

EKG Technician

Build the foundational knowledge and technical skills to accurately perform, monitor, and interpret electrocardiograms in a variety of healthcare settings.

Course Features

Textbook Access

Digital access via
VitalSource Bookshelf

10 Hours of Tutoring

One-on-one support
from subject matter
experts

Career & Résumé Support

Professional resume
review and career
coaching

Learning Resources

Instructional videos
and interactive
content

Peer Community

Discussion boards for
collaboration and peer
support

How This Program Works

The EKG Technician pathway is structured in five stages, beginning with foundation courses in student success, anatomy & physiology, and medical terminology, then progressing to the EKG Technician concentration course — a comprehensive curriculum covering cardiac electrophysiology, EKG performance, rhythm interpretation, 12-lead analysis, cardiac therapeutics, and professional practice. **A minimum grade of 70% or higher is required in each course throughout the program.**

Throughout the program, you'll learn through reading assignments, expert-led instructional videos, interactive practice activities, soft skills spotlights, and scenario-based Checkpoints. Periodic Benchmarks validate your mastery before you advance. After completing the concentration, you'll receive your certificate, complete your externship and

career placement activities, and then sit for your national certification exam to launch your career.

Stage 1

Foundation Courses

Complete these three courses before advancing to the concentration. They establish the mindset, vocabulary, and body-system knowledge essential for EKG Technician success.

Success for Healthcare Workers

Build self-awareness, time management, critical thinking, and professional skills needed to thrive in course and career.

Anatomy & Physiology

Explore body systems, anatomical terminology, and clinical documentation with a focus that connects directly to the concentration course, including cardiovascular anatomy.

Medical Terminology

Master the structure of medical terms — prefixes, roots, and suffixes — along with abbreviations, pathology language, and clinical documentation vocabulary.

Stage 2

EKG Technician Concentration Course

The core of the program — 17 checkpoints that take you from cardiac electrophysiology fundamentals through advanced diagnostics and professional practice, with periodic benchmarks to confirm mastery along the way.

Cardiac Foundations & EKG Fundamentals

Cardiac electrophysiology, lead placement, waveform basics, quality EKG acquisition, and

Rhythm Recognition

Identification of sinus, atrial, junctional, and ventricular rhythms, plus heart blocks and applied interpretation practice.

foundational rhythm and rate interpretation.

12-Lead EKG Interpretation & MI Recognition

Introduction to 12-lead EKGs, recognizing myocardial infarction patterns, and applied 12-lead interpretation practice.

Cardiac Therapeutics & Advanced Diagnostics

Cardiac medications, electrical therapies, and integration of advanced diagnostics through clinical case study.

Professional Practice & Patient Safety

Professional ethics, communication, patient safety, and clinical documentation standards.

Clinical Skills & Emergency Preparedness

Practical, hands-on EKG skills and preparedness for emergency situations in the clinical setting.

Course Textbook

The following text is provided as part of your enrollment — no need to purchase separately:

EKG Plain and Simple (Karen M. Ellis, Pearson)

Textbook access is provided digitally via VitalSource Bookshelf and will be available at the start of the concentration course.

Stage 3

Receive Your University Certificate

Upon successful completion of all foundation courses and the EKG Technician Concentration Course, you will receive a certificate of completion from our university partner.

What This Certificate Represents

- Official recognition of your completion of a comprehensive EKG Technician program
- Demonstration of competency in cardiac electrophysiology, EKG performance, rhythm and 12-lead interpretation, and professional practice
- A credential from a regionally accredited institution to include on your résumé and professional profiles

- Validation of your readiness to pursue externship and employment opportunities

Stage 4

Externship & Career Placement Support

Upon completing the EKG Technician Concentration Course, you'll receive comprehensive resources and guidance to secure your externship placement and launch your career in EKG technology.

Externship Support

- Externship introductory call to guide your site search
- Access to prospective externship sites in your area
- Clinical affiliation agreement template
- Site procurement checklist to organize your outreach
- On-site success strategies to maximize your experience
- Clinical hours timesheet template
- 30-day follow-up call to support your progress

Career Placement Support

- Career services introductory call
- Prospective employer leads in your area
- 30-day follow-up to support your job search

Your Active Role: You will take the lead in securing your externship placement and job position. Our career support team provides resources, site leads, templates, and guidance throughout the process — but you'll be responsible for reaching out to facilities, coordinating placements, and managing your job search. This hands-on approach builds the professional communication and initiative skills that employers value.

Stage 5

Sit for Your Certification Exam

After completing your externship and career placement activities, you'll have access to targeted study materials designed to help you prepare for national certification exams.

Sitting for a certification exam is optional and entirely your choice.

Certification Option

You may choose to pursue the following nationally recognized certification:

CET – Certified EKG Technician

Offered by the National Healthcareer Association (NHA). This exam validates your knowledge across core EKG competencies.

Eligibility Requirements: The NHA has its own eligibility criteria, which may include specific educational requirements, clinical hour minimums (including 10 EKGs performed on live individuals), or other prerequisites. You are responsible for verifying that you meet all requirements before registering for the exam.

Program Policies

Minimum Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of 70% or higher is required in each course throughout the program. This applies to all foundation courses and the concentration course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful, and responsible manner. Violations include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and academic misconduct. Failure to comply may result in a zero on the assessment, removal from the course, or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion

All required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded for the course to be considered complete. Required coursework consists of graded assignments, benchmarks, and the final exam.

AI Use-Case Policy

AI tools are not permitted on Benchmarks or Checkpoints. These assessments require independent work to validate your mastery and readiness to advance in the program.