

Cardiovascular Technologist

Run the tests and the equipment that show doctors what a heart is doing. Two years of school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$74,310

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$39k to \$121k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospitals, catheterization labs,
heart clinics, mobile testing**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Biology, anatomy and math. Volunteering at a hospital helps you get into a program.
- 2 Get into an accredited program** Apply in Grade 12
Look for cardiovascular technology programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Accreditation is what makes you eligible for the credential exams.
- 3 Classroom and lab** 1 to 2 years
Anatomy, heart physiology, radiation safety, equipment and patient care. You pick a track: invasive, echocardiography or heart rhythm.
- 4 Clinical rotations** During the program
Unpaid hours in a real hospital lab, scanning and assisting under supervision. This is where you actually learn the job.
- 5 Credential exam and first job** After graduation
Sit the exam for your track, then apply. Many students are hired by the hospital where they did their rotation.

Pros and cons

- + A hospital salary above the national median after only 2 years of school
- + Cheap training compared with almost any other health career
- + You are in the room when somebody's life is saved
- Call shifts mean being woken and driving in at night
- Radiation exposure in the catheterization lab, managed with lead aprons and badges
- Scanning is physically hard on shoulders, wrists and back over a career

Optional boosts

RCIS (Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist). RCES (Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist). RCS (Registered Cardiac Sonographer). RDCS (Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer).

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians (29-2031.00)
Cardiovascular Credentialing International
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/cardiovascular-technologist>

Good to know

You will run thousands of heart tracings

An EKG (electrocardiogram) takes only a few minutes: ten stickers on the chest and limbs, and a printout of the heart's electrical activity. It is the first test almost every chest pain patient in the country gets.

The lab staff wear lead all day

Catheterization uses live x-ray imaging, so everyone in the room wears a lead apron, a thyroid collar and a radiation monitoring badge that is checked regularly.



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