CATALOG

“A CAREER FOR ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO”

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Cardiac & Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
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Effective Date: 08/24/2026

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Description of CVIU:

The Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound (CVIU) – located in beautiful Mobile, Alabama – is dedicated to providing students with an in depth highly specialized education in cardiac and vascular ultrasound. As the first non-combined cardiac and vascular oriented program in the country, the school emphasizes specialization, rather than generalization. Specialization in either cardiac or vascular ultrasound produces a more qualified and a more employable ultrasound sonographer. Small classes, instructors that love teaching, and a school curriculum that emphasizes immediate practical application of course work creates an extremely rewarding learning experience.

The traditional classroom setting, scanning labs, and clinical externships are the primary means utilized to deliver each students ultrasound training. Clinical hours are gained in a variety of medical settings including hospitals, physician offices, and medical clinics. Instructional and clinical training are typically scheduled for Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for academic classes and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for your clinical application sites.

History:

In 2004, Dr. Thomas R. Hopper and Melanie Hopper founded the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound, Inc. The school has continuously sought to improve its cardiac and vascular ultrasound programs and has attracted some of the most highly trained and dedicated sonographers and instructors in the southeast.

On December 30, 2024, Carey and Melissa Walker proudly became the new owners of CVIU. With a deep connection to CVIU and extensive experience in the field, they are committed to upholding its high standards. Carey Walker, a 2005 CVIU graduate, brings nearly two decades of expertise as a cardiac and pediatric sonographer, preceptor, instructor, and Advisory Board member. Melissa Walker, a dedicated healthcare professional since 2001, has served as an ICU nurse and managed a nursing infusion agency. She now takes on the role of Administrative Director. Together, they look forward to leading CVIU into the future while maintaining its tradition of excellence.

Ownership:

CVIU of Alabama, LLC, is solely owned by Carey Walker. The corporation is committed to training and preparing students for a career in cardiac and vascular ultrasound sonography. CVIU of Alabama, LLC was formed in September 2024 by the provisions of Section 10-2B-4.02, Code of Alabama 1975.

Director of Operations: William Carey Walker, RDCS-AE/PE, RCS, RVS
Administrative Director: Melissa Walker, RN, CMSRN

Accreditation/Licensure/Memberships:

CVIU is accredited by ABHES, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for healthcare colleges. Additionally, CVIU is licensed by the Alabama Department of Education. Its programs, curriculum, and facilities have been thoroughly reviewed to ensure adherence to high educational standards.

Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
Institutional Accreditation, Non-degree
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 730 ● North Bethesda, MD 20852
Phone: 301-291-7550 ● www.abhes.org

The Cardiac Program (one-year) and Vascular Program (one year) are programmatically accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) (www.caahep.org), based on the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
9355 - 113th St. N, #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
Phone: 727-210-2350 ● www.caahep.org

CVIU students must take a certification exam (registry) as a graduation requirement through one of the following credentialing associations:

- Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)
- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)

CVIU is licensed by The Private School Licensure Division of the Alabama Community College System (04-1233-19).

School Facility:

The Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound (CVIU) is located in Mobile, Alabama. The school occupies a two-story building (approximately 5800 square feet) at 2936 N. McVay Drive in Mobile, Alabama. Students park in a paved parking lot that can accommodate over 35 automobiles and parking for physically challenged students is available. All academic and scanning classes are held at this facility. Clinical training is conducted at over twenty hospitals and physicians' offices in the region. For clinical assignments students can expect to drive to sites within a 75-mile radius from the student's place of residence.

For educational purposes, the school facility consists of three classrooms, six scanning labs, a student lounge, and eight ultrasound machines. The business office, admissions, and all faculty and staff offices are located at the school site.

Mission and Objectives:

Our mission is to provide excellent educational opportunities, resources, and clinical experiences to meet the requirements of all students pursuing a career and certification in cardiovascular ultrasound diagnostics. CVIU sets high academic standards for its students and ensures students have a thorough understanding of the ultrasound principles, technology, and competency skills needed to confidently pursue a career in cardiovascular ultrasound. The didactic components are integrated with the practical application of ultrasound sonography through scanning labs and on-site application of the knowledge and competencies learned in the classroom. Any student completing any CVIU program will possess complete confidence in pursuing a career in cardiac and/or vascular ultrasound.

The goals of our faculty, staff, and clinical supervisors is to prepare competent entry-level cardiovascular technologist in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for adult echocardiography and to prepare competent entry-level cardiovascular technologist in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for non-invasive vascular Study. CVIU strives, first, to thoroughly train sonographers for entry-level positions, and second, to prepare students to successfully complete the Registry (certification) with either the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI).

To ensure fulfillment of our mission and goals CVIU strives to meet the following general objectives:

70% retention
70% placement rate
80% employer satisfaction
80% graduate satisfaction
70% credentialing passing rate
80% graduates attempt credentialing exam
80% student satisfaction rate

To verify if these objectives are realized evaluations and surveys are given to students, graduates, clinical supervisors, and employers. The results are compiled and analyzed to determine appropriate curriculum and policy adjustments.

Curriculum:

CVIU's curriculum was designed and developed on the input and experiences of accomplished ultrasound practitioners, physicians, and educators. The goal is to integrate resources, knowledge, and practical skills to prepare students for a career in cardiovascular ultrasound. The CVIU faculty and staff are committed to updating and improving the curriculum to ensure a positive outcome for CVIU graduates. Assessment of CVIU's Ultrasound Programs is based on evaluations of four different areas of development: 1) content, 2) student and teacher performance, 3) clinical performance, and 4) employment. The feedback we receive will always be utilized to effectively develop the course content, teaching methods, and school structure to better prepare CVIU students for careers in cardiovascular ultrasound.

The faculty and staff of CVIU are strongly committed to producing cardiac and vascular sonographers thoroughly trained for entry level positions in medical ultrasound diagnostics, and secondly, the students are prepared to pass the registry (certification). Students receive rigorous instruction and personalized attention in learning anatomy, medical terminology, hemodynamics principles, pathology, ultrasound physics, scanning, and essential career skills.

CVIU offers a Cardiac Ultrasound Program (one-year) and a Vascular Ultrasound Program (one-year). Both are designed to train students for an entry level position in one modality. In addition to a student's core courses in cardiac and/or vascular ultrasound they must take one course in ultrasound physics.

For those that are primarily interested in cardiac ultrasound but want to be more attractive for employment with cardiology clinics or groups, CVIU offers the Cardiovascular Ultrasound Program (18 months). The first year is the same curriculum as the one-year cardiac program and the remaining six months in vascular is the same as the first-year vascular program. A student enrolled in the Cardiovascular Program will receive the full training for cardiac ultrasound and the fundamental vascular protocols performed by cardiologists and most dual modality clinics.

CVIU employs three different teaching strategies to deliver the content of the courses offered: 1) knowledge-based learning, 2) practical application, and 3) work related learning. Instructional methods for implementing *knowledge-based learning* include lectures, films, comprehensive review of content and academic assignments. The *practical application* of scanning skills is presented through scanning lab and learning the necessary competency skills for ultrasound sonography. The *work-related* segment comes from performing as an ultrasound sonographer in a hospital and/or physician's office. Academic progress is measured by quizzes, tests, written assignments, attendance, and competency skills.

Upon completion of each program graduates will receive a Certificate for Ultrasound Sonography.

Cardiac Program

This program prepares the student to perform quality, diagnostic echocardiograms that can be interpreted by the reading cardiologist. Graduating students ascertain an in-depth understanding of anatomy, medical terminology, hemodynamics, color Doppler, and pathophysiology presented by a registered Cardiac sonographer. Students learn the school's very general protocol that enables them to adapt to different clinic's protocol according to the interpreting cardiologist's specification. Professionalism and medical ethics begin at CVIU and is emphasized throughout the programs to promote excellent patient care and safety.

