

## Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Program

Sonographers use special equipment to direct non-ionizing, high frequency sound waves into areas of the patient's body. Sonographers operate the equipment which collects reflected echoes and forms an image that may be recorded, transmitted, or photographed for interpretation and diagnosis by a physician.

A Pediatric Cardiac Sonographer is a specialized healthcare professional who uses ultrasound technology to image the hearts of infants, children, and adolescents to diagnose congenital or acquired heart conditions. They require specialized training and certification. The ARDMS Pediatric Echocardiography (PE) credential is a widely known key standard.

### General Information

The Weatherford College Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography program is a 3 semester (certificate) or 6 semester (AAS) program that includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical learning opportunities. Students will learn pediatric echocardiography exams, sonographic anatomy, physiology, and pathology. There will be a focus on complex congenital heart disease, acquired heart disease, and surgical repairs in children.

***Applicants are considered on the basis of qualifications without regard to gender, age, race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, veteran status, or the presence of a non-job-related disability or any other legally protected status.***

### Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Curriculum

Course information can be found in a separate attachment or online at the links below.

**Certificate:** [Certificate Curriculum](#)

**AAS:** TBD

### Cost of the Program

Approximate student costs for the program can be found in a separate attachment, or located at the links below.

**Certificate:**[Estimated Certificate Costs](#)**AAS:**[Estimated AAS Costs](#)

## **Accreditation**

Weatherford College is accredited by:

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS)**

1866 Southern Lane Decatur, GA 30033

P: (404) 679-4500

<https://sacscoc.org>

## **Program Goals**

The goal of the Weatherford College Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Program is to prepare competent entry-level pediatric cardiac sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains for the following concentrations:

1. Pediatric Cardiac Sonography

## **Application Requirements**

All prospective students are required to meet the admission criteria. In addition, all applicants should be free of illegal drug use, have no felony convictions, and be clear of any misdemeanor convictions other than minor traffic violations.

**For more information about the application procedures please call (817) 598-6217.**

Applications for admission to the **AAS** will be accepted beginning the first day in May through the last day of July each year for the Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Program.

Applications for admission to the **Certificate** will be accepted beginning the first business day in September through the second Wednesday of November each year for the Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Program.

***The certificate program is for registered sonographers only.***

Apply to Weatherford College by completing the Coyote Recruit admissions application.

Detailed instructions can be found here: [Apply to Weatherford College](#)

1. **Complete Sonography Program prerequisites.** Science courses (BIOL 2401 and 2402) must be current within the past 5 years at the time of admission.
2. **Complete the HESI-A2 Entrance Exam** (must have a minimum score of 75% on both the reading comprehension and math sections). The HESI-A2 exam does not have to be taken at Weatherford College, but must demonstrate scores for reading, math, A&P, grammar and vocabulary).
3. **Proof of Hepatitis B Vaccine** (if student does not have a positive titer, this must be complete prior to the Fall semester).
4. **Submit the Health & Human Sciences Application to the Health & Human Sciences Office** [link to application here: [HHS Application](#)] This must include:
  - a. Official or unofficial transcripts and HESI-A2 scores
    - i. This is in addition to the official transcript the student will submit to Student Services when applying to Weatherford College
  - b. **Proof of Hepatitis B immunization or positive titer with application**

***Failure to meet all application requirements will result in denial of application.***

## Scoring Methods

***Selection into the program is based on the following scoring methods:***

### 1. **Prerequisite Courses:**

*All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher. GPA of 3.5 for prerequisites is recommended. Points are awarded for each course completed. Please*

**Note:** The student is only allowed 2 attempts in the required prerequisite courses for the Sonography Degree Programs.

A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points

- BIOL 2401: Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2402: Anatomy and Physiology II
- MATH 1314: College Algebra or higher
- ENGL 1301: English Composition I
- PSYC 2301: General Psychology
- PHYS X4XX: College Level Physics Course
- Elective X3XX: Language/Philosophy/Culture/Creative Arts
- DMSO 1210: Introduction to Sonography

***+2 Bonus Points if the student successfully completes Medical Terminology with a B or higher at the college level within the last 5 years.***

**2. Points Awarded for Previous Degree**

Master's = 8 points, Bachelor's = 6 points, Associate's = 4 points

**3. Points Awarded for Prior Medical Work Experience**

- a. 2 points per year of \*full-time work experience that involves \*\*direct patient care. Maximum of 6 points allowed.
- b. **Consideration for credit for human medical work experience requires submission of a letter from your employer stating:**
  - i. Dates you were employed
  - ii. Specific duties you performed in your role (involving patient care)
  - iii. Signature of employer with their business contact information

***This letter MUST be submitted with your application.*** The program will verify employment on a case-to-case basis.

\*Full-time is considered at least 32 hours per week.

