FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS

Where do I start?
The Sacramento Ultrasound Institute (SUI) website is the best place to start learning about our healthcare training programs. The SUI website allows you to:

• Review information about our different Allied Health Programs and program requirements.
• Register to be added to our system for updates and communications related to your program of interest.
• Evaluate prerequisite and transfer courses through various resources located on the Admissions page.

After receiving the Program Announcement email and reviewing the Program Information Guide (linked within the Program Announcement email), prospective students can begin the application process.

What are the General Admission Requirements?
All SUI students must:

- Be a current resident of California (valid government-issued I.D. is required).
- Be at least 18 years of age by the start of the program (to be verified with individual's current I.D.).
- Provide documentation of eligibility to work in the United States.
- Provide proof of appropriate educational requirements such as:
    - Copy of high school diploma OR
    - Official high school transcript showing graduation date or GED OR
    - Official translated and evaluated foreign secondary diplomas by NACES-approved agencies.

What are the prerequisite requirements for SUI's Cardiac Sonography and Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs?
In addition to meeting the General Admissions Requirements (above), applicants for either of our sonography programs must:

- Hold an associate degree or higher in any field or discipline.
- Complete (defined as receiving a grade of "B-" or higher) college-level prerequisite coursework:
    - Human Anatomy & Physiology (6 credits)
    - Physics (3 credits)
    - English (3 credits)
    - Mathematics (3 credits)

Note: All courses must be completed by the end of the application window. SUI does not accept "Pass/Fail" or "Credit/No Credit" grades to fulfill admissions prerequisites. Courses must be a minimum of five quarter credits or three semester credits (with the exception of Anatomy and Physiology which must be six semester credits). All prerequisite courses together must equal 25 quarter or 15 semester credits. For more detailed information regarding prerequisite guidelines, see our SUI Prerequisite Course Descriptions document, located within the "Admissions" page on our website.

Does the MRI Technology, Invasive Cardiovascular Technology, and/or Radiologic Technology programs have prerequisite requirements?
No, these programs do not require any post-secondary education. The education verification requirement for these programs (as stated in the General Admissions Requirements above) is proof of high school completion. However, completed post-secondary coursework may be evaluated for transfer credit if an applicant is admitted to the program. See below for more information on transferability.

Can I transfer completed post-secondary coursework from other institutions to SUI programs?
Yes, as long as the courses meet our Transfer Credit Guidelines below:

- Courses are evaluated for transferability upon program acceptance and must be processed at enrollment.
- To receive credit for the courses listed below, a letter grade of "B-" or better must be completed within the last five years from an accredited institution.
    - Human Anatomy & Physiology (6 credits)

    - For the MRI Technology program, Human Anatomy & Physiology must be completed as a 7-credit course
- Medical Terminology (2 credits)
- English (3 credits)
- Mathematics (3 credits)

Note: For more detailed information regarding transfer credit guidelines, see our SUI Transfer Credit Guide located within the "Admissions" page on our website.

Do I need to take any entrance exams to get into your programs?
Yes, as part of the application process, SUI applicants must pass the Entrance Exam with a score of 24 or higher. This exam is proctored online and is eight minutes long. The test covers areas such as verbal reasoning, logical and deductive thinking, mathematics, science foundations and general knowledge, with 30 multiple-choice questions.

Your exam results will be available immediately within the SUI Bridge portal. If needed, you will have two attempts to achieve a passing score of 24 or higher. If a second attempt at the exam is needed, there is a required 24-hour waiting period after the first attempt before retaking. Applicants who do not pass the exam after the second attempt must wait one year before reapplying to any program at SUI.

What is the class schedule for SUI programs?
All SUI programs utilize a blended method of instruction (both online and in-person). This style of learning incorporates online synchronous and asynchronous learning with in-person lab training, and clinical externships. Schedules vary per program, per course, and will continue to vary throughout didactic and clinical education.

Once you reach the clinical portion of the program, we expect our students to maintain open availability. This is because the clinical site in which you are placed will be responsible for setting your schedule in order to complete the required clinical hours.

Can the programs be taken on a part-time basis?
No, all SUI programs are designed for full-time enrollment.

Are there evening classes available?
No, SUI does not hold evening classes for any of their programs.

Can a student work while attending the program?
Yes, many SUI students work part-time during the didactic portion of their program. Some students work full-time if they can effectively manage their course work with their professional responsibilities. However, many students find this challenging for work-life balance due to the rigorous clinical requirements and classroom expectations.

