### CCI Echocardiography Registry

Technologists must meet the CCI's clinical experience requirements to attain advanced modality registry eligibility and the Clinical Practice courses provide clinical experience in performing and documenting Echocardiography procedures toward the CCI eligibility requirements; for more information on these requirements, visit [www.cci-online.org/](http://www.cci-online.org/).

#### BS in Cardiopulmonary Sciences

Valencia also offers the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Cardiopulmonary Sciences (BSCARDIO) with a Concentration in Advanced Critical Care, Community Health or Leadership (non-clinical). Students who are eligible to enroll in the B.S. in Cardiopulmonary Sciences can apply the ATC in Echocardiography as their chosen concentration in fulfillment of graduation requirements. Students are admitted to the BSCARDIO every term--Fall, Spring and Summer. The Program Guide with admission requirements for the BSCARDIO is found at

<https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/programs/health-sciences/cardiopulmonary-sciences/>

**SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM GUIDELINES**  
**FOR THE B.S. in CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCES**  
**and**  
**THE ADVANCED TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE in ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

Valencia's Health Sciences programs are offered through the School of Allied Health and the School of Nursing, which provide information about specific admission criteria for the programs. The School of Allied Health program guides, of which this is one, are developed for a specific academic year (August to July) and, as a rule, changes to admission and program requirements become effective at the start of an academic year; however, **Valencia College reserves the right to make changes in admission and program requirements as circumstances require.**

*You may apply to only one bachelor's-level School of Allied Health program at a time and enrollment is limited to only one Health Sciences program in a term.*

**ATLAS EMAIL**

All communication from Valencia relative to program admission will be via your **Atlas email**. Written communication you send to Valencia staff should also be via your Atlas email and should include your name and your Valencia ID number.

**MANDATORY ORIENTATION**

The Advanced Technical Certificate in Echocardiography requires attendance at a mandatory, on-campus Program Orientation prior to the program start.

**ONLINE PROGRAM/TESTING**

Some of the courses require proctored testing which may be administered using remote proctor testing, and may require a webcam and microphone. Students will be notified of exam requirements in advance., or on-site at a Valencia campus or at another proctored site if Valencia is not convenient for you. If you want to take your examinations in another proctored location, you will need to do so at an approved testing site such as a college or public library that offers proctoring services and which may require a fee.

**COURSE FORMAT**

The Echocardiography program is designed for working professionals and consists of 18 credits of didactic, lab and clinical course work. The labs are taught on Valencia's West Campus and the clinical course work is completed in healthcare facilities in Orlando.

**BACKGROUND CHECK, FINGERPRINTING, DRUG TESTING, IMMUNIZATIONS AND CPR CERTIFICATION**

The Health Sciences programs include student clinical rotations in external affiliate health care facilities with which Valencia has agreements for student clinical assignments. The affiliates' policies require that students serving in a clinical rotation be cleared of offenses that would disqualify them from participating in student clinical assignments. Thus, all students in a program or degree concentration that requires a clinical experience must submit to a criminal background check, fingerprinting and drug screening as well as provide documentation of specific immunizations and CPR certification prior to participation in the clinical experience.

If you have a positive background check, fingerprint or drug test, you may be denied enrollment in a Health Sciences program due to the inability to participate in a student clinical assignment. If you have concerns regarding known background issues, it is recommended that you email questions to [hscompliance@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:hscompliance@valenciacollege.edu) .