\*\*Direct patient care requires providing care to persons needing health services, not supporting roles that provide patient care.

• **Roles that would earn medical work experience points:** phlebotomist, transporter at hospital, medical assistant, certified nurse's assistant, etc.

• **Roles that would not earn medical work experience points:** working the front desk in an ER or physician's office, cleaning medical instruments, working in the billing department of a medical facility, etc.

**4. HESI-A2 Entrance Exam Scores**

Points are awarded based on the average scores from the Reading, Math, A & P, Grammar, and Vocabulary sections.

***Only applications that demonstrate a score of >75 in the Reading Comprehension and Math sections will be considered.***

This exam can be taken more than once. Points are awarded based on the following scale: 90-100 = 4 points, 80-89 = 3 points, 75-79 = 2 points

Please, schedule your HESI A2 Entrance Exam here: [HESI A2 Registration](#)  
*If you have previously completed the HESI A2 exam within the past 2 years that tested Math, Reading, A&P, Grammar and Vocabulary, email those results to Misti Ellis-Jackson ([mellisjackson@wc.edu](mailto:mellisjackson@wc.edu)) when you submit your application.*

**5. Personal Interview**

Only the top 25-35\* applicants who have the highest points will be selected for an interview. All applicants will be contacted via e-mail. Interviews will be scored. \*Number selected is subject to change.

**6. Final Ranking Process:**

Number of points based on these sections:

| Section                     | Maximum Points |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Prerequisite courses        | 32             |
| Average of HESI-A2          | 4              |
| Highest Degree Earned       | 8              |
| Work Experience             | 6              |
| Personal Interview Score    | 35             |
| <b>Total Maximum Points</b> | <b>85</b>      |

The \*ten applications with the highest cumulative points will be accepted each Fall semester.

Alternates will be accepted on a stand-by basis. \*subject to change

## **Additional Requirements if Accepted for Clinical Placement**

1. Complete a criminal background check and a 10-panel urine drug screen
2. Submit proof of up-to-date immunizations including Hepatitis B, TDAP, MMR, influenza and varicella
3. Obtain a TB screen test and a back/spine screen
4. Submit proof of major medical health insurance and obtain current American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR (valid through 2 years)

*Information and specifics on obtaining the above criteria will be available to the student upon acceptance to the program. Start-up costs for immunizations, titers, urine drug screen, CPR, back/spine screen, and health insurance varies, but could run as much as \$400.*

## **Criminal Background Check**

Statutory law (Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53) requires the Weatherford College nursing and allied health programs to notify prospective applicants and future healthcare professionals a licensing/credentialing authority may suspend or revoke a license/credential, disqualify a person from receiving a license/credential, or deny to a person the opportunity to

**take a licensing/credentialing examination on the grounds that the person has been convicted of certain criminal behavior.**

A person who has been convicted of or received deferred adjudication for anything other than a minor traffic violation should contact the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) for compliance pre-determination eligibility, [www.ardms.org/compliance-predetermination-application/](http://www.ardms.org/compliance-predetermination-application/) prior to submitting an application. Individuals with felonies are ineligible for admission to the Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography program.

Background checks will be conducted as a condition of full acceptance into Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography program. The results will be accepted for the duration of the student's enrollment in the program if the participating student has not had a break in enrollment at the college and if the student has had no disqualifying allegations or convictions while enrolled. Weatherford College will designate the agency selected to do the criminal background screening. Results of the background check will be sent directly to the Program Director electronically via the secure portal. The student will pay the cost of the background check directly to the agency. The student will sign a form indicating knowledge of this requirement and their belief that they do not have any criminal history that would disqualify them from clinical rotations.

### **Unsatisfactory Results**

A student with a significant criminal background finding will be ineligible to enroll in the Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography program. Students have the right to petition the ARDMS to have a minor criminal offense evaluated. Upon clearance from the ARDMS, a student will be allowed to enroll or continue in the program.

