Cleveland Clinic
School of Health Professions

Cardiovascular Perfusion Admissions/Enrollment

2027-2028 Academic Year

Application Process

The Cardiovascular Perfusion Program begins accepting applications January 1 The application deadline each year is September 1 to be considered for the Spring Semester start date. Please select ‘Spring 2027’ in the ‘Anticipated Starting Semester’ field of the application.

Please note, if the application window of the Cardiovascular Perfusion Program is closed it will not appear in the ‘Program of Interest’ list within the application. Applicants will only be able to submit their application when the application window is open.

Technical Standards

Perfusionists require certain physical requirements to meet the demands of the profession. They must be able to transfer and move patients. Perfusionists must be able to work in a stationary position for extended periods. They must have the ability to work within guidelines of universal safety precautions, using protective gear. In the workplace, they must be willing to rotate 24-hour coverage (on-call) and be able to work under stressful conditions. They may be required to travel in an ambulance, small airplanes or helicopters for organ procurement.

In addition, students must possess the integrity, intelligence, and emotional characteristics to become an effective healthcare professional. The following represents a more detailed description of the physical requirements needed to succeed in the program.

To be successful in the Cardiovascular Perfusion Program, applicants and current students must meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Sensory and Motor Skills - Students and candidates for program admission should be able to:

- Move, manipulate, and transfer patients in a safe manner
- Move clinical equipment in a safe and controlled manner
- Demonstrate basic clinical skills related to the use of extracorporeal equipment, circuitry, and ancillary clinical patient care devices and equipment

- Execute quick and purposeful movements during emergency treatment of patients

Communication - Students and candidates for program admission should be able to:

- Demonstrate excellent communication skills in English
- Produce and transmit patient information to members of the healthcare team
- Communicate with patients effectively with compassion and empathy
- Demonstrate reading skills at a sufficient grade level to accomplish curricular requirements
- Provide effective care to patients

Intellectual - Students and candidates for program admission should be able to:

- Measure, calculate, interpret, analyze, question, compile and evaluate information from various modalities to effectively evaluate extracorporeal equipment and treat patients
- Comprehend spatial relationships of structures and models
- Comprehend relationships between patient care parameters and anticipate cause and effect responses based on their actions and inactions
- Learn through a variety of teaching modalities including classroom lecture, cooperative learning, small group activities, medical simulation and laboratory exercises, individual and group presentations, and the use of technology assisted learning
- Make rapid decisions in life threatening situations where problem solving and critical thinking are required

Behavioral and Social Attributes - Students and candidates for program admission should be able to:

- Demonstrate emotional stability
- Exercise good judgment, prompt completion of all responsibilities related to care of patients and participation on a patient care team
- Develop mature and effective relationships with co-workers and patients

- Perform problem solving skills in a timely manner
- Tolerate physically demanding workloads
- Function effectively under stress
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in an environment of uncertainty inherent in the clinical practice of cardiovascular perfusion
- Practice in a safe manner
- Respond appropriately to emergencies
- Treat all patients, families, colleagues, and other members of the health care team with dignity and respect
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, dedication, compassion and motivation
- Accept constructive criticism and respond appropriately with an acceptable modification of behavior

Observation - Students and candidates for program admission should be able to:

- Visualize information presented in images from paper and projections such as PowerPoint slides and video
- Observe laboratory, lecture and clinical demonstrations
- Observe patients and members of the healthcare team accurately at a distance

Requirements

Applicants must meet all the following requirements and submit supporting evidence by the application deadline:

1. Complete a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
2. Complete the following prerequisite coursework at an accredited institution:
    - Anatomy and Physiology I & II, with labs*, 8 credit hours
    - Biology I & II, with labs*, 8 credit hours
    - Chemistry I & II, with labs*, 8 credit hours
    - Biochemistry, with a lab, or Organic Chemistry with a lab*, 4 credit hours
    - Physics I & II, with labs*, 8 credit hours
    - Statistics, 3 credit hours

- Pharmacology, 1 credit hours

*Preference is given to labs completed in person

3. Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in prerequisite coursework, with a “B” grade or higher preferred in each course and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 across all remaining coursework.
4. Complete a minimum of two shadowing or observation experiences.
5. Demonstrate foundational communication abilities necessary for success in the academic and clinical components of the program, as assessed through written materials, interviews, and recommendations, including:
    - Clear and effective written communication in English.
    - Respectful and effective verbal communication.
    - Active listening and responsiveness in interpersonal interactions.
    - Willingness to reflect on feedback and adapt communication style.
6. Provide evidence of relevant experience, with preference given to applicants who demonstrate:
    - Shadowing, research, employment, or volunteer experience in healthcare or related technical fields.
    - Letters of recommendation from professionals who can address academic readiness, professionalism, and interpersonal skills.
7. Demonstrate motivation, problem solving ability, teamwork, and career fit including:
    - Clear articulation of motivation for pursuing cardiovascular perfusion, understanding of the profession, and alignment with program values.
    - Clear and organized approach to problem solving.
    - Commitment to and experience working collaboratively as part of a team.