Program Length: One Year (36 hours per week for 48 weeks)

Total clock hours: 1728

Program Delivery: Residential

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLES	QUARTER	Total Clock Hours
ECHO 101	Adult Echo Principles and Technology	1st	156
ECHO 102	Adult Echo Scan Lab	1st	234
EKG 101	Introduction to Electrocardiography	1st	24
PC 101	Patient Care	1st	18
ECHO 201	Adult Echo Clinical Application	2nd	432
ECHO 301	Adult Echo Advanced Studies	3rd	186
ECHO 302	Adult Echo Advanced Scan Lab	3rd	144
ECHO 303	Adult Echo Clinical Internship	3rd	54
PHY 101	Ultrasound Physics	3rd	48
ECHO 202	Adult Echo Clinical Application	4th	432
	TOTAL		**1728**

Vascular Program

The Vascular Program is designed to prepare the student to perform diagnostic quality vascular ultrasound examinations that include, but not limited to, cerebrovascular, peripheral venous and arterial, splanchnic and renovascular circulation. The student will understand the anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and theory of the vasculature of the human body as well as provide accurate technical impressions to the interpreting physician. The student learns to work effectively with other allied health care professionals, patients, and families to promote patient safety and an accurate diagnosis.

Program Length: One Year (36 hours per week for 48 weeks)

Total clock hours: 1728

Program Delivery: Residential

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLES	QUARTER	Total Clock Hours
VAS 101	Vascular Principles and Technology	1st	180
VAS 102	Vascular Ultrasound Scan Lab	1st	234
PC 101	Patient Care	1st	18
VAS 201	Vascular Clinical Application	2nd	432
VAS 301	Vascular Advanced Studies	3rd	171
VAS 302	Vascular Advanced Scan Lab	3rd	159
VAS 303	Vascular Clinical Internship	3rd	54
PHY 101	Ultrasound Physics	3rd	48
VAS 202	Vascular Clinical Application	4th	432
	TOTAL		**1728**

Cardiovascular Program (18-month)

The Cardiovascular Program is offered to train students who are interested in majoring in cardiac ultrasound with a minor in vascular ultrasound. Today's cardiologists also perform some vascular studies; therefore, being able to perform the basic vascular exams makes you more attractive to cardiology groups and clinics.

The first year of the program focuses on patient care, medical terminology, and cardiac training. The last two quarters are devoted to vascular didactic, scan lab training, clinical externship, and preparing for the certification exams, the registry. The student is required to take the registry with ARDMS in cardiac in the 4th quarter of the cardiac program. Upon completion of cardiovascular program, the student will be eligible to apply to take the vascular registry if he or she is registered with ARDMS in cardiac.

Program Length: 18 months (36 hours per week for 72 weeks)

Total clock hours: 2592

Program Delivery: Residential

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLES	QUARTER	Total Clock Hours
ECHO 101	Adult Echo Principles and Technology	1st	156
ECHO 102	Adult Echo Scan Lab	1st	234
PC 101	Patient Care	1st	18
EKG 101	Introduction to Electrocardiography	1st	24
ECHO 201	Adult Echo Clinical Application	2nd	432
VAS 101	Vascular Prin. and Technology	3rd	180
VAS 102	Vascular Scan Lab	3rd	252
VAS 201	Vascular Clinical Application	4th	432
ECHO 301	Adult Echo Advanced Studies	5th	186
ECHO 302	Adult Echo Advanced Scan Lab	5th	144
ECHO 303	Adult Echo Clinical Internship	5th	54
PHY 101	Ultrasound Physics	5th	48
ECHO 202	Adult Echo Clinical Application	6th	432
	TOTAL		**2592**

Course Descriptions:

ECHO 101 Adult Echocardiography Principles and Technology (didactic)

***Course Description*:** The Cardiac Program prepares the student to perform quality, diagnostic echocardiograms that can be interpreted by the reading cardiologist. Graduating students ascertain an in-depth understanding of anatomy, medical terminology, hemodynamics, color Doppler, and pathophysiology presented by a registered Cardiac sonographer. Students learn the school's very general protocol that enables them to adapt to different clinic's protocol according to the interpreting cardiologist's specification.

Adult echocardiography is a comprehensive in-depth course that includes three months of didactics, to prepare the student for a thorough understanding and conceptualization of adult echo cardiac ultrasound and to prepare the student for the registry exam. The course will cover all aspects of modern echocardiography using methods of classroom lectures, online research assignments, research papers, interactive visual and audio assignments, and hands-on training. Anatomy, medical terminology, and EKG interpretation are integrated into the course for a thorough holistic understanding of the human cardiovascular system.

***Course Objective*:** The student after completion of this course will have an understanding of the cardiac cycle, cardiac anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, EKG interpretation, demonstrate the standard 2-D views, M-mode measurements, Doppler measurements, identify common pathology, and perform an echo following the school's protocol using pulsed wave, continuous wave, and color flow Doppler.

Clock Hours: 156 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

ECHO 102 Adult Echocardiography (scanning lab)

***Course Description*:** Adult echocardiography scanning lab integrates the 3-month didactic course into the application of echo cardiac ultrasound. The course gives the student hands-on-scanning to ensure the development of their scanning abilities and the appropriate use of protocol. Grades are determined by weekly quizzes and competency skills checklists.

***Course Objective*:** To complete the scanning lab the student must be able to complete an entire study on their own in a limited amount of time. A student will have a thorough understanding of the cardiac cycle, cardiac anatomy, hemodynamics, and the ability to demonstrate the standard 2-D views, M-mode as well as real time measurements, Doppler calculations, and pathology. The school will provide models for the final scanning competency test to determine their scanning ability before entering into the clinics.

Clock Hours: 234 Scan Lab Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

ECHO 201/202 Adult Echocardiography Clinical Application

Course Description: The Adult Echocardiography Clinical Application course spans two academic quarters, during which students engage in observation and hands-on scanning at various hospitals and physician's offices. Clinical sites are located within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence.

Each clinical rotation lasts six weeks, with students completing two rotations per quarter. Performance is continuously evaluated and graded each quarter based on demonstrated skills and progress. Under the supervision of experienced sonographers, students are expected to observe and/or assist with a minimum of 800 cases. Ongoing evaluations ensure that students retain and enhance their ultrasound competency. In their senior quarter, students undergo a final competency reassessment to verify that they have maintained the skills necessary for employability.

Course Objective: Upon completing their clinical rotation, students will be proficient in performing echocardiographic exams with a comprehensive understanding of hemodynamics, physiology, M-mode, color Doppler, spectral Doppler, and 2D imaging. As hospital laboratories follow different protocols, students will gain exposure to a variety of scanning techniques and methodologies. They will learn protocols for adult echocardiography, pediatric echocardiography, transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), and stress echocardiography. Through hands-on training with highly skilled technologists in the field of medical ultrasound, students will develop independence, confidence, and advanced scanning abilities.

ECHO 201 Clock Hours: 432 Clinical Hours

ECHO 202 Clock Hours: 432 Clinical Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

ECHO 301 Adult Echocardiography Advanced Studies

Course Description: The course will cover all aspects of current cardiac principles using methods of self-study, online research assignments, research papers, interactive DVDs, clinical field trips, case presentations, and scanning application. Topics are intended to give students a more in-depth understanding of the cardiac ultrasound modality and to prepare them for the Registry.

Course Objective: After completion of this course, students will:

1. Possess a more in-depth understanding of all cardiac ultrasound principles and technology.
2. Perform a more accurate and explicit ultrasound scan.
3. Provide a more thorough interpretation of the scan.

4. Be able to make professional and articulate presentations to colleagues concerning diagnostic cases and cardiac ultrasound topics.
5. Be confident that they can pass the registry immediately after graduation.

Clock Hours: 186 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

ECHO 302 Adult Echocardiography Advanced Scan Lab

Course Description: Adult echocardiography advanced scanning lab integrates the 3-month didactic course into the application of echo cardiac ultrasound. The course gives the student hands-on-scanning to ensure the development of their scanning abilities and the appropriate use of protocol. Grades are determined by weekly quizzes and competency skills checklists.

Course Objective: To complete the scanning lab the student must be able to complete an entire study on their own in a limited amount of time. A student will have a thorough understanding of the cardiac cycle, cardiac anatomy, hemodynamics, and the ability to demonstrate the standard 2-D views, M-mode as well as real time measurements, Doppler calculations, pathology, and stress echocardiography.

