

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY

Cardiovascular technology is an allied health profession concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart and blood vessel disease. The cardiovascular technologist performs tests at the request of a physician to obtain information about that patient's heart and blood vessel anatomy and function so the physician can make a diagnosis. The profession of cardiovascular technology includes three areas of diagnostic evaluation:

- invasive cardiovascular technology (diagnosis of heart disease by cardiac catheterization),
- noninvasive cardiovascular technology (diagnosis of heart disease by cardiac ultrasound, exercise, and electrocardiographic testing), and
- noninvasive peripheral vascular study (diagnosis of blood vessel disease using ultrasound testing).

The Cardiovascular Technology program provides the necessary classroom and clinical courses to allow graduates to work as noninvasive cardiovascular technologists.

Specifically, the program objectives include:

- Graduate qualified ECG technologists.
- Graduate qualified noninvasive cardiovascular technologists who obtain RDCS within two years of completing the program and who are qualified in all noninvasive tests.
- Provide an adequate number of graduates to meet the need for employees within the community.

During the first year of the program, students learn basic medical sciences and noninvasive cardiovascular tests including electrocardiography (ECG), exercise testing, Holter monitoring, pacemaker evaluation and continuous cardiac monitoring. After completing the first year of program enrollment, the student will receive the certificate of achievement as an ECG technician. With this certificate, students may obtain employment as an ECG technician, stress testing technician, Holter monitor technician, pacemaker technician and/or monitor (telemetry) technician.

Students who complete the two-year program will be awarded an Associate in Science degree in Cardiovascular Technology (CVT). Graduates of the two-year Noninvasive Cardiovascular Technology program may obtain employment as a cardiovascular technologist performing all noninvasive tests, particularly cardiac sonography or echocardiography.

The Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Program Admission

ALH A010 Health Occupations course – application and orientation.

The student must complete the General Education requirements for an Associate in Science Degree and the program prerequisites prior to acceptance to the program.

Department Contact Information

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Cardiovascular Technology Department Website (http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/consumer_health/allied_health/cardiovascular%20technology/Pages/default.aspx)

- American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) www.asecho.org (<https://www.asecho.org/>)
- Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) <https://www.sdms.org/>
- Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) <https://www.caahep.org/>
- Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) www.cci-online.org (<http://cci-online.org/>)
- Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/careers-healthcare/cardiovascular-technology/echocardiography-vascular-ultrasound-associate-science-degree/>)
- Electrocardiography Technician, Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/careers-healthcare/cardiovascular-technology/electrocardiography-technician-certificate-achievement/>)