All criminal background information will be kept confidential. Weatherford College PCS does not keep documentation of criminal offenses on campus. Those files are provided by the student to the investigating agency directly. Students are not obligated to share their criminal history or records with the program. A letter of clearance from the ARDMS/CCI is all the program requires. A student who is convicted of a criminal offense while enrolled in the program must report the offense to the Program Director within three days of the conviction, seek clearance from ARDMS, and provide a letter in order to continue in the program. Failure to report an offense while enrolled in the program is grounds for immediate dismissal.

### **Student Rights**

Students sign a release form that gives the Program Director the right to receive their criminal background information from the agency. If the student believes his or her background

information is incorrect, the student is responsible for providing the evidence of the inaccuracy of the information to the investigating agency. The student will not be able to enroll in the Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography program until the question is resolved. The inability to participate in a clinical experience could prevent a student from meeting course objectives and result in failure of the course. Furthermore, a criminal background of any nature could prevent the candidate from becoming employed.

## Drug Screening

All applicants will be required to sign and agree to Weatherford College's Policy for Drug Screening.

### **Purpose**

- Promote and Protect Patient/Client Safety
- Comply with Clinical Affiliates Drug Screen Requirements
- Detect Illegal Drug Use

### **Definitions**

#### ***Positive Drug Test***

A positive drug test means a medically acceptable drug test, approved by Weatherford College, the results of which indicate the use of illegal drugs.

#### ***Illegal Drugs***

Illegal drugs include those drugs made illegal to possess, consume, or sell by Texas and Federal statutes. An illegal drug also includes those drugs taken by an individual which **exceed the prescribed limits of a lawful prescription or the taking of a prescription drug without a valid prescription.**

### **Drug Screening Procedure**

Drug screening is conducted on all student applicants prior to acceptance into the program, and a Positive Drug Test will bar admission to the program for a minimum of 12 months. The results of the drug test are generally accepted for the duration of the student's **uninterrupted** enrollment in the program unless allegations are made to support reasonable cause that the student is not free of illegal drug use; with reasonable cause the student may be required to submit to further drug screening at his/her own expense. Weatherford College is responsible for designating and approving the drug testing procedures. The student must complete drug screening at the scheduled time. An unscheduled drug screen

will result in an additional expense to the student and conducted at a time and place designated by the college. The student must pre-pay for the drug screen as directed by the Program. The student is required to complete a release directing the company/agency conducting the drug screen test to send the results directly to the Program Director.

When the drug test results are reported by the medical review officer, they are final. Within 10 days of learning of a positive result, a student can request to have their original specimen retested. The request must be stated in writing to Weatherford College. There will be an additional cost for this process. If the final results change, the student will receive a refund for the requested second testing. Once the drug screen and the GC/MS (Gas Chromatography / Mass Spectrometry) confirmation are completed and the Medical Review Officer has reported the results of the second set of testing, those results are final and cannot be appealed.

### **Drug Screening Policy**

When the college determines that a student has a positive drug test, the student is not allowed to attend any clinical agency/rotation for a minimum of twelve months, and it may affect his/her re-admission to the program. The student with the positive drug test is required to withdraw from the clinical course and all concurrent health, nursing or allied health programs. Prior to returning to the program, the student must re-apply and be accepted to the program (including re-testing), have a negative drug test, and provide satisfactory documentation to the college of successful drug counseling and treatment, all at the expense of the student. When a student with a previously positive drug test is accepted back into the program, he/she will be subjected to unannounced random drug screening at their expense.

## **Pediatric Cardiovascular Sonography Technical Standards**

A Sonographer is a Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional recognized by professional credentials, academic study, and hands-on clinical experience. They are equipped to deliver essential diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound technology and related procedures. Their scope of practice includes any legally permitted procedures where they've received specific education and training, demonstrated competence, and hold the relevant registry certification(s), which is the established standard in ultrasound.

The role of a sonographer inherently demands strong **cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills**. Crucially, a sonographer must always perform their duties without risking physical or mental harm to themselves, colleagues, or patients.

The following details the **physical, mental, and emotional requirements** for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography profession. This job description is designed to give prospective Sonography students a clear understanding of a Sonographer's essential responsibilities, functions, physical and mental demands, and the human relations aspects of the role. Use this information to assess how your own capabilities align with those required of a Sonographer.