Clock Hours: 144 Scan Lab Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

ECHO 303 Adult Echo Clinical Internship

Course Description: The Adult Echo Clinical Internship course consists of performing practical clinical tasks and procedures, observation, and scanning of actual patients that have been referred to CVIU by local physicians' offices. The exams are performed as community service for those patients without healthcare insurance. This internship will include all aspects of the clinical experience. Students will perform exams and receive clinical training for 4 hours each Wednesday in the 3rd quarter of their cardiac ultrasound program. Each student is required to perform at least 1 complete echocardiogram for evaluation by the instructor within the quarter term. Each study will be evaluated and graded based on their performance. Each student will also assist with studies performed by their classmates. These studies will be reviewed as a learning tool for the entire class.

Course Objective: Students are evaluated to ensure each student proficiently demonstrates entry level competencies. After completion of their Clinical Internship rotation the students will be able to perform an echo exam with a thorough understanding of hemodynamics, physiology, m-mode, color, spectral and 2-D imaging. Because specific indications require slight alteration to the protocol, the student will learn various scanning protocols and techniques with their clinical exposure. In addition to performing

the exam, the students will also be required to prepare preliminary reports and fulfill other tasks and procedures necessary for entry level clinical training. The students will gain confidence and enhance their scanning abilities because they are monitored directly by the faculty & staff while performing all clinical competencies, tasks, and procedures.

Clock Hours: 54 Scan Lab Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 101 Vascular Principles and Technology (didactic)

Course Description: This course covers the anatomy and pathophysiology of cerebrovascular, peripheral venous, peripheral arterial, visceral vascular, renovascular and splanchnic circulation taught in a classroom setting. The course will cover all aspects of current vascular principles using methods of lectures, online research assignments, research papers, interactive visual and audio assignments, and hands-on training. Anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and medical terminology are integrated into the course for a thorough holistic understanding of the human cardiovascular system. In addition, the course also includes sections addressing communication skills and medical law and ethics to enhance the student's patient care skills and career advancement.

Course Objectives: After completion of this course, the student will have gained a solid didactic approach and understanding of the anatomy and pathophysiology of all vascular ultrasound methodology. These vascular principles include extra and intracranial cerebrovascular, peripheral venous, peripheral arterial, renovascular and splanchnic circulation. The student will also display a thorough understanding of normal and abnormal blood flow with interpretation and report writing skills.

Clock hours: 180 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 102 Vascular Ultrasound (scanning lab)

Course Description: This course provides in-depth scanning instruction of vascular ultrasound examinations including extra and intra-cranial cerebrovascular, peripheral venous and arterial, splanchnic and renovascular circulation. The student will gain knowledge of the vasculature of the human body as it relates to imaging. Specific protocols and accurate clinical interpretation will be demonstrated. Individual scanning instruction will be provided to all students. The student learns to work effectively with other allied health care professionals, patients, and families to promote patient safety and an accurate diagnosis.

Course Objectives: After completion of this course, students will have gained valuable knowledge and the confidence needed in order to independently demonstrate extra and intra-cranial cerebrovascular,

peripheral venous and arterial, splanchnic and renovascular ultrasound studies. This course will provide students with a solid foundation of skills needed for imaging and clinical interpretation.

Clock hours: 234 Scan Lab Hours (one-year program) ● 252 Scan Lab Hours (18-month program)

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 201/202 Vascular Clinical Application

Course Description: The Vascular Clinical Application course spans two academic quarters, during which students engage in observation and hands-on scanning at various hospitals and physician's offices. Clinical sites are located within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. Each clinical rotation lasts six weeks, with students completing two rotations per quarter. Performance is continuously evaluated and graded each quarter based on demonstrated skills and progress. Under the supervision of experienced sonographers, students are expected to observe and/or assist with a minimum of 800 cases. Ongoing evaluations ensure that students retain and enhance their ultrasound competency. In their senior quarter, students undergo a final competency reassessment to verify that they have maintained the skills necessary for employability.

Course Objectives: Upon completing their clinical rotation, students will be proficient in performing a variety of vascular studies with a thorough understanding of hemodynamics, physiology, and essential scanning techniques. As hospital laboratories follow different protocols, students will gain exposure to a range of scanning methodologies. They will learn protocols for intracranial and extracranial cerebrovascular studies, peripheral venous and arterial studies, renovascular assessments, and splanchnic circulation evaluations, along with essential report-writing skills. Through hands-on training with highly skilled technologists in the field of medical ultrasound, students will develop independence, confidence, and advanced vascular scanning expertise.

VAS 201 Clock Hours: 432 Clinical Hours

VAS 202 Clock Hours: 432 Clinical Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 301 Vascular Advanced Studies

Course Description: This course covers advanced anatomy and pathophysiology of cerebrovascular, peripheral venous, peripheral arterial, visceral vascular, renovascular and splanchnic circulation. The course will cover all aspects of current vascular principles using methods of self-study, online research assignments, research papers, interactive DVDs, clinical field trips, case presentations, and scanning

application. Topics are intended to give students a more in-depth understanding of the vascular ultrasound modality and to prepare them for the Registry.

Course Objective: After completion of this course, students will:

1. Possess a more in-depth understanding of all vascular ultrasound principles and technology.
2. Perform a more accurate and explicit ultrasound scan.
3. Provide a more thorough interpretation of the scan.
4. Be able to make professional and articulate presentations to colleagues concerning diagnostic cases and vascular ultrasound topics.
5. Be confident that they can pass the registry immediately after graduation.

Clock hours: 171 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 302 Vascular Advanced Scan Lab

Course Description: This course provides advanced didactic lecture and one-on-one scanning instruction covering all modern vascular ultrasound examinations including extra-cranial cerebrovascular, peripheral arterial, peripheral venous, renovascular and splanchnic circulation. This includes a more thorough approach to the students understanding of the anatomy and an understanding of case specific clinical indications for each protocol. A step-by-step encounter of the exam being studied is given with and without a live demonstration. Finally, advanced normal and abnormal interpretation skills are taught as well as report writing skills for positive and negative findings.

Course Objective: Students will gain additional independence in the performance and interpretation of cerebrovascular duplex, peripheral venous, peripheral arterial, and visceral vascular scanning including renovascular and splanchnic circulation. They will also obtain the confidence and skill needed to perform the more advanced vascular technical ultrasounds.

Clock hours: 159 Scan Lab Hours (one-year program)

Program Delivery: Residential

VAS 303 Vascular Clinical Internship

Course Description: Vascular Clinical Internship consists of performing practical clinical tasks and procedures, observation, and scanning of actual patients that have been referred to CVIU by local physicians' offices. The exams are performed as community service for those patients without healthcare insurance. This internship will include all aspects of the clinical experience. Students will perform exams and receive clinical training for 4 hours each Wednesday in the 3rd quarter of their

vascular ultrasound program. Each student is required to perform at least 3 vascular studies including carotid doppler, lower arterial and lower venous Doppler for evaluation by the instructor within the quarter term. These three studies were chosen due to the consistency and regularity of the ordering physicians' offices. Each study will be evaluated and graded based on their performance. Each student will also assist with studies performed by their classmates. These studies will be reviewed by the entire class as a learning tool.

Course Objective: Students are evaluated to ensure each student proficiently demonstrates entry level competencies. After completion of their Clinical Internship rotation the students will be able to perform these commonly ordered vascular exams with a thorough understanding of protocols, pathology, arterial and venous hemodynamics, physiology, color, spectral and 2-D imaging. In addition to performing the exam, the students will also be required to prepare preliminary reports and fulfill other tasks and procedures necessary for entry level clinical training. The students will gain confidence and enhance their scanning abilities because they are monitored directly by the faculty & staff while performing all clinical competencies, tasks, and procedures.

Clock hours: 54 Scan Lab Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

PHY 101 Ultrasound Physics

***Course Description*:** This course is an overview of the theory of ultrasound physics. For students to receive maximum benefit from this course, students must comply with reading assignments, complete chapter work sheets, and participate in peer learning class discussions. Students are given class worksheets, tests, and grades on class participation to determine their comprehension of the subject. Students will cover chapters 1 to 24.

***Course Objective*:** Ultrasound Physics is designed to offer students an overview of ultrasound physics. Students are encouraged to understand these ultrasound physics principles and are encouraged to apply these principles to their imaging studies.