When an applicant repeats a prerequisite course, the program will consider the highest grade earned for admission and GPA calculations. For example, if a student initially earns an “F” and later earns a “C” in the same course, the program will use the “C” as the official grade for admissions/evaluation purposes.

Prerequisites do not expire, but it is recommended that courses were completed within the past 10 years to be a more competitive candidate.

Admission Documents and Requirements

An applicant is required to complete the following items after submitting their initial application in Campus Cafe in order for their application to be considered. Please note that documents marked with an asterisk (*) are **not** considered during the evaluation of applications and will **not** affect an applicant's eligibility or admission decision. They are required, however, for administrative purposes. To begin, please select 'Spring 2027' in the 'Anticipated Starting Semester' field of the application.

1. Submit your non-refundable $20.00 application fee payment in Momentus and upload a copy of your payment confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.*
2. Complete the required shadowing experiences and shadowing form and upload the completed shadowing form to your applicant portal in Campus café (Shadowing form found on the Admissions webpage).
3. Compose a written statement and upload the completed statement form to your applicant portal in Campus café (Written statement form found on the Admissions webpage).
4. Complete a prerequisite course completion form and upload the completed form to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe (Prerequisite course completion form found on the Admissions webpage).
5. Upload a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
6. If the applicant's native language is not English, official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Duolingo English Test (DET) are required. Applicants must meet one of the following minimum score requirements:
    1. **TOEFL (Original Scoring):**
       Minimum overall score of 75, with writing and speaking scores of at least 17 each, or
    2. **TOEFL (New Scoring):**
       Minimum overall score of 3.5, with a writing score of at least 4 and a speaking score of at least 3, or

3. **Duolingo English Test (DET):**
   Minimum overall score of 105

- If applicable, complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Duolingo English Test (DET) and upload a copy of your results to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
- The English Proficiency exam cannot be waived based on prior learning or work experience. This policy ensures that all students meet the same standardized language requirements, which supports academic success and helps maintain fairness and consistency in the admissions process.

7. Request three recommendation letters (professional, academic, or personal). Recommendation letters are required to be submitted by the letter writer via email to PerfusionProgram@ccf.org. The letters will be uploaded to your applicant portal by program administration.
8. Upload your unofficial transcripts to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. You are required to submit unofficial transcripts from every school you have attended. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES) on a course-by-course basis. If applicable, upload a copy of your WES transcript evaluation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. High school transcripts are not required. Official transcripts will be required if the applicant is accepted into the program.

Additionally, admission to the Cardiovascular Perfusion Program is a selective process that includes an interview.

Each applicant will be evaluated on a range of academic and non-academic attributes, based on information obtained from both the application materials collected and the interview. These attributes being evaluated include demonstrated emotional intelligence and stress management, ability to work effectively in team settings, strategies for resolving conflict, and a clearly expressed motivation and interest in the field of cardiovascular perfusion.

Enrollment Documents and Requirements

If an applicant is accepted into the program the following items are required in order to enroll in the program. Please review the health requirements before submitting your documentation.

1. Complete and sign an Enrollment Agreement in Campus Cafe via DocuSign.

2. Upload your negative tuberculosis (TB) test documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The TB test must be completed within 12 months prior to the start of the program.
3. Upload your immunization documentation for chicken pox (varicella) or positive titer to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
4. Upload your immunization documentation for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
5. Upload your positive hepatitis B vaccination/titer or completed waiver to your applicant portal in Campus Café (Hepatitis B vaccination/titer waiver found on the Admissions webpage).
6. Upload your tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The booster is required within the past 10 years.
7. Influenza immunization documentation is required during flu season (November 1 through March 31). The applicant is required to upload documentation to the applicant portal in Campus Cafe if completing their application during flu season or will be required to obtain and submit documentation when the vaccination becomes available.
8. Request official transcripts. You are required to submit official transcripts from every school you have attended. High school transcripts are not required. Once received, the transcripts will be uploaded to your applicant portal by program administration.
    - Domestic transcripts can be submitted through one of two methods:
        1. Electronic (preferred): request delivery to PerfusionProgram@ccf.org
        2. Mail (all transcripts must be sent/received in a sealed envelope):

           Cleveland Clinic
           Cardiovascular Perfusion Program
           Attention: Christopher Koehler
           9500 Euclid Avenue/J4-604
           Cleveland, OH 44195

- International transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES) on a course-by-course basis. Evaluations are a required component since they determine how your academics are graded compared to the U.S. education system. Be sure to follow the steps below to secure your credential evaluation:
    1. Applicants can create a WES account by visiting: https://applications.wes.org/createaccount/login/login
    2. Select the course-by-course evaluation option to ensure that your evaluation meets our requirements for admission review.
    3. To ensure that Cleveland Clinic receives an official copy of your evaluation, select ”Cleveland Clinic” from the drop-down on the “Select Recipient” page.

9. Complete the required onboarding tasks in SilkRoad. Onboarding will include a background check. Additional information will be provided following completion of the above items.