

Joint Review Committee

On Education in Cardiovascular Technology

New accreditation
*Standards and
Guidelines* effective
July 1, 2010

“Pediatric
Echocardiography”
now a separate
concentration.

Visit the JRC-CVT
[web site](#) for a copy
of the 2010
*Standards and
Guidelines*.

In January 2010, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) approved revised *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cardiovascular Technology* that will go into effect for all programs on July 1, 2010.

The current *Standards and Guidelines* were previously revised effective in April 2009 to fit the CAAHEP template language.

Both sets of revisions led to the following changes:

1. Concentration Name Changes

Existing concentrations in cardiovascular technology have been renamed to better reflect the specialties involved. In the 2010 *Standards and Guidelines*

Concentration Names	
Formerly	2010 Standards
invasive cardiology	invasive cardiovascular technology
noninvasive cardiology	adult echocardiography
noninvasive peripheral vascular study	noninvasive vascular study
cardiac electrophysiology	cardiac electrophysiology
new ==>	pediatric echocardiography

2. Academic Programs – Minimum of Associate’s degree; new interpretation

Since 2003, the JRC-CVT Standards and Guidelines have had under standard 1.A.1, a requirement that post-secondary academic programs award the minimum of an associate degree at the completion of the program. The wording causes some confusion. The standard applies to 2-year and 4-year colleges. Under this Standard, colleges are not able to graduate students with certificates. Students must instead graduate with the minimum of an associate’s degree.

On review, a number of accredited academic programs are offering certificate awards. As a fix, the wording was changed to allow programs to award certificates for completion of that curriculum, provided the graduate already possess at least an Associate’s degree prior to entering the program. The Standard I.A.1 now states:

Sponsorship – Sponsoring Institution

A post-secondary academic institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a post-secondary program, which awards a minimum of a diploma/certificate at the completion of the program.

The post-secondary academic institution must ensure that all graduates have obtained or will obtain a minimum of an associate degree upon completion of the cardiovascular technology program/concentration(s).

The 2010 Standards do not go into effect until July 1, 2010 and programs will have **until July 1, 2013** to become compliant with that Standard. JRC-CVT will contact all accredited programs that offer a professional certificate to facilitate meeting the new Standard.

3. New Pediatric Echocardiography concentration

Pediatric Echocardiography is recognized as a separate specialty and sponsors are developing appropriate training programs. The JRC-CVT recognizes the need for accreditation of these newly developing

	<p>educational programs in the 2010 Standards. Specifics on the accreditation process may be obtained by directly contacting the JRC-CVT Executive office. Briefly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand-new programs in Pediatric Echocardiography must go through the entire self-study report procedure. • Programs that start from an existing, accredited adult echocardiography concentration will be offered a modified initial accreditation process for the pediatric concentration. • Subsequent continuing accreditation will proceed normally with pediatric echocardiography as another full-fledged concentration.
<p>Current Status of Accredited Programs</p>	<p>The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the JRC-CVT, accredits cardiovascular technology programs in the specific concentrations. Currently there are a total of 71 concentrations in 37 institutions: 29 Invasive, 26 Non-invasive/echo, 15 Vascular, and 1 electrophysiology.</p>
<p>Report of Current Status (Annual Report)</p>	<p>The JRC-CVT is now in the 3rd year of using the CAAHEP on-line annual reporting tool. JRC-CVT relies on the Report of Current Status (RCS) to monitor programs in between the accreditation comprehensive reviews (i.e. self study report and site visit). The RCS is available to programs 24/7 and programs can use it for on-going maintenance of program data.</p> <p>1. Online reporting glitches worked out</p> <p>In 2007, the first year of on-line reporting, there were glitches caused by the newness of the process. We've passed through three annual cycles and are now in relatively stable process.</p> <p>You've obviously noticed that the bulk of the Report of Current Status (RCS) is based on demonstrating your program's outcomes and how successful it has been in moving graduates into new careers. Outcomes have similarly become important in the site visits that the JRC-CVT performs for reaccreditation. At that time, site visitors verify a program's outcomes data as reported in the RCS and self study report.</p> <p>2. Unable to meet thresholds?</p> <p>When the JRC-CVT evaluates the RCS, programs are separated into those that meet all the thresholds and those that don't. A Committee member (i.e. liaison) is assigned to those programs that are not able to meet thresholds to review each of those programs on a case-by-case basis, including evaluating the analyses and action plans. The JRC-CVT then initiates an accreditation dialogue to follow up appropriately with each program.</p> <p>3. Gathering information from graduates and employers</p> <p>One of the biggest problems that programs have in submitting the RCS is gathering information from graduates and employers. We all lose track and control of students once they graduate. They can be difficult to contact. The information will typically be accumulated anywhere from 6-12 months after graduation.</p> <p>The CAAHEP accreditation Standards are outcomes-oriented, which means that programs need data on their graduates and need to pay attention to their progress through the first year out of the program.</p> <p>Obtaining that graduate data can require persistence and pleading. Inform students before they graduate that you will be contacting them for this information. Request that they email you updates on certification exams and successful job hunts. The JRC-CVT has electronic graduate and employer survey forms that you could email to graduates. The program or the graduates can forward the employer survey forms to the employers. Both forms can be rapidly completed and emailed back to the program.</p>
<p>Webinar Topics?</p>	<p>The JRC-CVT has the capability to do webinars and would be interested to hear from programs about potential topics. Please email the Executive Office with your ideas.</p>

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Visit the JRC-CVT web site (www.jrccvt.org) for up-to-date information about accreditation and the JRC-CVT. Feel free to contact the Executive Office with any questions that you have.

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