Clock Hours: 48 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

PC 101 Patient Care

Course Description: This course covers an overview of medical sonography, patient care, and career development. It also covers study techniques, important terminology, basic ultrasound terminology, and offers descriptions of basic medical procedures, patient care, blood-borne pathogens training, and

infectious disease education. In addition, the CVIU financial aid policy and procedures will be discussed with students as well as applying proper study habits and skills.

Course Objective: After completing this course, the student will have a thorough understanding of the sonographer's role in the medical profession and how to interact with patients in a clinical setting.

Clock hours: 18 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

EKG 101 Introduction to Electrocardiography

Course Description: This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to electrocardiography (EKG/ECG). Students will learn the fundamental principles of cardiac anatomy, physiology, and electrophysiology, along with the technical skills required to record and interpret EKG tracings. Emphasis is placed on accurate lead placement, recognition of normal and abnormal rhythms, and identification of common cardiac arrhythmias. The course also covers clinical applications of EKGs in patient care, including their role in detecting cardiac conditions and guiding treatment decisions. Through a combination of lecture, discussion, and hands-on practice, students will develop the knowledge and confidence necessary to perform and analyze EKGs in a healthcare setting.

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to prepare students to competently perform and interpret electrocardiograms by developing a strong understanding of cardiac anatomy, physiology, and electrophysiology, while building practical skills in accurate lead placement, rhythm recognition, and arrhythmia identification. Students will be equipped with the knowledge and technical ability to apply EKG concepts in clinical practice and contribute to effective patient care.

Clock hours: 24 Didactic Hours

Program Delivery: Residential

Cardiovascular Ultrasound Specialization Electives (Optional):

PED 501 <u>Introduction to Pediatric Echocardiography</u>

Course Description: Pediatric Echo 501 is an introductory course designed to offer students a basic understanding of common congenital cardiac malformations, palliative and corrective surgeries and genetic syndromes associated with pediatric cardiology. Students will observe the pediatric protocol and learn the associated pathology and disease states. The emphasis of the course will be placed more on classroom knowledge-based learning and less on scan lab training. The primary design of the scan lab is for students to be familiar with the views and protocol by performing exams on each other. The use of pediatric models for training will be limited to the availability of the models. Students will be

allowed to bring in patients for training, i.e., family, relatives, and friends. In addition, this course will enhance a student's understanding of Adult Echocardiography.

Course Objective:

After completion of this course, students will:

1. Possess a basic understanding of complex congenital abnormalities.
2. Be familiar with a normal pediatric exam.
3. Enhance their knowledge and scanning of Adult Echocardiography.
4. Possess a basic understanding of surgical procedures.

Faculty and Staff:

Director of Operations ● Cardiovascular Ultrasound Instructor ● Physics Instructor ● Full-time Faculty
William Carey Walker, RDCS-AE/PE, RCS, RVS

- Bishop State Community College, Faulkner State Community College, Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer-Adult/Pediatric Echocardiography
- Cardiac sonographer since 2005

Administrative Director ● Full-time Staff
Melissa Walker, RN, CMSRN

- Bishop State Community College
- Registered Nurse
- Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse
- Registered Nurse since 2001

Program Director ● Clinical Coordinator ● Financial Aid Officer ● Full-time Staff Member
Michelle Paustian Good, AS, RCS, RVS

- Faulkner State Community College and Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Cardiac Sonographer
- Registered Vascular Specialist
- Cardiovascular sonographer since 2006

Clinical Coordinator ● Cardiovascular Ultrasound Instructor ● Full-time Faculty
Valerie Davis, RCS, RVS, RPhS

- University of Mobile and Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Cardiac Sonographer
- Registered Vascular Specialist
- Registered Phlebology Sonographer
- Cardiovascular sonographer since 2006

Cardiovascular Ultrasound Instructor ● Part-time Faculty
Courtney Caine-Davis, RDCS, RVT

- University of South Alabama and Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer
- Registered Vascular Technologist
- Cardiovascular sonographer since 2017

Cardiovascular Ultrasound Instructor ● Part-time Faculty
Victoria Stordahl, AAS, RDCS, RVT

- Bishop State Community College and Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer
- Registered Vascular Technologist
- Cardiovascular sonographer since 2021

Cardiac Ultrasound Instructor ● Full-time Faculty
Kalynn Chavers, RCS

- University of South Alabama and Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
- Registered Cardiac Sonographer
- Cardiovascular sonographer since 2017

Advisory Board:

NAME:	EMPLOYER:	TITLE:
Carey Walker, RDCS-AE/PE, RCS, RVS	CVIU	Director of Operations
Melissa Walker, RN, CSMRN	CVIU	Administrative Director
Michelle Paustian Good, AS, RCS, RVS	CVIU	Program Director
Stanley N. Thornton, M.D., FACC, FSCAI	Cardiology Associates	Medical Advisor
Stacy Lumpkin, RVT	Mobile Infirmary Medical Center	Employer/Department Supervisor
Sarah Bryars, RCS, RVS	University Hospital	Graduate/Clinical Site Instructor
Kait Hawkins, RDCS, RVT	Mobile Infirmary Medical Center	Graduate/ Clinical Site Instructor
Kaylee Corey, AS, BS, RDCS, RVT	Cardiology Associates	Graduate/ Clinical Site Instructor
Steven Orso, RCS, RVS	Cardiology Associates	Graduate/ Clinical Site Instructor
Mariena White, BS, RDCS, RVT	Springhill Medical Center	Employer/Department Supervisor
Matthew Davis, AA, RCS	Mobile Infirmary Medical Center	Graduate/Clinical Site Instructor
Lauren Coker, RDCS	N/A	Cardiac Program
Deja Jackson, RDCS, RVS	N/A	Cardiovascular Program
LeNethra Laster, RDCS	N/A	Vascular Program
Lane Elmore	Edward Jones Financial Services	Public

Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound Entrance Requirements:

The following admissions prerequisites are designed to ensure that students enter the program with the foundational knowledge and academic preparation necessary for success in a rigorous healthcare curriculum. Applicants are expected to demonstrate competency in core subject areas through formal coursework and standardized testing. **Meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission but establishes eligibility for consideration.**

Applicants must complete all required coursework at an accredited high school, college, or university. Official transcripts and standardized test scores must be submitted directly to the Office of Admissions as part of the application process.

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1. Educational Credentials:

- Applicants must hold **one of the following**:
  - A high school diploma from an accredited institution, or
  - A General Educational Development (GED) certificate or its equivalent, or
  - A regionally or nationally recognized international equivalent.

2. College-Level Education:

- Applicants must also have completed **one of the following** prior to matriculation:
  - A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, or
  - An associate degree from a regionally accredited college, or
  - A minimum of 48 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of college-level coursework at an accredited institution.

3. Standardized Test Scores:

- Applicants must submit **official scores from one of the following standardized tests**:
  - **ACT**: A minimum composite score of **18** is required.
  - **SAT**: A minimum total score of **960-980** is required.

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4. Prerequisite Coursework:

In addition to meeting the degree or credit-hour requirement above, all applicants must have successfully completed the following prerequisite courses, with a grade of **"C" or better** in each course.

Prerequisites may have been completed at the undergraduate or post-baccalaureate level. Below are **examples of commonly accepted course titles and numbers** from accredited institutions. Actual course numbers and titles may vary by college or university. Applicants should consult their institution's course catalog and contact the Office of Admissions if they are unsure whether a course satisfies a requirement.

