

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:

- [Request](#) information about our different Allied Health Programs and program requirements.
- [Register](#) to view Program Information Sessions for programs currently accepting applications.
- [Evaluate](#) prerequisite and transfer courses through the [Prerequisite & Transfer Credit Database](#).

After watching a recorded Program Information Session (located within each Program Announcement email and on our website), students can request their desired program application packet via email by emailing admissions@sui.edu.

Do I need to watch the Program Information Session for my Program of Interest?

Yes, all prospective applicants must register to watch a recorded version of the Program Information Session for the cohort for which they are applying. This is the first step of the application process and will be verified with registration. During this hour-long information session, the SUI team will provide an in-depth overview of the program, covering key topics such as the application and enrollment process, program structure, tuition, schedule, and externship expectations.

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.

Note: Official transcripts showing conferral of a bachelor's degree or higher may be submitted in lieu of proof of high school completion.

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:
 - Physics (3 semester credits)
 - English (3 semester credits)
 - Mathematics (3 semester credits)
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology (6 semester 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.

Can I apply to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography or Cardiac Sonography programs before completing an associate's degree or the required prerequisite courses?

No, for both our sonography programs, applicants must have earned an associate's degree and completed all prerequisite courses by the end of the application window in order to be eligible to apply.

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.
- There is a \$75 non-refundable evaluation fee for transfer credits.
- To receive credit for the courses listed below, a letter grade of "B" or better must be completed within the last five (5) years from an accredited institution.
 - Anatomy and Physiology (3 semester credits)
 - Medical Terminology (2 semester credits)
 - ✓ For the MRI Program, Medical Terminology will not transfer if taken as a standalone course. Transferability is only granted when it is taken in addition to Anatomy & Physiology.
 - English (3 semester credits)
 - Mathematics (3 semester credits)
 - Psychology (3 semester credits)
 - ✓ Transferable to the MRI Technology program only

Note: For more detailed information regarding transfer credit guidelines, see our SUI [Transfer Credit Guide](#).

During the application process, do you require applicants to complete observation/job shadowing hours?

As part of the application process, SUI requires that all applicants either complete eight observation hours in their prospective healthcare field or conduct three interviews of medical professionals in their prospective fields. At SUI, we believe that prospective students can greatly benefit from observing healthcare centers and connecting with professionals in the field to help define their career goals. Applicants are responsible for identifying and securing their own facilities and professionals to fulfill this requirement.

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 Wonderlic Scholastic Level Exam (SLE) 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, and general knowledge, with a combination of 30 multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.

Your exam results will be sent via email within 1–2 business days. 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.

Does SUI have immunization requirements?

Yes, students at SUI are required to submit various immunizations and vaccinations in preparation for clinical placement. If you have not received the Covid-19 vaccination and plan to submit an exemption form, please be aware that SUI cannot guarantee clinical placement for students with exemptions alone. You must enter the program with the understanding that you may be required to receive the vaccine if requested by a clinical site.

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 rotations.

While the specific course schedules are shared with students once admitted, you can expect to be learning, during the didactic portion of all programs, from about 8:00AM - 3:00PM, Monday through Thursday.

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.

CLINICAL 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. For clinical placement, students are then evaluated based on multiple criteria, including attendance, GPA, learning style, and location. 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: 42537.

When should I apply for financial aid?

If you are planning to apply for any of SUI's programs, we recommend applying for FAFSA 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 detailed, program-based financial overviews and estimates. A one-on-one meeting with a member of SUI's Financial Aid team will be scheduled after acceptance into the applicable program.

What tuition payment plans are available at SUI?

SUI offers three payment options:

1. One lump sum at 0% interest. This sum is calculated after issuing Financial Aid estimates and payment is due at the Supply Pick Up, prior to the first day of class.
2. Two lump sums at 0% interest. These sums are calculated after issuing Financial Aid estimates and payment is due at the Supply Pick Up, prior to the first day of class.
3. Monthly Payment Plan at 7.5% interest. SUI works with a third-party payment processor. Payments begin 30 days after beginning your program and will be due every month for 24 or 30 months, depending on the program in which you are enrolled.

Do I need to reapply for financial aid each year?

Yes, to receive financial aid, SUI students must reapply every academic year. The FAFSA 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."