

Cardiovascular Technologist



Occupational Description

The cardiovascular technologist performs diagnostic and therapeutic examinations of the heart and blood vessels at the request or direction of a physician in

one or more of the following:

- Invasive cardiology
- Noninvasive cardiology
- Noninvasive peripheral vascular study

Through subjective sampling and/or recording, the technologist creates an easily definable foundation of data from which a correct anatomic and physiologic diagnosis may be established for each patient.



Job Description

The cardiovascular technologist is qualified by specific technological education to perform various cardiovascular/peripheral vascular diagnostic and therapeutic

procedures. The role of the cardiovascular technologist may include but is not limited to (1) reviewing and/or recording pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data; (2) performing appropriate procedures and obtaining a record of anatomical, pathological, and/or physiological data for interpretation by a physician; and (3) exercising discretion and judgment in the performance of cardiovascular diagnostic and therapeutic services.



Employment Characteristics

Cardiovascular technologists may provide their services to patients in any medical setting under the supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy (MD

or DO). The procedures performed by the cardiovascular technologist may be found in, but are not limited to, one of the following general settings: (1) invasive cardiovascular laboratories, including cardiac catheterization, blood gas, and electrophysiology laboratories; (2) noninvasive cardiovascular laboratories, including echocardiography, exercise stress test, and electrocardiography laboratories; and (3) noninvasive peripheral vascular studies laboratories, including Doppler ultrasound, thermography, and plethysmography laboratories.

In 2000, entry-level salaries averaged \$36,000.



Educational Programs

Length. Programs may be from 1 to 4 years, depending on student qualifications and number of areas of diagnostic evaluation selected: invasive cardiology,

noninvasive cardiology, or noninvasive peripheral vascular study.

Prerequisites. High school diploma or equivalent or qualifications in a clinically related allied health profession.

Curriculum. Curricula of accredited programs include both didactic instruction and formal laboratory experiences. Suggested areas of instruction in the core curriculum include an introduction to the field of cardiovascular technology, general and/or applied sciences, human anatomy and physiology, basic pharmacology, and basic medical electronics and medical instrumentation. Emphasis, following the core curriculum, is given in the area(s) of diagnostic evaluation selected: invasive cardiology, noninvasive cardiology, and noninvasive peripheral vascular study. Both didactic instruction and clinical experiences are provided in these areas.



Inquiries

Careers/Curriculum

Society for Vascular Ultrasound
4601 Presidents Dr/Ste 260
Lanham, MD 20706-4365
301 459-7550 or 800 SVT-VEIN
301 459-5651 Fax

American Society of Echocardiography
1500 Sunday Dr, Ste 102
Raleigh, NC 27607
919 861-5574
919 787-4916 Fax
www.asecho.org

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
Thalia Landing Offices
Bldg 2, 4356 Bonney Rd, Ste 103
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757 497-1225
757 497-0010 Fax

Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals
PO Box 61606
Virginia Beach, VA 23466
757 497-3694

Certification/Registration

Cardiovascular Credentialing International
1500 Sunday Dr, Ste 102
Raleigh, NC 27607
800 326-0268
919 787-4916 Fax
www.cci-online.org

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
600 Jefferson Plaza/Ste 360
Rockville, MD 20852-1150
301 738-8401
301 738-0312 Fax
www.ardms.org

Program Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
(CAAHEP) in collaboration with:
Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular
Technology
3525 Ellicott Mills Dr/Ste N
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4547
410 418-4800
410 418-4805 Fax
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