



Certificate in Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography

Have You Considered a Career in Sonography?

Sonography is a diagnostic medical procedure that uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to produce dynamic visual images of many parts of the body, such as the abdomen, heart, and blood vessels. Cardiac Sonography is a branch that focuses specifically on the heart and its adjacent vessels.

Cardiac Sonography - A 12-month program that prepares students to receive a credential in adult Cardiac Sonography.

Certificate in Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography

Students completing the Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography program will receive a certificate and will join the ranks of distinguished alumni who have graduated from Loma Linda University's School of Allied Health Professions.

Why LLU?

- No waiting list. Every applicant is reviewed each year on an individual basis.
- Comprehensive and compassionate instruction in the classroom and clinical setting.
- Students gain valuable diversity in their experiences through multiple clinical rotations.
- Students receive more hands-on clinical experience than other comparable programs.
- Graduates are competent in a broader range of exams than comparable programs.
- Diligent students are often awarded RDCS credentials prior to program completion.
- Alumni are employed at the majority of our clinical sites, providing care and guidance.
- Graduates are more prepared and desired for employment in all levels of health care.

Academic & Clinical Schedule

Classroom sessions are held once or twice a week for 2 to 5 hours. Clinical training is 32-35 hours per week, Monday through Friday. The student is involved with classes and clinical education from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on a swing shift. The program includes rotations to multiple affiliate hospitals for additional clinical training.

Application Process & Deadlines

Applications are accepted from June 1 to January 10 with a priority deadline of October 15. All qualified applicants will be interviewed in April. After submitting the online application and essay, applicants must request official transcripts from all schools attended and test scores (e.g., AP exam scores from the College Board), ensure three references are submitted, attend an ultrasound information session, and schedule the career observation and submit the observation form prior to being interviewed. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of May prior to starting in September. All applicants accepted into the program will take the Fundamentals of Health Care class during the summer quarter prior to beginning the program in September.

Academic Standing

Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or better (a higher GPA is more competitive). Students must also maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the program.

School Session

A new class in Cardiac Sonography begins each September. There is no waiting list.

Previous Degree Requirements

Loma Linda University offers a Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography with an emphasis in General/Vascular or Cardiac as well as a Certificate in Cardiac Sonography. For the Certificate in Cardiac Sonography, students will need to have completed one of the following:

- Any associate degree (science area preferred, but not required)
- Any bachelor's degree (science area preferred, but not required)
- Be a graduate of an accredited Allied Health program, including nursing (e.g., 2-year LVN, registered nurse, etc.)

Prerequisites

In addition to the above, all applicants must complete the following prerequisite courses within the past *five years*:

- Anatomy and Physiology, complete sequence with labs
- Medical Terminology
- Introduction to Physics (no lab required)
- College Algebra (can have a higher-level class such as Pre-calculus or Statistics to fulfill this requirement for LLU)
- Fundamentals of Health Care (taken the summer quarter at LLU before entering the program in the fall)
- Eight (8) hours of observation in a cardiac lab (preferably at LLUMC) prior to potentially interviewing (observations are typically scheduled by the program faculty before the interviews in April)

Additional Requirements

Students are required to have a current Health Care Provider CPR card offered by the American Heart Association upon the start of the program, and students must maintain it for the entire length of the program.

As a program requirement, all students must pass the ARDMS Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) exam while enrolled as a student in the program. Additionally, students in all LLU Sonography programs are highly encouraged to sit for their national boards prior to graduation, making them fully credentialed and ready to enter the workforce.

Mental & Physical Abilities

Entrance and completion of this program signifies that the candidate is prepared to practice in the sonography profession. The candidate must be prepared to work in the standing position, do frequent walking, lift and transfer patients, communicate effectively, perform with both hands, and discriminate in color, depth, and dimensions. Also, the candidate must be able to push and maneuver portable ultrasound equipment.

National Credential & Program Accreditation

Loma Linda University's Sonography programs have been fully accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRCEDMS) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in general sonography and vascular and echocardiography since October 7, 1985.

Loma Linda University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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Financial Information

Tuition and fees are subject to change each year, so please review LLU's Find a Program website [page](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance or scan the QR code below.



Students are responsible for all tuition fees, books, living expenses, and transportation.

Financial aid is available. Loan application can begin before being accepted. For financial aid information, call 909-558-4509 or e-mail finaid@llu.edu.

At this time this program is not eligible to accept international students requiring a student visa. For more information, please email intlstdsrv@llu.edu.

Contact Information:

Program Director:

Erin Marshall enmarshall@llu.edu

Clinical Coordinator:

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For more information, e-mail studyradsci@llu.edu or visit <https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/academics/radiation-technology/ultrasoundsonography/diagnostic-cardiac-sonography-ultrasound-cert>

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LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service learning opportunities

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