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a. Basic Science:

- One (1) course in a basic natural science discipline, such as:
  - *BIOL 101 — General Biology I*
  - *BIOL 221 — Microbiology for Health Sciences*
  - *CHEM 101 — General Chemistry I with Lab*

b. Mathematics:

- One (1) college-level mathematics course from the following:
  - *MATH 110 — College Algebra*
  - *MATH 115 — Elementary Statistics* (preferred)
  - *MATH 120 — Pre-Calculus*
  - *MATH 210 — Calculus I*

  Developmental or remedial-level math courses (e.g., *Basic Math*, *Pre-Algebra*) do not fulfill this requirement.

c. English Communication:

- One (1) course in written or oral communication, such as:
  - *ENG 101 — English Composition I*
  - *ENG 102 — English Composition II*
  - *COMM 101 — Introduction to Public Speaking*
  - *SPCH 105 — Speech Communication*

d. Anatomy and Physiology:

- A complete sequence of human Anatomy and Physiology coursework:
  - *BIOL 201 — Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab* **and** *BIOL 202 — Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab*,

    or
  - *BIOL 240 — Human Anatomy & Physiology (Comprehensive)*

e. Medical Terminology:

- One (1) course in Medical Terminology that introduces healthcare vocabulary and word-building skills, such as:
  - *HSCI 110 — Medical Terminology*
  - *AH 105 — Medical Terminology for Health Professions*

f. General Physics:

- One (1) introductory General Physics course, which may be algebra-based or calculus-based, such as:
  - *PHYS 101 — General Physics I (Algebra-based)*
  - *PHYS 111 — College Physics I with Lab*
  - *PHYS 201 — University Physics I (Calculus-based)*

Important Notes:

- Course titles and numbers listed above are **examples only**. Equivalent courses may have different names and numbers depending on the institution where they were taken.
- All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of **C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher.**
- Courses completed on a pass/fail basis will not satisfy the prerequisite unless the transcript clearly indicates that a "pass" is equivalent to a grade of C or higher.

- Applicants are encouraged to complete all prerequisite coursework prior to applying; however, applications may be considered if no more than two (2) prerequisite courses are in progress at the time of application. Proof of enrollment in outstanding courses must be provided, and all prerequisites must be completed before matriculation.

For questions about whether a specific course meets a prerequisite, applicants should submit the course syllabus or description to the Office of Admissions for review.

Required Technical Standards:

Each applicant must be able to:

1. Push a portable ultrasound machine throughout the hospital, accessing elevators and narrow areas in patient rooms.
2. Transport a patient of 150 lbs. on and off a stretcher.
3. Visually examine and select ultrasound controls on display.
4. Orally communicate clearly to the patient being examined and visually observe the patient's clinical status at all times.
5. Clearly hear a patient calling for assistance from a minimum of 10 feet away.
6. Lift more than 50 lbs. routinely
7. Push and pull routinely.
8. Bend and stoop routinely.
9. Have full use of both hands, wrists, and shoulders.
10. Distinguish audible sounds.
11. Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
12. Work standing on their feet 80% of the time.
13. Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured.
14. Assist patients on and off examining tables.
15. Communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals.
16. Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence.

These technical standards are essential to complete the program. Any applicant who does not meet the technical standards is not qualified for this program of study.

Application Process:

The application process is designed to evaluate whether the applicant demonstrates the academic ability, professionalism, and personal qualities necessary to succeed in the program. It also serves to help the applicant determine whether a career in cardiovascular ultrasound is the right fit.

To apply, please complete the following steps:

- Submit a completed and signed Application for Admission form.
- Request an official copy of your transcript be sent directly to CVIU.
- VA-funded students must ensure that all prior transcripts, including military records, are submitted.
- Submit your official ACT or SAT scores (required for all prerequisites).
- Take the CVIU "Learning Ability" test during your visit to the school.

Within one week of receiving your complete application, a CVIU representative will notify you by email confirming receipt and will schedule your interview. Following the interview, you will receive a letter within two weeks informing you of your admission status or providing an explanation if your application is not approved.

Selection Process:

Based on an applicant's academic achievements, a composite entrance score will be assigned. A minimum score of 40 is required for admission to a CVIU program.

The composite entrance score is calculated by evaluating the following components:

- Level of education (e.g., Bachelor's degree, Associate's degree)
- Cumulative GPA
- Grades in prerequisite courses
- ACT/SAT score
- CVIU Learning Ability Test (administered by the school)
- Communication and professionalism (assessed during the student interview)

A higher score in each category will contribute to a higher overall composite entrance score.

Registration:

To complete the enrollment into CVIU a student must:

1) Sign an Enrollment Agreement
2) Sign a Payment Plan with CVIU if paying monthly or quarterly
3) Complete FAFSA if paying with Federal Student Aid

Enrollment Agreements, Payment Plans, and the receipt of all monies are administered by the President, Administrative Director, or Program Director. Tuition paid is based on: the clock hours attended X the cost per clock hour = tuition earned. Clock hours are calculated based on attendance from the first day of class until the last day of attendance; either due to withdrawal or dismissal.

Student's Physical Location:

CVIU determines a student's physical location at the time of enrollment based on the following documentation:

- A government-issued identification (e.g., driver's license, passport).
- A signed admission application.

Students who change their current or mailing address to a U.S. jurisdiction outside of Alabama should update their information with Mrs. Good either in writing or by email within 7 business days.

Tuition:

Program	Tuition per clock hour	Total Tuition
Cardiac Program Tuition	$10.47	$18,100
Vascular Program Tuition	$10.47	$18,100
Cardiovascular Tuition	$10.07	$26,100

***Tuitions as of October 2, 2022

The only fee is for the Registry exam of $525 for ARDMS or $365 for CCI. Books and Lab Fees are not included in the tuition.

Sources of Funding:

- Federal Student Aid
- Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loans
- Veterans Administration
- CVIU Payment Plan

CVIU Payment Plan:

Students may pay in full or pay with quarterly payments. No payments are not due until the 1st day of enrollment. For the one-year program there are 4 payments of $4,525; and the eighteen-month program 6 payments of $4350.

Terms for all Payment Plans:

- All payments are due by the 5th of each month.
- There will be a $25 delinquent fee for payments received after the 10th of each month.
- Any enrolled student will be dismissed if he or she is more than sixty days delinquent on payments.

Collection of Delinquent Accounts:

If a student is delinquent on payment of tuition and fees for over 60 days then the student's account is turned over to a collection agency for collection.

Zero Balance Requirement:

Each student must have a zero balance in order to proceed to the next quarter or to graduate unless extreme circumstances occur and an exception is approved by the Director of Operations.

Disclosures:

Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound
Cardiac and Vascular Sonographer Certificate Programs
Data provided for the 2024-2025 Award Year

Net Occupation Titles:

Sonographer, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Cardiac/Vascular Sonographer	Soc Code 29-2032.00	www.onetcodeconnector.org/ccreport/29-2032.00

Completion Rates 2024-2025:

Program Name	CIP Code	Completion Rate (%)
Cardiac Program	51.0910	100%
Vascular Program	51.0910	100%
Cardiovascular Program	51.0910	72%
Cardiac and Vascular Program	51.0910	N/A

Placement Rates 2024-2025:

Program Name	CIP Code	Placement Rate (%)
Cardiac Program	51.0910	97%
Vascular Program	51.0910	100%
Cardiovascular Program	51.0910	97%
Cardiac and Vascular Program	51.0910	N/A

Tuition and Fees as of October 2, 2022:	Tuition:	Lab Fees:
Cardiac Program	$18,100	$400
Vascular Program	$18,100	$400
Cardiovascular Program	$26,100	$600
Cardiac and Vascular Program	$33,100	$800

Books and Supplies:

Cardiac Program	$655
Vascular Program	$700
Cardiovascular Program	$1005
Cardiac and Vascular Program	$1215

Median Loan Debt:

Federal Loans	$19,160
Private Loans	$0
Institutional Financing	$0
Total	$19,160

2024-2025 Credential Success Rate

Cardiac Credential:

Number of students taking exam	36
Number earning credential from ARDMS	14
Number earning credential from CCI	22
Total number earning credential	35
Success Rate	97%

Vascular Credential:

Number of students taking exam	2
Number earning credential from ARDMS	1
Number earning credential from CCI	1
Total number earning credential	2
Success Rate	100%

Return of Title IV Funds Policy:

The Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound (CVIU) utilizes the Return of Title IV Funds Policy required by the U.S. Department of Education for students who have received Title IV Funds (Federal Student Aid) and withdraw or are terminated. For a student who receives Title IV Funds, the school must determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal or termination using the Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation.

The amount of Title IV assistance earned is based upon the percentage of the payment period completed as of the withdrawal date and is independent of institutional charges. Up through the 60% point of the payment period, a pro-rata schedule is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned. After the 60% point, the student has earned 100% of the Title IV funds for that payment period.

At CVIU, payment periods for a one-year program consist of two 13-week periods followed by two 11-week periods. For the eighteen-month program, there are four 13-week payment periods followed by two 10-week periods. A student will receive payments in each payment period.

The formula for Return of Title IV Funds also specifies the order in which funds must be returned to the financial aid programs.

