

Application Criteria
New Program!
Cardiovascular Sonography Program
Fall 2023

Taking Applications
February 6, 2023 through March 17, 2023

Thank you for your interest in the Cardiovascular Sonography (CVS) program at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Please read this information thoroughly. We want to make sure you have the best possible chance of being selected by completing all processes and submitting all necessary application documents completely, and correctly. Please email admissions@abtech.edu if you have questions regarding enrolling at A-B Tech or email advising@abtech.edu if you have questions about applying for the Cardiovascular Sonography program.

You must be a high school graduate or have an Adult High School or High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma to be eligible to enter any allied health program and have self-certified this requirement on your A-B Tech College application.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD

A-B Tech will begin accepting applications February 6, 2023, for the CVS class that begins fall semester 2023. All requirements in this document must be met to be eligible to apply.

PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION REQUIREMENT

The information session for the Cardiovascular Sonography program is posted on <https://www.abtech.edu/selective-limited-programs> . Applicants should email the department chair of Cardiovascular Sonography with any questions after viewing the information session.

CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM OFFERS ASSOCIATE DEGREE and DIPLOMA

For the *Associate's Degree*

For the *Associate Degree* Cardiovascular Sonography program, successful completion of the following four (4) courses with a grade of “C” or higher from a regionally accredited institution is **required prior to fall 2023 term start.**

- Basic Anatomy and Physiology (BIO 163 or acceptable substitute)
- Intro to Interpersonal Communication (COM 120 or acceptable substitute)

- Statistical Methods I (MAT 152 or acceptable substitute) **To apply ONLY, applicant may use MAT 121 or higher, no points given.**
- Health Sciences Physics (PHY 125, no substitute)

For the *Diploma Option* (Registered Sonographers ONLY)

The Cardiovascular Sonography (CVS) *diploma* is designed for **practicing sonographers registered by a recognized accrediting agency and registered in VASCULAR.** American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) registered sonographers can earn a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) credential with an Adult Echocardiography (AE) specialty.

Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam is required for AE registry eligibility through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS).

All students who wish to apply for the CVS Diploma program must have completed:

- A college level Anatomy and Physiology course BIO 163 (or BIO 168 & 169) 5 credits
- A college level Physics course. Interested applicants who need to meet the Physics requirement may take PHY 125 4 credits
- A college level Math course. Interested applicants who need to meet the Math requirement may take MAT 152 4 credits
- COM 120 3 credits

CARDIOVASCULAR SONOGRAPHY FUNDAMENTALS COURSE REQUIREMENT

Twenty (20) applicants with the highest point totals will be invited and ***required to enroll*** in the Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals course that will be taught in the summer of 2023. After successful completion of this course, the 12 applicants with the highest grades will be selected to enroll in the Cardiovascular Sonography program in the fall of 2023. The course will be paid for by the applicant and is estimated at \$75 to \$85. More details to follow. Please read criteria carefully.

IMPORTANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

To be eligible for admission to the fall 2023 class, all qualified Cardiovascular Sonography applicants will be required to take the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) exam. The ATI TEAS exam may only be completed at a location within the United States of America per ATI guidelines.

The ATI TEAS exam will be paid for by the student at the time of online registration on the ATI website. Information on the ATI TEAS exam and associated costs can be found at www.atitesting.com . Applicants should NOT schedule the ATI TEAS until **after** meeting with a Student Advisor and approved as eligible to apply.

You may use your TEAS composite score from a previous test session if the score is 5 years old or newer ***and already on file at the College.*** Individuals wishing to submit a TEAS score in lieu of testing during the application period must request authorization ***at the time of completion of the Verification/Selection Form.***

Applicants may select **only ONE** of the following at the time of completion of the Verification/Selection Form:

1. Testing during the application period at the Testing Center on A-B Tech's main campus on Victoria Road in Asheville, NC.
2. Testing at an approved testing facility in another location.
3. Use an existing score already on file at the College provided the score is 5 years old or newer.
4. Submit only one score report from a testing session that occurred **prior** to the application period at another testing facility. If multiple test scores are received on a single report (regardless of the reason for or source of the error), the earliest composite score will be used.

PLEASE NOTE: Test scores will not be accepted, and applicants may not schedule the ATI TEAS exam until **after the applicant has completed the Verification/Selection Form with a Student Advisor.**

If an applicant does not follow through and take the ATI TEAS exam, they are disqualified from moving forward in the admission process.

Applicants in need of testing accommodations should contact Support Services at supportservices@abtech.edu at least three weeks prior to testing.

Notice to non-U.S. Citizens

A-B Tech welcomes non-citizens with work authorization through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to our Selective Allied Health programs. Clinical site eligibility is determined by the sites and can be impacted by immigration status. Non-citizens should discuss their non-citizenship status with their Selective program advisor as soon as they are accepted so that accommodations can be made if possible.

