

# EKG Technician Program



EKG Technicians perform electrocardiogram tests to monitor and record electrical impulses transmitted by the heart. These tests include basic EKGs, Holter Monitoring (portable EKG which records activity for 24–48 hours), as well as 12-lead placement and Stress Tests (treadmill). EKG Technicians assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac and blood vessel irregularities. They work in physician offices, hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities and organizations. They also work for insurance companies to establish health and life insurance policies.

## Employment Prospects

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, overall employment of diagnostic medical sonographers and cardiovascular technologists and technicians is projected to grow 17 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.

## SDSU's EKG Technician Program

This comprehensive 52.5-hour program prepares students to function as EKG technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT) Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam. Course content, delivered through classroom lecture and hands-on labs, includes heart anatomy, physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography, and echocardiography. After obtaining the suggested practical work experience, students who complete the course may choose to sit for the Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam through the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians Inc. (ASPT). See the FAQs online for details.

For more information, email [healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu](mailto:healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu) or call (619) 594-0845.

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## Prerequisites

- A high school diploma or GED
- The ability to read, write, and comprehend English
- Basic arithmetic skills: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

## Key Areas Covered

- Echocardiography
- 12-lead EKGs (interpretation and troubleshooting) and 12-lead placement
- EKG strip analysis
- Anatomy of the heart
- Medical terminology related to electrocardiography

## Tuition and Fees

The total program fee is **\$1,499** and includes textbooks and parking. This amount must be paid in full at the time of registration. Payment plans are not available. [Financial Aid Options](#) are listed on our website. *Note: All course offerings and prices are subject to change.*

## Schedule

The EKG Technician program is offered in spring and fall.

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## Course Topics

- Role of the EKG Technician
- Function of the EKG Department in a variety of settings (hospital, clinic, office, mobile)
- Introduction to medical terminology
- Medical terminology related to electrocardiography
- Care and safety of patients, medical and legal aspects
- Anatomy of the heart, conduction system, circulation of the heart and blood vessels
- Electrical conduction system of the heart
- Cardiac cycle (electric system)
- EKG strip analysis (P, Q, R, S, T waveform interpretation)
- Normal sinus rhythm, sinus bradycardia, sinus tachycardia
- Basic EKG interpretation: sinus rhythm, ventricular rhythms, asystole
- Recognizing artifacts; troubleshooting, tracing problems
- Practice EKG strips; EKG rhythms
- Preparing a patient for EKG
- 12-lead EKGs (interpretation and troubleshooting)
- 12-lead placement
- Echocardiography
- Other roles for the EKG Technician

For details about registration, documentation of course completion, the letter of completion, certificate of completion, certification, and frequently asked questions, please see the FAQs online at [neverstoplearning.net/healthcareFAQs](http://neverstoplearning.net/healthcareFAQs).

For additional information or to ask questions not answered here, please email [healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu](mailto:healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu) or call **(619) 594-0845**.

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