### **Examples of a sonographer's essential job functions**

The diagnostic medical sonographer must be able to:

#### ***Physical Requirements***

1. Work standing on his/her feet 80% of the time
2. Use both hands, wrists, and shoulders to maintain prolonged arm positions necessary for Scanning and perform fine motor skills.
3. Lift more than 50 pounds routinely.
4. Transport, move, and or lift patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to the examination table or patient bed, and physically assist patients into proper positions for examination.
5. Push, pull, bend and stoop routinely to move and adjust sonographic equipment and perform studies.
6. Use senses (vision, hearing, and touch) to adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions; distinguish audible sounds; perform eye/hand coordination skills required in sonographic examinations; and recognize changes in patient's condition and needs.
7. Work in a semi darkened room for prolonged periods of time.
8. Be physically capable of carrying out all assigned duties.

#### ***Mental and Intellectual Requirements***

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be able to:

1. Communicate effectively, verbally and nonverbally, with patients and other healthcare professionals to explain procedures, give instructions, and give and obtain information.
2. Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence according to established standards.

3. Understand and react quickly to verbal instructions and patient needs.
4. Follow directions effectively and work closely with members of the healthcare community.
5. View and evaluate recorded images for the purpose of identifying proper protocol, procedural sequencing, technical qualities and identification of Pathophysiology.
6. Apply problem solving skills to help optimize patient care and produce the best diagnostic information possible.

### ***Emotional Requirements***

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be able to:

1. Provide physical and emotional support to the patient during sonographic procedures.
2. Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick and/or the injured.
3. Handle stressful situations related to technical and procedural standards and patient care situations.
4. Adapt to changing environments and be able to prioritize tasks.
5. Project an image of professionalism.
6. Demonstrate a high level of compassion for others, a motivation to serve, integrity, and a consciousness of social values.
7. Interact positively with people

## **Special Services and Student Accommodations (ADA)**

Students or prospective students with disabilities can contact the Office of Accommodations/Disabilities. The Office of A/D exists to assist students with documented disabilities as they pursue their goal of a college education. The office serves as a liaison between students and the college in matters of communication and action toward achievement of reasonable accommodations. Each student is encouraged to act as his or her own advocate, and take the major responsibility for securing accommodations.

The Office of A/D provides students with the voluntary and confidential means to seek accommodations for academic and related needs. Early and regular contact will assure the

timely identification of needed services and the location of resources and options available to the student. Eligibility for disability services at Weatherford College is dependent upon the nature of the disability and its impact on learning.

A disability is defined as any mental or physical condition that substantially limits an individual's ability to perform one or more major life activities. These disabilities may be: physical, visual or auditory, neurological or psychological in nature, and also include chronic health problems and learning and communication disorders.

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) may contact the Office of Disabilities in room 118, in the Student Services Building, upper floor on the Weatherford College Weatherford Campus to request reasonable accommodations.

Phone: 817-598-6350

Office Location:

Weatherford College

225 College Park Drive Weatherford, TX

Office Number 118 in the Student Services Building, upper floor

## **English Proficiency Procedure**

**International applicants, any visa holders, permanent residents, and exchange students whose native language \* is not English must provide proof of English proficiency.**

Sonography applicants must possess proficiency in oral English communication skills that allow for interaction in the classroom, skills laboratory, and clinical practice settings to successfully complete required course work and to provide a safe client care environment. Applicants must demonstrate the use of acceptable grammar and pronunciation in formal verbal classroom presentations and verbal interactions with a variety of healthcare professionals, faculty, peers, and clients/patients in diverse clinical settings.

**Note: Proof of English proficiency must be provided by the end of the application period for the desired allied health program.**

Applicants from the following list of countries with majority English speaking populations are excluded from this procedure:

- Anguilla
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Ascension
- Jamaica
- Liberia
- Montserrat

- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Canada (except Quebec)
- Channel Islands
- Dominica
- Falklands
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland (erie)
- New Zealand
- St Christopher (St Kitts) & Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Helena
- St Vincent & the Grenadines
- South Africa
- Trinidad & Tobago
- United Kingdom (England, Isle of Man, Wales, Northern-Ireland, Scotland)
- Virgin Islands

Applicants who desire to enroll in programs that include a clinical practice component must demonstrate oral English proficiency. Transfer applicants who cannot demonstrate exemption as outline below are also required to demonstrate oral English proficiency as outline in this procedure. One of the following constitutes proof:

1. TOEFL iBT – A score of 20 or greater is required on the speaking skills component. A composite score of 83 or greater is required. Four scaled section scores in Reading, Listening, Speaking, & Writing are required. An official copy of test scores must be received from Educational Testing Services (ETS) before the last day of the specific application period for the appropriate allied health program. Web site: [ETS TOEFL link](#)

When registering for the exam, please have official scores sent to Weatherford College (**School Code – 6931**)

2. An associate degree or baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university.
3. 4 years of study and a diploma from a U.S. high school.