As stated above, non-citizens who are eligible for the Selective programs may not be eligible for certain clinical sites. Successful completion of clinical rotations is required for program completion. If a student drops the program after being denied clinical site privileges, the college refund policy will apply. Non-citizens are encouraged to contact the appropriate licensing/certifying agency to determine if they are eligible for licensure /certification upon graduation – decisions regarding licensure/certification are solely the responsibility of the licensing/certifying agency.

Questions regarding program admission for non-citizens may be made to advising@abtech.edu

HOW TO APPLY

1. Review the Information Session provided by the Sonography Department. Information Session dates will be posted in late fall 2022 and can be found by going to <https://www.abtech.edu/selective-limited-programs>.
2. Complete and submit a general College application online at www.abtech.edu. (This is NOT an application to an allied health program. That will be done separately after you meet with the Student Advisor and are approved as eligible to apply.)

3. Students must certify on their college application that they are a high school graduate from a valid institution, an adult high school graduate from a valid institution, or have a valid HSE diploma. High school graduation or the equivalent from a regionally accredited, valid institution is required for Financial Aid purposes. You must have this high school equivalency by the first day of classes for the fall semester 2023 to enter the selective allied health programs.
4. Applicants must complete New Student Orientation (NSO) prior to meeting with the Student Advisor to complete the Verification/Selection form. Registration for NSO is available at www.abtech.edu/nso . Waivers may apply.
5. Applicants must document **college readiness in English and math**. Visit www.abtech.edu/placement for detailed information or contact the Student Advisor to learn about the acceptable options. Documentation of college placement must be completed or on file by March 17, 2023.
6. Once you meet the minimum requirements to apply to the program, you will be given permission and instructions to schedule the ATI TEAS Exam by the Student Advisor. You must complete this step and the Verification /Selection form by March 17, 2023. You must schedule and take the ATI TEAS Exam by March 24, 2023, to be considered an applicant.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM ONCE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET

1. Applicants will be ranked based on the total points awarded. See point system in section below.
2. Successful completion of BIO 163, COM 120, MAT 152 or acceptable substitutes and PHY 125 (no substitute for PHY 125) with a grade of “C” or higher is required prior to fall 2023 term start (associate degree) or prior to application (diploma). Course completions will be verified prior to full acceptance.
3. **Applicants accepted into the program and the alternates** MUST attend the program Welcome Session which will be scheduled in the summer. The program Welcome Session details will be provided by the department after acceptance to the program. Information on required criminal background checks will be given out at this time as well as information on the required drug screenings, immunization requirements, CPR certification, TB testing, physical exam, etc. which will have to be completed *before* fall clinical rotations. Details about the required Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals course will be provided during the program Welcome Session. PLEASE NOTE: Failure to attend the program Welcome Session will result in the loss of a seat in the class.
4. **Twenty (20) applicants with the highest point count totals will be invited and required to enroll in the Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals course** that will be taught in the summer of 2023. After successful completion of this course, the 12 applicants with the highest grades will be selected to enroll in the Cardiovascular Sonography program in the fall of 2023.

HOW THE POINT SYSTEM WORKS

1. You will receive the points for your ATI TEAS exam cumulative score.
2. You will receive 30 points for the successful completion of an accredited, college credit, allied health program degree (AAS, BA, BS, or Masters) and 20 points for the completion of any accredited, college credit, diploma level allied health program. Points will be awarded for allied health disciplines on the pre-approved list from the dean of allied health. Accreditation must be granted by an accrediting board recognized by A-B Tech. **College transcripts must be on file in the registrar’s office by March 17, 2023.**
3. You will receive 30 points for Nurse Aid I (NAI) certification. NAI certification must be documented.

4. You will receive points for the successful completion of the following college courses (or acceptable substitutes): BIO 163, COM 120, MAT 152, and PHY 125 (no substitute). Grade of “A” = 30 points, grade of “B” =15 points, and grade of “C” = 5 points. For degree seeking applicants, courses must be completed by March 17, 2023 to receive points. ALL courses must be complete prior to fall 2023 term start.
5. Currently enrolled high school seniors who have successfully completed Health Science I. Grade of “A” = 30 points, grade of “B” =15 points, and grade of “C” = 5 points. An official high school transcript detailing this must be submitted to the Admissions Office.

IMPORTANT: It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit all documentation and follow up as necessary to ensure it has been received. All documentation for points, outside of the ATI TEAS Exam must be submitted by March 17, 2023.

The ATI TEAS exam must be completed or submitted (if approved) by March 24, 2023.

Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals Course Requirement for the top 20 students

After the point count review, the top twenty (20) applicants with the highest score totals will become semi-finalists. They will be notified by email and are required to enroll in the mandatory course, *Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals*. Students will be divided into two groups and each group will meet for two weeks for a total of 12 hours, with one four (4) hour shadowing session. This class will be held during the summer 2023 semester. Course attendance requirement is 100 percent and missing one or more classes will result in failing the course. The specific course details will be provided by the department after acceptance to the program. The course is designed to give an overview of the profession and include basic sonographic concepts. Students’ understanding of the material will be assessed through interactive lab tasks and written exams. After the completion of the Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals course, the twelve (12) students with the highest grades will be conditionally admitted into the Cardiovascular Sonography program to begin in the fall 2023 semester.

NOTE: The Cardiovascular Sonography Fundamentals course is taught through A-B Tech’s Continuing Education Department; therefore, it is not covered by financial aid. Any fees associated with this course will be the student’s responsibility.

Sonography applicants who are selected based upon their point count and final grade taken from the fundamentals course are conditionally accepted into the program pending the submissions and review of a medical history form provided by Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Acceptance is also conditional on the results of a required urine drug screen and criminal background check.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Any Allied Health student deemed to have violated the College Student Code of Conduct may not be eligible for application or re-admission to Allied Health programs.

Criminal background checks and drug screenings will be required by clinical sites for students entering the selective allied health programs. These screenings will be conducted at the student’s expense by a professional and independent vendor. Failure to achieve acceptable standards for these screenings may result in denial of clinical privileges. Successful completion of clinicals is required for program completion. The college refund policy applies if a student drops the program after being denied clinical site privileges.

Applicants should be aware that North Carolina State or National Boards may deny licensure or certification to individuals “convicted of a felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude.” Questions regarding this issue should be directed to the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers at 1-800-541-9754.

Applicants for the Selective Allied Health Programs must demonstrate the ability, with or without reasonable accommodations, to meet certain technical standards critical to the successful completion of the program. These standards include skills and abilities essential for such things as operation of equipment; evaluation and manipulation of patients; evaluation of microscopic components and color reactions; and communication with patients, families, and other medical personnel. For an explanation of specific physical and cognitive requirements for the CVS program, refer to the “Program Recommendations for ADA Technical Standards” notebook, which is available in the Admissions Office or on the A-B Tech web site. For further clarification, contact the Cardiovascular Sonography Department Chair at 828-398-7470.

If you are not selected for the CVS program beginning fall semester 2023 and wish to apply for the fall 2024 class, you must re-apply during the next application period.

All documents that you submit with your application for the CVS program must be true, correct, and complete. Falsification of documentation may result in denial of admission or dismissal after admission.

Admission criteria are reviewed each year and are subject to change from year to year.

Allied Health students will be required to complete clinical rotations which may require them to travel more than one hour from campus. Clinical rotations may be conducted during weekend and/or evening hours. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation.

SELECTIVE ALLIED HEALTH READMISSION POLICY

The following readmission policy applies to students who receive an unsuccessful grade in a selective allied health program, or who voluntarily withdraw from such a program. Unsuccessful grades are defined as “D” or “F”.

1. If you receive an unsuccessful grade in a selective allied health program, you may not proceed to any subsequent course, which has the course in question as a prerequisite. You must repeat the course in question before proceeding to the next higher course in the program.
2. Most allied health courses are offered only once annually.
3. Since a new class of students is admitted to each program annually, it will be necessary for the students who have received an unsuccessful grade in a major course during their *first semester* to reapply for readmission to the program for the following fall.
4. Students who do not successfully complete a *subsequent semester* may seek approval from the department chairperson to ask special permission from the division dean to be re-admitted to the program for the next academic year if the application deadline has passed. Requests will be taken and considered on an individual basis.

We appreciate your interest in A-B Tech and the Cardiovascular Sonography program.

STUDENT PREPARATION AND TESTING RESOURCES AVAILABLE

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Test resources are available from: www.abtech.edu/placement (See *Prepare for Placement Testing* Section)

SAT or ACT study guides, which are available at various libraries and bookstores, are also good resources for testing preparation.

ATI TEAS

Test resources and online registration and payment are available at the following website:

www.atitesting.com

Study guides are available for review in the Locke Library on the Main Campus located on Victoria Rd. and the A-B Tech Madison Campus. Study guides may also be purchased online from the test vendor ATI at the online store link or at the

A-B Tech bookstore. Online practice assessments are also available at the vendor website.

ADDITIONAL PREPARATION RESOURCES

March2Success.com provides free personal assessments and preparation tools for the college placement test.

For career assessments and exploration, visit www.abtech.edu/focus2 . Email careerservices@abtech.edu or call (828) 398-7209 for an individual appointment.