Refunds on behalf of Title IV recipients are distributed in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan
2. Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan
3. Federal Parent (PLUS) Loan
4. Federal Pell Grant

Sample Return of Title IV calculations are available from the Financial Aid Office upon request.

Funds will be returned to the Title IV programs no later than thirty (30) days after the date the school determines that the student withdrew. This process may result in the student owing the school for institutional charges previously covered by Title IV assistance.

If a student earned more aid than was disbursed, the institution will make a post-withdrawal disbursement. From the date the institution determines the student withdrew, grant funds must be disbursed within 30 days and loan funds within 180 days.

Institutional Refund Policy:

The Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound (CVIU) is committed to maintaining refund practices that are clear, equitable, and compliant with federal and accreditor standards. This Institutional Refund Policy applies to all students and is used in conjunction with the Return of Title IV Funds Policy for students receiving federal financial aid.

For students receiving Title IV funds (Federal Student Aid), the school will first calculate the amount of aid earned under the Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) policy. After this federal calculation is completed, the school will apply the Institutional Refund Policy to determine whether a balance is owed to the student or to the institution. For students not receiving Title IV funds, only the Institutional Refund Policy will be applied.

Cancellation/Withdrawal Policy:

Students wishing to cancel or withdraw must notify the School's Program Director in writing or email prior to doing so.

A student may cancel enrollment within three (3) business days of signing this agreement for a full refund of all monies paid. Cancellation must be submitted in writing or email to the School's Program Director.

All tuition paid will be refunded to students who enroll and do not attend class. When due by the school, all refunds will be made within thirty (30) days from the date of determination of the student's withdrawal and without requiring student's request. Any funds paid for supplies, books, or equipment which can be and are returned to the institution will be refunded if returned in resalable condition.

Terms:

1. **No Tuition Due Before Enrollment Begins:** No tuition or fees are due before the first official day of enrollment.
2. **Pro-Rata Tuition Refund Based on Hours Attended:** Tuition is calculated on a pro-rata basis, meaning that students are financially responsible only for the portion of the program they have attended. The refund amount is based on the number of program clock hours completed.
3. **Determining Withdrawal or Dismissal Date:** The student's last date of enrollment will be considered the earliest of the following:

    a. The date the student officially withdraws, based on CVIU's published procedures.
    b. The last recorded date of an academically related activity, such as clinical experience, exam, or assignment.
    c. The date on which the student is formally dismissed by CVIU.

4. **Dismissal Notification:** If a student is dismissed, written notice will be provided either in person, by email, or determined based on the last day of attendance. For students on an approved leave of absence who fail to return as scheduled, the date of intended return will be used as the termination date.
5. **Refund Timeline:** All applicable refunds will be processed and issued within 30 calendar days of the school's official determination of withdrawal or dismissal.

6. **Excessive Absences:** Termination from the program will occur if a student accumulates more than twelve (12) absences during the first four quarters of the program. In such cases, the refund policy will still apply.
7. **Payment Plans Upon Withdrawal or Dismissal:** Students who are on a payment plan and are current with all payments at the time of withdrawal or dismissal will not be required to pay the remaining tuition balance. However, any delinquent payments must still be paid in full.

Grounds and procedures for cancellation or termination of a program by an institution:

If a program is cancelled or terminated by the school prior to the first day of enrollment the school will refund any prepaid tuition and fees in full within 30 days. If the program begins and the school cancels or terminates the program all tuition and fees will be refunded in full within 30 days.

Certificate of Completion:

Upon successful completion of the Cardiac Program, the Vascular Program, or the Cardiovascular Program, students are awarded a certificate of completion for ultrasound sonography by the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound.

Length and Terms of Programs:

CVIU offers a one-year Cardiac Ultrasound Program and a one-year Vascular Ultrasound Program that are divided into four quarter terms (48 weeks). The Cardiovascular Program is an eighteen-month program consisting of six quarter terms (72 weeks). A “year” is determined by four consecutive quarters with 12 weeks in each quarter. A “week” consists of a minimum of 36 hours each week. For the Cardiac Program or the Vascular Program, you must complete 1728 clock hours to graduate. The Cardiovascular 18-month program consists of 2592 clock hours.

The first quarter of each program consists of didactic and scanning courses. For the second quarter each student will fulfill an externship at various affiliate hospitals and physician offices. The third quarter consists of course work and a lab. In the last quarter the student returns to the hospital setting for another externship. For the Cardiovascular Program, the student will complete one year (4 quarters) of cardiac and two quarters of vascular—one quarter didactic and 1 quarter of clinical training.

Students must complete any program within a period of 150% of the normal program length and all educational academic and competencies must be successfully completed. Students may be granted a medical, emergency, or hardship leave of absence of up to six months or two quarters. Any leave does not count toward the required period for completing the program. If granted leave the student may re-enter the program without any tuition penalties and under the same payment agreement. However, the student must restart the courses from the beginning of the quarter in which they left. Students receiving VA education benefits, the students leave of absence will be reported to the VA within 30 days of the veteran’s last date of attendance. The students’ payments will be suspended until you re-enroll with the school.

If the student is not granted a leave of absence then normal refund policies remain in place. Failure to complete the program within a period of 150% of the normal program length without a leave of absence will result in dismissal of the student from CVIU. Refund policies will remain in effect. If a student in good standing withdraws from the program then the student may re-enroll after the end of the quarter, but the student will be subject to the registration policies and tuition at time of re-enrollment.

Professional Licensure and Certification:

The programs offered at the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound are all certificate programs that are designed to prepare students for careers in cardiac and vascular sonography. Licensure is not required to complete the program or to obtain a position in the field upon graduation.

While licensure is not required, as part of the CVIU graduation requirements, students must sit for a registry examination through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) before completing the program.

Graduates of the CVIU program may seek employment in states where licensure is not required. However, individuals pursuing careers in New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, or Oregon should be aware that these states have specific licensure requirements for sonographers.

CVIU strongly recommends that you contact the appropriate state licensing agency in your state or the state where you plan to work to obtain the most current information on state licensure requirements before starting the program. This will ensure you have the latest details on licensure and certification requirements and understand how a program at the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound aligns with those requirements. While the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound strives to keep licensure information up to date, regulations are subject to frequent changes.

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

1. Successful completion of all courses. To successfully complete a didactic, scanning, or clinical course a student must earn a minimum of an overall average of 80%. Failing to make an 80% in any course violates school policies and serves as grounds for dismissal with refund policies in effect.
2. To progress and/or graduate every student is required to take the registry exam in their 4th quarter-term of the one-year or eighteen-month program. The student may take the registry with either the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI). If taken with ARDMS **both** the SPI exam and specialty exam must be taken. For the eighteen-month student, the first modality registry must be complete before starting the second modality.
3. Fulfill all clinical requirements.
4. Submit all Clinical Attendance Sheets, Clinical Exam Sheets, and Clinical Matrix to the Program Director.
5. Current on all tuition obligations according to the student's Payment Plan Agreement. CVIU maintains the right to dismiss and/or not award certificate of completion for any student that is delinquent in tuition payments.
6. Fulfill attendance policies.
7. Complete institutional "Externship Evaluation" and "Graduate Contact Information" form and submit.
8. Attend an exit interview during the last week of the program of enrollment with the Program Director.

Course Selection:

All students in any program follow the same required courses and schedule for graduation. However, students have the option to take additional cardiovascular ultrasound courses to gain specialized expertise, such as pediatric echocardiography. All Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements apply to these specialization courses.

Daily Schedule:

Courses are offered Monday through Friday; up to 36 hours per week.