The applicant must submit an official transcript or official TOEFL iBT results at the time the application is submitted. Weatherford College does not offer this test. Please access this website for testing dates, fee schedules and testing sites: [TOEFL Information](#)

- English as an official language (language that is used on official documents, spoken on radio & television, included in a nation's constitution) does not exempt the applicant from the language proficiency requirement.

- Copies of GED scores and/or TOEFL scores without the speaking skills score will not be accepted as proof of spoken English proficiency.
- National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials U.S. equivalence awards will not be accepted as proof of spoken English proficiency.
- U.S. citizenship by naturalization process will not be accepted as proof of spoken English proficiency.

\*A native language is a language that is acquired naturally during childhood and is usually spoken at home, as opposed to a language that is learned later in life, for example, as part of a person's formal education.

Sources: Oakland University, Rochester Hills, MI University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX  
The English-Speaking Union (<http://www.esu.org/faqs.html>)  
The Origin & History of the English Language (<http://www.krysstal.com/english.html>) National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCSBN Fact Sheet ([www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)) Information & Registration Bulletin for Internet-based Testing (iBT) TOEFL iBT 2008-2009

## **Additional Information**

- For questions regarding the application process, e-mail Misti Ellis-Jackson: [mellis-jackson@wc.edu](mailto:mellis-jackson@wc.edu)
- For questions regarding the structure of the program or the sonography profession, e-mail Angela Salazar: [asalazar@wc.edu](mailto:asalazar@wc.edu)

## **Resources for Sonography Professionals**

### [American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine \(AIUM\)](#)

The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) is a multidisciplinary medical association of more than 9000 physicians, sonographers, scientists, students, and other health care providers. Established in the early 1950's, the AIUM is dedicated to advancing the safe and effective use of ultrasound in medicine through professional and public education, research, development of guidelines, and accreditation.

### [American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® \(ARDMS®\)](#)

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®) administers examinations and awards credentials in areas of ultrasound. Through its mission, ARDMS empowers sonographers to provide exceptional patient care through rigorous assessments and continual learning.

### [American Society of Echocardiography \(ASE\)](#)

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is a professional organization of physicians, cardiovascular sonographers, nurses and scientists involved in echocardiography, the use of

ultrasound to image the heart and cardiovascular system. The organization was founded in 1975 and is the largest international organization for cardiac imaging.

#### [Cardiovascular Credentialing International \(CCI\)](#)

CCI is an independent not-for-profit corporation established for the purpose of administering credentialing examinations as an independent credentialing agency. CCI began credentialing cardiovascular professionals in 1968.

#### [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography \(SDMS\)](#)

The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) was founded in 1970 to promote, advance, and educate its members and the medical community in the science of diagnostic medical sonography. The SDMS is a network of over 28,000 sonographers practicing in all specialty areas, sonography students, educators, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers who practice or have an interest in diagnostic medical sonography.

#### [Society of Pediatric Echo \(SOPE\)](#)

Since 1975, the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography (SOPE) has served as an independent professional organization dedicated to advancing excellence in pediatric, fetal, congenital, and transesophageal echocardiography. SOPE provides education, collaboration, and networking opportunities for cardiologists, fellows, and sonographers while supporting high standards in patient care, professional training, and echocardiographic practice. Working alongside organizations such as the American Society of Echocardiography, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, and IAC Echocardiography, SOPE helps develop and promote guidelines, training standards, and universal terminology for pediatric and congenital echocardiographic imaging.

#### [Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute](#)

Since 1985, Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute (GCUS) has been a leading provider of accredited live and online diagnostic ultrasound education, offering high-quality continuing medical education (CME) and skills training for physicians, sonographers, and other healthcare professionals. Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), GCUS provides activities approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ and has trained more than 200,000 medical professionals worldwide while awarding over 500,000 CME credits.