



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Rev. 01/07/2025

PREREQUISITES

Q **Is there any limit to the amount of time that has passed since I completed a particular prerequisite?**

A No, there is no limit.

Q **Can I use a class I take online to fulfill the program prerequisites?**

A Yes, as long as the college or university offering the course is accredited. Special Note: Because we require the Anatomy/Physiology course to include a lab, you must take an online lab in conjunction with your online Anatomy/Physiology course.

Q **Can I use classes I take at a private, for-profit or non-profit college or university (ex: University of Phoenix, National University, etc.) to fulfill the program prerequisites?**

A Yes, as long as the college or university is accredited.

Q **Can I use classes taken in high school or adult school to fulfill the program prerequisites?**

A No, you cannot use high school classes or adult school classes to fulfill prerequisites (with two exceptions). First exception: You can use an Advanced Placement (AP) high school class to fulfill a prerequisite if you have taken the AP test for that course and passed it with a grade of "3" or higher. Second exception: You can use an adult school class to fulfill the Medical Terminology prerequisite. If you have any questions, contact us for course approval.

Q **Can I use classes taken in another country to fulfill the program prerequisites?**

A Maybe. Transcripts for courses taken in a country other than the United States must be reviewed by a foreign transcript evaluation service (such as the Educational Records Evaluation Service in Sacramento) to determine their American equivalencies before they can be submitted to us.

Q

Do the Anatomy and Physiology classes I take have to include labs? Can I take them as a combined class?

A

Yes, they must include labs. And yes, you can take them as a combined class.

Q

If I take Anatomy and Physiology as a combined class, how many quarters or semesters must I complete?

A

One quarter or semester is adequate.

Q

Which types of Physics classes can I take to fulfill the prerequisite?

A

Generally, you can take Intro to Physics, General Physics, Conceptual Physics, Algebra-based Physics, and Calculus-based Physics. We will not accept Physics for Energy Science or Energy for Engineers. If you have any questions, contact us for course approval.

Q

Does the Physics class I take have to include a lab? Do I have to take more than one semester/quarter of Physics?

A

No. Only the Anatomy and Physiology classes must include labs. One semester/quarter of Physics will suffice.

Q

Must all prerequisites be completed before I apply for the program?

A

No. You can take prerequisite courses after you have applied just as long as they are completed before the first day of your cohort. Please note on your application which prerequisite courses you are in the process of taking and when they will be completed.

Q

If I am already a licensed sonographer do I still have to complete all of the program prerequisites?

A

Yes. However, in some isolated cases a waiver of these requirements is granted. Contact us if you would like to apply for such a waiver.

Depending on the length of your sonography experience, you MAY already be qualified to sit for the CCI Advanced Cardiac Sonographer examination (without attending our program). Please consult their website to see if you meet one of their qualifying criteria. On their website, you will also find a list of materials you can study to prepare for the examination.

Q

Must I have completed a C.P.R. class before I apply for the program?

A

No, but if you are accepted into the program, you must have completed a Basic Life Support Health Provider class before your cohort actually begins. The BLS class must be taken from the American Heart Association (not the American Red Cross).

APPLICATION & ACCEPTANCE

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How do I apply? When can I apply?

Applications for the 2026-27 cohort will be available on our website January, 2025. Applications for that cohort must be received in our Fresno office no later than Sept. 30, 2025. You do not have to deliver your application in person; it can be mailed.

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Do I have to be an employee of CMC?

No, any qualifying person can apply.

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How many applications do you receive for a particular cohort? Of those, how many are finally accepted into the program? Is there a waiting list or lottery?

We receive approximately 8 applications per cohort. Of those, we will accept approximately 7 students into the program. There is neither a waiting list nor a lottery. Every person who turns in a valid application will be interviewed on a level playing field.

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What grades must I have to qualify for the program?

You must have a college cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.75 or higher (on a four point scale) to qualify for the program. In addition, you must have passed each of the seven prerequisite courses with a cumulative grade of 2.5 or higher, with no individual grade lower than 2.0.

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To what degree is my college cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) taken into consideration when I apply for the program?

Every qualified applicant receives equal consideration regardless of their GPA.

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Do I have to be an American citizen to apply for the program? If not, do I have to be a legal resident of the United States?

You do not have to be an American citizen to apply for the program, but you must be a legal resident of the United States.

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Is there an English language proficiency requirement for foreign-born applicants?

Yes. We require the completion of standardized testing in English language proficiency by any applicant who: 1) is currently living in a country (or a region of a country) where English is not the primary language, or 2) is currently residing legally in the United States but grew up in a country (or region of a country) where English is not the primary language. For complete details, refer to our current catalog.

Q
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Can I apply for the program if I have a misdemeanor or felony on my record?

You can apply for the program if you have a misdemeanor on your record. Any applicant with a felony on his/her record is disqualified.

Q
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How much does tuition cost and what is the payment schedule?

The cost of tuition (only) is \$8,000.00 (subject to change). \$3,000.00 is due on the first day of class, \$3000.00 at the beginning of the 5th month, and \$2000.00 at the beginning of the 10th month.

GENERAL

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Is the program licensed and accredited?

Our CRMC Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography Program is approved to operate by California's Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) The cardiac learning concentration is programmatically accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Education programs (CAAHEP). At this time there is no CAAHEP accreditation pathway for the vascular learning concentration. In addition, Community Regional Medical Center is accredited by The Joint Commission.

Q

What certificate or degree will I receive when I graduate from the program?

A

Graduates will receive an Advanced Cardiac Sonography Certificate from our program. In addition, they will be fully qualified to take the Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) Advanced Cardiac Sonographer examination (cardiac learning concentration only).

Q

Is there any financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, etc.) available to help cover program expenses?

A

We do not participate in any state or federal or state-funded financial assistance program (including, but not limited to, grants, loans, work-study, the G.I. Bill, etc.). ACSP participants must use their savings or a personal loan from a local lending institution to pay for their education.

Q
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Is there a tuition reimbursement for CMC employees?

Yes, there is up to \$2,500/year CMC employee reimbursement found on the Forum > Learning Opportunities> Education and Development> Education Reimbursement. For Questions, please contact Tuitionreimbursement@communitymedical.org or call HR Benefits at x21919 (Option 1) or 559-459-1919 (Option 1).



Are any of my travel and lodging expenses covered in the cost of the program's tuition?



No. Travel and lodging expenses incurred for on-site visitation are the sole responsibility of program participants. There are some very nice and reasonably-priced extended stay hotels located in close proximity to the hospital.



What is the difference between the synchronous and asynchronous Clinical Internship weeks?



Synchronous: All the members of your cohort will meet together in Fresno.
Asynchronous: You will spend an entire week in your home town completing various Clinical Internship assignments.



When will I be required to be on-site in Fresno for my synchronous Clinical Internship weeks?



You will be required to be on-site in Fresno for a total of three weeks (120 hours). The dates of these three synchronous sessions for the program's 2026/2027 cohort will be available in January, 2025.



How will participating in this program advance my career in sonography?



We sincerely believe there is a need for at least one Advanced Cardiac Sonographer or Advanced Vascular Sonographer in every cardiology or vascular department to ensure quality, efficiency, and clinical oversight. Our goal is to provide a formal educational pathway for credentialed cardiac or vascular sonographers to gain advanced knowledge and skills in order to become clinical and/or administrative leaders in their respective departments as well as assist them in preparing for the Advanced Cardiac Sonographer credential (Cardiac Learning concentration)