Attendance Policies:

- A student is not allowed to have more than 12 absences per academic year (48 weeks).
- No more than 5 absences are allowed during the didactic quarters.
- It is the student's responsibility to inform the school of an absence and to get all missed assignments and information from the instructor or classmate.
- Any scanning time missed will **not** be made up with the instructor. It is up to you to scan in your free time with a classmate.
- If a student is tardy for a test, fails to turn-in an assignment on time, or is absent for a test then 10 points will be taken off each test and/or assignment.
- Being absent for more than two hours will be counted as an absence not tardy; regardless of whether it is arriving late or leaving early.
- Remember you have one week off between each quarter; you should schedule your appointments during that time or on Friday afternoon when you are off.
- Students are required to call the school and clinical site to notify the faculty and staff of an absence. If no one is available to speak to the student the student must leave a voicemail on the attendance line (251-433-1600, press 4) **and** email Mrs. Good (mgood@ultrasound.edu) to report the absence. Text messaging is not acceptable.
- Failure to inform the school and clinical site of an absence will result in probation for the first offence and dismissal from the program for the second offence.
- The student must inform the school and clinical site of the absence before school begins on the day of the anticipated absence (8:00 a.m.).
- Students must have at least 800 clinical hours to graduate; if a student's absences put him or her below 800 clinical hours then the student will not graduate until the 800 clinical hours are earned.
- Students must make arrangements with the Program Director, not the Clinical Supervisor, to make-up clinical hours.

Tardiness:

- Students are required to call the school to notify the faculty and staff if they are going to be tardy. If no one is available to speak to the student the student must leave a voicemail on the attendance line (251-433-1600, press 4) and email Mrs. Good (mgood@ultrasound.edu) to report the tardy. Text messaging is not acceptable.
- Every three tardies will be counted as an absence for each class.
- Being absent for less than two hours is considered tardy regardless of when it occurs during the day.
- If you are tardy you must report to Mrs. Good immediately upon arrival at CVIU.

Maximum Timeframe:

Students must complete the program within a time frame of 150% of the normal program length and all educational academic and competency objectives must be successfully completed. No financial aid will be awarded past the 150% point of the program. The specific timeframe for completion will be stated as calendar dates in each student's enrollment agreement. Students receiving VA benefits are only eligible for 100% of their program and not eligible for hours beyond their enrollment agreement.

Completion of Each Quarter Increment:

All programs are based on 12-week Quarter Terms: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Quarters each year. All programs are continuous enrollment. A student may begin a program at the start of any quarter.

At CVIU satisfactory academic progress of students is evaluated at the end of each quarter. In order to ensure completion of the program within the maximum period, all students must complete the required academic terms and clock hours in each payment period. All students must have completed a minimum of 100% of the clock hours of the program to graduate within 150% of the normal period. Students who have not completed their program within the established maximum period will be terminated for not making satisfactory progress.

Grade Increments and Reports:

CVIU adheres to a quarter-term system (12 weeks) for awarding and reporting grades. Each academic quarter-term (12 weeks) a student will receive a “Grade Report” with his/her course grades and cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Students are academically evaluated throughout the quarter-term and at the end of each quarter-term (12 weeks) to ensure the student remains eligible to continue to receive federal student aid.

Schedule of grade reports for payment periods:

Cardiac and Vascular One-Year Programs

Quarter-term	Clock Hours	Weeks
2	432	12
3	864	12
4	1296	12

Cardiovascular 18 Month Program

Quarter-term	Clock Hours	Weeks
2	432	12
3	864	12
4	1296	12
5	1728	12
6	2160	12

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

**Any grade below 80% is considered a failing grade.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):

Each quarter-term grades are recorded and reported to the Program Director. Clock hours for each course are converted to credit hours for determining the GPA.

The GPA is calculated as follows:

Grade:		Points:			
A	=	4	D	=	1
B	=	3	F	=	0
C	=	2	WF	=	0

Total Quarter Grade Points divided by Total Quarter Credits equals the GPA. Example:

$$\frac{45 \text{ points}}{15 \text{ credits}} = 3.0 \text{ GPA}$$

Determination of Progress:

Students meeting the minimum requirements for academics and attendance at the evaluation point are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress until the next scheduled evaluation. Students will receive a hard copy of their Satisfactory Academic Progress Determination at the time of each of the evaluations.

Academic Probation:

Students must earn a 3.0 GPA or better at the end of each quarter-term in order to remain in good standing. In addition, students must earn a "B" or higher in each course. After the first two weeks in any program all students with a grade average below "B," i.e., 80%, in any course will be placed on academic probation. The Program Director will inform the student in writing, and the student will sign the probation letter acknowledging they were notified.

After two weeks the student's academic improvement will be assessed. If the student's course average is at least 80% then the student will be removed from academic probation. If the student does not improve enough to get off academic probation the student will meet with the Program Director and instructor to review the study skills or other problems causing the prolonged academic probation. At the end of the next two weeks the student must have regained a grade of at least 80% or he/she will be dismissed. In addition, at the end of any quarter-term if a student receives a final course grade of less than 80% or less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA then the student will be dismissed from CVIU. Tuition refund policies will remain in effect.

If a student takes a leave of absence while on probation, then upon return the status of probation continues. All conditions of the probation process remain in effect as when the student took the leave of absence.

If a student is put on probation without a full probation period (four weeks) left in the quarter-term, the student's final average in the course will determine removal from probation or dismissal from the program.

Dismissal:

A student may be dismissed for grade, attendance, Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, or code of conduct violations as stated in the Student Handbook. A student must achieve the above-mentioned minimum standards to be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress.

If a student is dismissed they may not re-enter any program at CVIU. If a student is dismissed they are no longer eligible to re-apply for any program or federal student aid at CVIU.

Leave of Absence:

Requires students to provide a written, signed, and dated request, which includes the reason for the request, for a leave of absence prior to the leave of absence. However, if unforeseen circumstances prevent a student from providing a prior written request, the institution may grant the student a leave of absence, if the institution documents its decision and collects the written request at a later date. For example, the student is involved in a serious car accident and is unable to submit a written request.

Reestablishment of Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Students who fail to meet the SAP standards are dismissed from the program and are not eligible for reinstatement. Title IV funding ends when the student is dismissed from the program.

Reinstatement of Financial Aid:

Title IV aid will be reinstated to students who are returning from a leave of absence. Title IV will be reestablished at the point where the student resumes as a full-time student.

Interruption and Withdrawals:

If enrollment is temporarily interrupted for a leave of absence, the student will return to school with the same SAP status as prior to the leave of absence. Hours elapsed during the leave of absence will extend the student's contract period and maximum time frame by the same number of days taken during leave of absence and will not be included in the student's cumulative attendance percentage calculations.

Special Courses and Conditions:

CVIU does not offer or accept non-credit courses, remedial courses, or non-punitive grades to assess satisfactory progress. A student that chooses to withdraw may re-enroll after 180 days. A student that was dismissed is not allowed to re-enroll at CVIU. If a student is receiving financial aid from any source but loses such funds but is in good standing by CVIU’s policies, then the student may remain or re-enroll under standard CVIU policies as long as the student maintains financial obligations to CVIU.

Appeals Procedure:

A student who wishes to appeal probation or dismissal must submit a written request to the Program Director within three (3) business days of being notified that they have been dismissed.

The student must describe any unusual circumstance(s) that the student believes deserve special consideration. A student may file an appeal on the basis of death of a relative, injury or illness of the student or other special circumstance. The student must provide a written statement and documentation as to why they did not make SAP and what has changed that will allow them to make SAP by the next evaluation point.

Once the Program Director receives the appeal, they will evaluate the appeal and provide a decision within ten (10) business days. The Program Director will notify the student in writing of the decision, and all decisions are final. The student will remain eligible for Title IV funding during the appeals process.

Grievance Procedure:

Policy: It shall be the policy of CVIU, Inc. to establish and maintain open lines of communication between its employees and all students. Supervisors of CVIU shall be readily available to discuss with students any matter of concern or grievance and shall encourage students to utilize this grievance procedure when matters of dissatisfaction occur.

Procedure: A grievance, under the meaning of this policy and procedure, shall be any complaint, dissatisfaction, or misunderstanding arising between a student and CVIU regarding the interpretation or application of a CVIU rule, regulation, or policy. In order to address such grievances in the most expedient and efficient manner, the following channel of communication shall be used:

I. Immediate Instructor - A student wishing to file a grievance must first discuss the matter with his Immediate Instructor. The instructor shall grant the student an interview and give the student every opportunity to present the grievance. The instructor shall then take whatever steps necessary to determine all pertinent facts relating to the grievance and render a decision within three school days of the original complaint. The student must be informed of the decision and his right to appeal and avail himself of the following steps of the grievance procedure.

