

# CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION

Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion

## CAREER SNAPSHOT

*Cardiovascular perfusionists* use specialized blood pumps and artificial blood oxygenators to support or replace the function of a patient's own heart and lungs. The perfusionist's skills are commonly used during cardiac surgery to keep a patient alive while the patient's heart is stopped for repair.

Perfusionists monitor a patient's metabolic needs, manipulate blood flow and adjust oxygen, carbon dioxide and electrolyte levels. Perfusionists administer fluids, medications, and blood products as well as manage coagulation parameters. By processing the patient's own blood, perfusionists minimize the amount of blood lost during surgery and the amount of donor blood needed.

People who succeed in this field thrive on excitement and stressful situations. Perfusionists must be willing to be on call and accept variable work schedules.



## PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- Small cohort, with 10 students accepted each year.
- Immersive simulation training with Orpheus, our intensive high-fidelity simulator, to teach fundamental clinical skills and concepts.
- Each student performs 30 to 40 simulated cases before performing more than 150 clinical cases at our affiliated hospitals.
- Use of high-fidelity simulation to learn how to manage rare, high-risk events.
- Diverse clinical rotations at world class institutions around the country.

## CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Cardiovascular perfusion students spend their fifth (final) semester gaining clinical experience at one of our affiliated hospitals throughout the United States.

## LICENSES AND ACCREDITATION

The program is reviewed by the Accreditation Committee for Perfusion Education and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

## OUTCOMES

Graduates take the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion's National Certification Examination. Our final five-year average exam pass rate and job placement in recent years has been 100 percent.

*"Confidence to work on a real patient develops with the ability to repeatedly practice and improve on particular techniques and skills. I am certain that my education at Upstate has given me the skills I need."*

— Nicole Tomasello,  
staff perfusionist,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston



For more program details or to apply, visit:

[www.upstate.edu/chp/cp](http://www.upstate.edu/chp/cp)