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Are the programs offered at SUI accredited?
SUI has been institutionally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) since August 2015. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at SUI has held programmatic accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) since September 2021. The Cardiac Sonography program earned CAAHEP accreditation in May 2023, and the Invasive Cardiovascular Technology program has been accredited by CAAHEP since January 2025.

What is the difference between JRCERT accreditation and SUI's ABHES accreditation as it relates to Radiologic Technology?
Both JRCERT and ABHES accreditations are recognized and respected in the field of radiologic technology, and both support students' eligibility to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam upon successful program completion.

While JRCERT is a programmatic accreditor specifically focused on radiologic technology education, and ABHES is an institutional accreditor overseeing the overall quality of healthcare education institutions, both accreditations ensure that students receive a quality education that meets the standards required by ARRT.

What is the difference between Cardiac Sonography and Diagnostic Medical Sonography?
Cardiac Sonography focuses specifically on imaging the heart to assess its structure and function, while Diagnostic Medical

Sonography covers a broader range of body areas like the abdomen, pelvis, and small parts. At SUI, the DMS program prepares students for the Abdomen and Obstetrics & Gynecology registry exams, while the Cardiac Sonography program prepares students for the Adult Echocardiography registry exam.

What is the difference between Cardiac Sonography and Invasive Cardiovascular Technology?
Cardiac Sonography uses ultrasound to create images of the heart for diagnostic purposes, while Invasive Cardiovascular Technology involves assisting with invasive procedures, such as catheterizations and angiograms, to diagnose and treat heart and vascular conditions. At SUI, the CS program prepares our students for the Adult Echocardiography registry and is strictly focused on ultrasound imaging/scanning. The ICVT program teaches students about the heart, monitoring and reading EKG, and provides training on catheterization. Furthermore, the program prepares students to become monitor, scrub or circulator technicians.

CLINCAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS

How does the clinical portion of the program work?
Once admitted to one of our programs, SUI students must successfully complete the didactic portion of their curriculum, pass the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) examination (DMS/CS students), submit all required immunizations and vaccinations, and maintain current BLS certification. The clinical coordination team carefully reviews each student's profile to match them with the most suitable clinical learning opportunity. Since clinical hours are determined by our affiliate sites, students are expected to enter the program with a flexible schedule to ensure timely completion of the clinical education component.

What facilities are used for the clinical experience?
SUI partners with hospitals and medical clinics within a 125-mile radius of the campus to provide students with hands-on clinical experience. Contracts and affiliation agreements vary by site and cohort and are based on availability. These agreements are subject to change, allowing SUI to offer diverse clinical learning environments tailored to each cohort's needs.

FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS

Does SUI offer financial aid?
Yes, SUI participates in federal financial aid programs for those who qualify. Our Financial Aid office works closely with students to explore available options, including grants, loans, and scholarships. We encourage all prospective students to complete the FAFSA to determine eligibility. You can do so by visiting www.studentaid.gov. When doing so, be sure to enter our SUI school code: *042537*.

In addition, SUI is a Cal Grant–eligible institution, and eligible students are encouraged to apply for Cal Grant funding as part of the financial aid process. To qualify, students generally must be California residents, have completed the applicable FAFSA application(s), meet minimum GPA requirements, not hold a bachelor's degree, and demonstrate financial need. Prospective students are encouraged to contact our Financial Aid office for more information about the Cal Grant application process and to confirm their eligibility: financialaid@sui.edu

When should I apply for financial aid?
If you are planning to apply for any of SUI's programs, we recommend applying for FASFA as soon as possible. Processing your files can take 7-10 business days. Applying early assists the Financial Aid team with addressing any issues as soon as possible before completing your program application at SUI.

When can I meet with the Financial Aid department?
During open-application windows, the Financial Aid department provides individualized, detailed, program-specific estimates. All applicants are able to meet with a member of SUI's Financial Aid office after submitting the applicable FAFSA application(s) as part of the application process. Applicants will also meet with Financial Aid again after acceptance into the program to review finalized financial aid options and next steps.

Do I need to reapply for financial aid each year?
Yes, to receive financial aid, SUI students must reapply every academic year. The FASFA application typically opens during the October-December months.

Does SUI accept military benefits, such as the GI Bill?
Yes, SUI does accept VA benefits and is SCO-certified as an institution. As a VA student, you must contact your VA representative to obtain your "Certificate of Eligibility" and request that it be emailed to our Financial Aid office at financialaid@sui.edu.