

Sentara College Makes History with Online CEP Accreditation

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Sentara College of Health Sciences is the only college or university to currently offer an accredited academic certificate in online cardiac electrophysiology (CEP).

The CEP program is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), and is for working professionals in any Cardiac Catheterization/Electrophysiology Lab who want to demonstrate they have the drive to advance to the top of their field.

The curricula for the Certificate in Cardiac Electrophysiology program was designed to enable students to become competent and prepared practitioners in the electrophysiology laboratory, by providing the theory and the foundational knowledge which will enhance their clinical-based knowledge.

“I am thrilled we earned this accreditation,” said Dr. Megan Hunsinger, the program director of Cardiovascular Technology and chair of the Allied Health department. “I understand the significance of accreditation; it carries some weight, and we’re excited to provide this opportunity to our students. We do many great things at Sentara College, and this is one more thing we do for the betterment of our students,” said Hunsinger.

Hunsinger added that during the accreditation process, CAAHEP interviewed our medical director, current students, advisory board members, faculty and administration.

The online CEP curriculum was developed in parallel with contemporary clinical practice of the Electrophysiology laboratory operations from a technologist’s perspective in order to meet the needs of the medical community.

“The beauty of this program is that it provides structure and it walks you through the basics to the intricacies of ablation and device EP study content they already use in the lab,” said Suzanne Sheaffer, Sentara College adjunct professor.

Even with the program online, Hunsinger said there’s plenty of opportunities to see how well the students understand the content.

“I love the light bulb moments,” said Hunsinger. “I like seeing someone come in who has on the job training, but they don’t necessarily know the why behind what they are

doing until we cover the material and go over it. Then the light bulb comes on and they now understand what the doctor was doing in the lab and why they have to turn this knob a certain way. It's a feel-good moment for sure," said Hunsinger.

The program builds upon the skills students gain in their day-to-day work and through previous training. It goes beyond experiences in the lab by providing deep theoretical knowledge from the sciences, and practical knowledge of various devices.

"The accreditation of our online CEP program is a tremendous achievement and we're thrilled to be the only one in higher education to offer it," said Dr. Angela Taylor, president of Sentara College. "We pride ourselves on translating 130 years of tradition into modern, cutting edge education. Our students benefit from both our experienced faculty and innovative teaching methods. This is an amazing place where your education can lead to a gratifying and successful career," said Taylor.