II. Program Director - Should the student not be satisfied with the decision made in the preceding step, he or she may, within three working days of the decision in the preceding step, appeal in writing to the Program Director for further consideration of his grievance. In this event, the Program Director shall interview the student and ascertain the nature of his complaint, the circumstances surrounding the complaint, and the decision rendered by the Immediate Instructor. The Program Director shall likewise interview the instructor involved to determine his knowledge of the incident and all the pertinent facts known to him as a result of considering the complaint as outlined above.

The Program Director shall then take whatever steps deemed appropriate to assure herself that she has all the facts pertaining to the case including the review of applicable policies, rules, and regulations. When she is confident that she has all the information necessary to make a fair and just decision, but no longer than three school days following the first notification of the grievance, she shall render a decision which shall be discussed with the student within the three-school day period. The student shall be informed at this time of his right to appeal and avail himself of the following steps in the grievance procedure.

III. President - Should the grievance not be solved in a manner satisfactory to the student, the student may, within three working days of the decision by the Program Director, present his or her grievance in writing to the President. Should this be the case, the President shall interview the student, the instructor, and the Program Director to determine all circumstances relative to the grievance. The President should at this point deduce to writing the circumstances as presented by both the student and the Program Director. If necessary, he shall review pertinent CVIU rules, regulations and policies and take whatever other steps he deems appropriate to assure him that he has all the facts pertaining to the situation under consideration. He shall then, within three school days of receiving the complaint, make a written decision with a copy being delivered or mailed to the student and another copy forwarded to the Program Director for further review of this grievance procedure. This written decision must contain a provision informing the student that the decision of the President serves as the final decision in this matter.

Assistance for Student: When utilizing the provisions of this grievance procedure, the student, at his/her discretion, may elect to utilize assistance of a fellow student when presenting his grievance at any step above the supervisor level. The student selected must be a regular full-time student of the same class as the person submitting the grievance.

Privacy Policy: When utilizing the provisions of this grievance procedure, the student must maintain confidentiality of the proceedings to others, with the exception of the aforementioned fellow student assistance, during the grievance procedure until a final decision is rendered. After the grievance procedure the student is at liberty to discuss the matter with others as long as it does not violate any other rules or regulations as put forth by the school.

Students may submit grievances or complaints to the Program Director for the institutional process and/or to the associations below:

Alabama Department of Education
50 North Ripley Street or P.O. Box 302101 ● Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Phone: 334-694-4900 ● Email: comm@alsde.edu

Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 730, North Bethesda, MD 20852
Phone: 301-291-7550 ● Email: info@abhes.org
www.abhes.org

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
1361 Park Street | Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone: (727) 210-2350
www.caahep.org

Assessment:

CVIU utilizes student, teacher, graduate, and employer evaluations to adjust the course content, improve student and teacher performances, and to enhance students' employability and career.

Student Handbook:

Each student receives a Student Handbook at orientation. The Handbook clearly states all school policies and procedures. During orientation, the Handbook is reviewed and discussed with the students by the President, Program Director and Faculty.

Clinical Affiliates and Sonographers for Rotation Sites:

After the first quarter, students will observe and train daily at the regional sites below. Students will be required to sign-in at their respective sites and will document their observations with weekly case studies. Below are some of the possible clinical sites for an externship:

Sacred Heart Hospital, Pensacola, FL	Saundra Sanders, RVT, RCS
West Florida Hospital, Pensacola, FL	Haley Dupuis, RCS
Springhill Memorial Hospital, Mobile, AL	Mariena White, RVT, RDCS, REEGT
Thomas Hospital Echo Lab, Fairhope, AL	Ryan Thompson, BS, RDCS
Mobile Infirmary Cardiac & Vascular Labs, Mobile, AL	Stacy Lumpkin, RVT
Providence Hospital, Mobile, AL	Jennifer Rogers, RDMS
Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, FL	Drew Greenwell, RDCS, RVT
Memorial Hospital, Gulfport, MS	Jessica Stein, RVS, RCS

Non-discrimination:

CVIU does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin. The institute welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and with physical challenges.

Advanced Placement and/or Credit:

CVIU does not award advanced placement or academic credit for experiential learning. Experiential learning refers to knowledge or skills gained through practical experience outside of formal academic coursework, work experience, or hands-on training.

Student Services:

Career Development: Students will receive information through the Program Director on the procedures and techniques for conducting a successful career search. In addition, CVIU will assist the students in preparing their resume and in developing interview skills.

Job Placement: CVIU does not guarantee employment upon graduation. Students are responsible for researching local and national job availability and should be prepared to relocate for employment opportunities.

Academic Counseling: On request by students, faculty will mentor students in developing study skills, test taking, and research skills. CVIU faculty and staff recognize that many students have been away from school for an extended period of time and will readily assist anyone in need of academic development.

Transcripts/Records: CVIU will maintain a file for each student that includes all financial and academic records regarding the student's training at CVIU. These records are maintained for a minimum of three years from the student's last date of attendance. All student information is maintained in the strictest of confidence and released only with the written permission from the student. Each student may sign a form that authorizes CVIU, upon request, to send a student's transcripts to current or prospective employers, educational institutions, or certifying agencies.

Disability Services/Accessibility: CVIU is committed to providing equal access to all students. Students with documented disabilities who require academic or clinical accommodations should contact the Program Director. Accommodations will be provided in accordance with ADA and Section 504 regulations.

Transfer of Credits:

CVIU offers certificate programs and does not grant academic credit. Because CVIU awards certificates rather than academic degrees, courses taken at CVIU may not transfer to other institutions. However, acceptance of transfer courses is at the discretion of the receiving institution, and some courses may be considered eligible for transfer.

Veteran Affairs Students:

For students receiving VA education benefits, any complaint against the school should be routed through the VA GI Bill® Feedback System by going to the following link: http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Feedback.asp.

The VA will then follow-up through the appropriate channels to investigate the complaint and resolve it satisfactorily.

Students utilizing VA education benefits shall not be charged a penalty; including assessment of late fees, denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or be required to borrow additional funds because of the individual's inability to meet their financial obligations due to the delayed disbursement of a payment to be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. [1]

[1] GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

Holidays:

The Holidays listed below are observed by CVIU:

New Year's Day
Mardi Gras
Memorial Day
Fourth of July
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas

CVIU Academic Calendar 2026-2028

Summer Quarter 2026	Date:
Summer Quarter Begins	July 6, 2026
Drop Date	July 17, 2026
Labor Day Holiday	September 7, 2026
Summer Quarter Ends	September 25, 2026
Quarter Break	September 28 – October 2, 2026
Fall Quarter 2026	
Fall Quarter Begins	October 5, 2026
Drop Date	October 16, 2026
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26–27, 2026
Fall Quarter Ends	December 23, 2026
Quarter Break	December 23 – December 31, 2026
New Year's Day Holiday	January 1, 2027
Winter Quarter 2027	
Winter Quarter Begins	January 4, 2027
Drop Date	January 15, 2027
Mardi Gras Holiday	February 9, 2027
Winter Quarter Ends	March 26, 2027
Quarter Break	March 29 – April 2, 2027
Spring Quarter 2027	
Spring Quarter Begins	April 5, 2027
Drop Date	April 16, 2027
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31, 2027
Spring Quarter Ends	June 25, 2027
Quarter Break	June 28 – July 2, 2027

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Summer Quarter 2027	Date:
Summer Quarter Begins	July 5, 2027
Drop Date	July 16, 2027
Labor Day Holiday	September 6, 2027
Summer Quarter Ends	September 24, 2027
Quarter Break	September 27 – October 1, 2027
Fall Quarter 2027	
Fall Quarter Begins	October 4, 2027
Drop Date	October 15, 2027
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 25–26, 2027
Fall Quarter Ends	December 23, 2027
Quarter Break	December 24 – December 31, 2027
New Year's Day Holiday	January 1, 2028
Winter Quarter 2028	
Winter Quarter Begins	January 3, 2028
Drop Date	January 14, 2028
Mardi Gras Holiday	February 29, 2028
Winter Quarter Ends	March 24, 2028
Quarter Break	March 27 – March 31, 2028
Spring Quarter 2028	
Spring Quarter Begins	April 3, 2028
Drop Date	April 14, 2028
Memorial Day Holiday	May 29, 2028
Spring Quarter Ends	June 23, 2028
Quarter Break	June 26 – June 30, 2028