Cardiovascular and Medical Sonography Information Session
Purpose

- To provide you with an introduction to the profession of Sonography and of the admission and program requirements at CCCTI. It is not intended to answer all of your questions but to provide you with some baseline information as you inquire about this field of study.
Are you interested in a career that offers you:

- Prestige
- Job Security
- Excellent Compensation
- Career Advancement
- And the ability to help others???
Then a career as a sonographer may be for you!!
What do sonographers do?

- Sonographers image internal body structures using high frequency sound waves.
Cardiovascular sonographers use sound waves to image the adult heart and vascular structures.
Medical sonographers use sound waves to image abdominal structures, female pelvic structures, and fetuses.
The duties of a sonographer may include:

- Assisting patients
- Communicating with other health professionals including physicians
- Obtaining a patient’s medical history
- Performing diagnostic quality sonograms
- Cleaning equipment and stocking supplies

Sonographers will see blood, body fluids and assist the physician with procedures involving needles.
Role of a sonographer in the healthcare team

- The Sonographer is a dependent health care provider.
- The Sonographer does NOT diagnose or treat disease.
Physical Requirements of a Sonographer

- Lift more than 50 pounds routinely
- Push and pull routinely
- Bend and stoop routinely
- Have full use of both hands, wrists and shoulders
- Distinguish audible sounds
- Adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions
Physical Requirements of a Sonographer

- Work standing on their feet 80% of the time
- Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick or injured
- Assist patients on and off examining tables
- Communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals
- Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence
Cardiovascular and Medical Sonography Programs

- Are both 21 month programs.
- Award an Associate in Applied Science degree at graduation.
- Both curriculums consist of didactic, lab, and clinical components.
- Both programs begin in August each year with the Fall semester.
Clinical Sites for Clinical Education

- A wide variety of clinical sites are utilized by both programs.
- Clinical sites are located in Lenoir, Hickory, Boone, Morganton, Marion, Asheville, Fayetteville, Franklin, Wilkesboro, Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, and Greenville, SC.
Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

- All Sonography students will be required to have a criminal background check (CBC) and a yearly drug screen.
- CCCTI designates what company will perform the CBC and drug screens.
- The cost is approximately $150.00 for both.

- Some clinical sites will require additional drug screens to attend clinical which will be an additional cost to the sonography student.
Employment

- The majority of sonographers are employed in hospitals. The others are employed in imaging centers, physician offices, mobile services, education, and research.
Salaries

- Graduates of the sonography programs earn between $20.00 and $23.00 per hour on average.
Accreditation

- The Cardiovascular and Medical Sonography programs are fully accredited through the Joint Review Committee on Education in Medical Sonography.
- www.jrcdms.org
American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Graduates of the Medical Sonography and Cardiovascular Sonography program may be eligible for examinations administered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)
Cardiovascular Credentialing International

- Graduates of the Cardiovascular Sonography program may be eligible for examination administered by the Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)  
  www.cci–online.org
Ineligibility

A legal conviction of any type may result in a graduate being ineligible to become a registered sonographer through the ARDMS.

If you have any questions, please contact the ARDMS at 1-800-541-9754.

For Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) applicants with questions regarding personal criminal matters may request a pre-application to determine if they qualify for the CCI credentialing process.

If you have any questions, please contact the Phone: (800) 326-0268 or Applicant_Support@cci-online.org
Cardiovascular Sonographers

- Graduates of the Cardiovascular Sonography program may be eligible for examinations in:
  - Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation
  - Adult Echo

- Upon successful completion of both exams, the graduate is a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer and may use the initials RDCS after their name.
Cardiovascular Sonographers

- Graduates of the Cardiovascular Sonography program may be eligible for examination in:

  - Registered Cardiac Sonographer Requires: Passing the one-part Non-Invasive/Echocardiography Registry Examination from the CCI

  - Upon successful completion of the exam, the graduate is a Registered Cardiac Sonographer and may use the initials RCS after their name.
Medical Sonographers

- Graduates of the Medical Sonography program may be eligible to take the ARDMS examinations in:
  - Sonographic Principles and Instrumentation (SPI)
  - Abdomen
  - OB/GYN
- Upon successful completion of the SPI exam and either Abdomen and/or OB/GYN, the graduate may use the initials RDMS after their name.
Admission Requirements

- 1 – CCCTI Application
- 2 – High School/High School Equivalency Transcript
- 3 – College Transcripts (if applicable)
- 4 – Successful completion of CCCTI Placement Tests in Reading, English, Math, and Algebra
- 5 – Sonography Information Session (return questionnaire)
- 6 – Completion of a four-hour clinical site visit (scheduled by Student Services)
- 7 – Interview with either the Program Director (828–726–2322) or the Clinical Coordinator (828–726–2325)
Admissions Requirements (cont).

8 – Pre-requisite courses

The following courses must be completed with a minimum grade of ‘C’ before a student is considered complete for admission into either the Cardiovascular Sonography Program or the Medical Sonography Program:

- BIO 163 Basic Anatomy and Physiology
- ENG 111 Writing and Inquiry
- MAT 121 Algebra/Trigonometry I
- PHY 110 Conceptual Physics
- PHY 110A Conceptual Physics Lab
9 – MAR (Minimum Admissions Requirement) Review

Contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office after completing admission steps 1–8 to request a MAR Review. The contacts are as follows:

- Patty Brinkley  pbrinkley@cccti.edu  828.726.2711
- Amy Huffman  ahuffman@cccti.edu  828.726.2710
- Christina Guzman  cguzman@cccti.edu  828.726.2389
- Watauga Campus
  - Keith Bell  kbell@cccti.edu  828.297.2185
Transfer Credit

- Please check with Student Services as some courses may transfer for the required General Education/Related courses.
Class Size

- Approximately 8–10 students are accepted into the Medical Sonography Program each year.

- Approximately 7–9 students are accepted into the Cardiovascular Sonography Program each year.

- The sonography programs at CCCTI accept students with a first come, first serve process.
Estimated Cost

- In-State Tuition $5,350.00
- Out-of-State Tuition $20,000.00
- Books $1,500.00
- Uniforms $650.00
- Travel Variable
- Miscellaneous $300.00

Information regarding financial aid resources can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office (828) 726-2713.
Interested??

- For more information about admissions contact:
  - Amy Huffman at 828–726–2710 or via email at ahuffman@cccti.edu
  - Patty Brinkley at 828–726–2711 or via email at pbrinkley@cccti.edu

- For more information about the sonography field contact:
  - Robin Nichols, Program Director, at r nichols@cccti.edu
  - Janice Wilson, Clinical Coordinator, at jwilson@cccti.edu
Questionnaire

- To receive credit for the completion of this information session, please complete the Information Session quiz at: www.cccti.edu/Sonography/InfoExam.asp

  When your complete the exam, the results will be emailed to Amy Huffman (ahuffman@cccti.edu).
Thank you!!