

SPI Pilot Examination Requirements & Prerequisites

October 22 to November 13, 2008

SPI Examination Requirement

Important Notes:

- This requirement applies to the SPI examination only.
- Applicants who can fully meet an existing ARDMS prerequisite (1 through 5) are strongly encouraged to apply under that prerequisite as future application processes will be faster and easier.
- Applicants who have applied and been approved to take the UPI, CPI, VPI or any ARDMS specialty examination(s) should not apply under the SPI examination requirement but rather as a re-applicant (visit www.ARDMS.org/reapplicant for details).

Required: Successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics class/seminar/course.

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) A transcript reflecting successful completion of a graded general, medical or sonographic college physics class (with a grade of C or above); or
- 2) A certificate denoting successful completion of a general, medical or sonographic physics seminar, physics review course, or physics correspondence course, signed by the Program Director, denoting a minimum award of 12 ARDMS-accepted CME credits.

Prerequisite

1

Education

A single two-year allied health education program that is patient-care related¹

Allied health occupations include, but are not limited to, diagnostic medical sonographer, radiologic technologist, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist and registered nurse.

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Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time² clinical ultrasound/vascular experience³

Note: If you are using your DMS program for the educational requirement, you still have to document an **additional** 12 months of clinical ultrasound/vascular experience earned outside the two-year program.

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Official transcript from two-year allied health education program is noted under the above "Education" requirement. Must state specific number of credits and indicate quarter or semester based system
and
- 2) Copy of education program certificate, credential or license
and
- 3) Original letter from supervising physician, sonographer, technologist or educational program director indicating a minimum of 12 months of full time clinical/vascular experience including exact dates of ultrasound experience/ successful completion of sonography program
and
- 4) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential⁴
and
- 5) Original signed and completed clinical verification (CV) form for each appropriate specialty area(s). CV forms are located on pages 31-39.

Prerequisite

2

Education

Graduate of a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), United States Department of Education (USDOE) or Canadian Medical Association (CMA), that specifically conducts programmatic accreditation for diagnostic medical sonography/ diagnostic cardiac sonography/vascular technology.

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Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

No additional experience is required.

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Copy of diploma from ultrasound/vascular program or an official transcript
and
- 2) Original letter signed by program director and/or medical director indicating date of graduation or successful completion of the program⁵. Program directors must use the mandatory formatted sample letter, available at www.ARDMS.org/templateletter, as shown on page 9
and
- 3) The CV form is not required if the application is submitted and received in the ARDMS office within one year after successful completion of the program. Otherwise an original signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area(s) must be submitted. CV forms are located on pages 31-39.

Prerequisite

3A

Education

Bachelor's degree (any major)

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Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time² clinical ultrasound/vascular experience³

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Copy of bachelor's degree or an official transcript earned in the U.S. or Canada or an original foreign transcript evaluation
- 2) Original letter from supervising sonographer/technologist or education program director indicating dates of ultrasound or vascular experience/ successful completion of sonography program
and
- 3) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential⁴
and
- 4) Original signed and completed clinical verification (CV) form for each appropriate specialty area(s). CV forms are located on pages 31-39.

Prerequisite
3B

Education

Bachelor's degree in sonography or vascular technology

+

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

No additional experience is required.

Note: Sonography or vascular technology bachelor's degree applicants may take the examination one year prior to the completion of degree, provided they have completed 12 months of full-time clinical experience within the program.

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Copy of bachelor's degree or an official transcript
and
- 2) Original letter signed by education program director verifying length of ultrasound or vascular experience. If program is not completed at the time of application; a letter signed by the program director stating graduation date and completion of appropriate clinical ultrasound experience³, is needed⁶. Program directors must use the mandatory formatted sample letter, available at www.ARDMS.org/templateletter, as shown on page 9
and
- 3) The CV form is not required if the application is submitted and received in the ARDMS office within one year prior to successful completion of the program, provided that the applicant has completed 12 months of full-time clinical experience at the time that the application is submitted. Otherwise an original signed and completed clinical verification (CV) form for each appropriate specialty area(s) must be submitted. **CV forms are located on pages 31-39.**

Prerequisite
4A1

Education

General, U.S., and Canada — MD or DO degree with valid license to practice medicine in the U.S. and Canada

and

Formal Training — Completion of a residency or fellowship that includes appropriate didactic and clinical ultrasound/vascular experience as an integral part of the program.

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Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

A letter verifying the completion of a residency or fellowship in the U.S. or Canada.

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Copy of a valid medical license and medical school diploma
and
- 2) Original letter from program medical director, verifying successful completion of residency/fellowship experience that includes appropriate didactic and clinical ultrasound/vascular experience
and
- 3) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential
and
- 4) Original signed and completed clinical verification (CV) form for each appropriate specialty area(s). **CV forms are located on pages 31-39.**

Prerequisite
4A2

Education

General, U.S., and Canada — MD or DO degree with valid license to practice medicine in the U.S., and Canada.

+

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time² clinical ultrasound/vascular experience.³

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Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Copy of valid medical license and medical school diploma
and
- 2) Original letter from supervising sonographer/technologist or education program director verifying length of ultrasound or vascular experience, or successful completion of sonography program. If you are the supervising physician, you may write your own letter
and
- 3) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential⁴
and
- 4) Original signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area(s). **CV forms are located on pages 31-39.**

Prerequisite
4B1

Education

General — Outside U.S. — MD or DO degrees equivalent to those of the U.S. and Canada

and

Formal Training — Completion of a residency or fellowship that includes appropriate didactic and clinical ultrasound/vascular experience as an integral part of the program.

+

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

A letter verifying the completion of a residency or fellowship – outside the U.S., or in the U.S. or Canada

+

Documentation Required with Application

- 1) Original credential report or official notarized copy of the evaluation converting the foreign medical degree must indicate that this medical degree is equivalent to a doctor of medicine degree in the U.S. or Canada. A listing of organizations that produce individualized, written reports describing each certificate, diploma or degree earned and specifying its U.S. or Canadian equivalent can be found on page 28
and
- 2) Original letter from medical director verifying successful completion of residency/fellowship experience that includes the appropriate didactic and clinical ultrasound/vascular experience
and
- 3) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential⁴
and
- 4) Original signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area(s). **CV forms are located on pages 31-39.**

Prerequisite
4B2

Education

General — Outside U.S. — MD or DO degrees equivalent to those of the U.S. and Canada

+

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time² clinical ultrasound/vascular experience³

+

Documentation Required with Application

1) Original credential report or official notarized copy of the evaluation converting the foreign medical degree must indicate that this medical degree is equivalent to a doctor of medicine degree in the U.S. or Canada. A listing of organizations that produce individualized, written reports describing each certificate, diploma or degree earned and specifying its U.S. or Canadian equivalent can be found on page 28

and

2) Original letter from supervising sonographer/technologist or education program director verifying length of ultrasound or vascular experience, or successful completion of sonography program. If you are the supervising physician, you may write your own letter

and

3) Copies of documentation of 12 continuing medical education credits specific to each credential⁴

and

4) Original signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area(s). CV forms are located on pages 31-39.

Prerequisite
5

Education

General — Must hold an Active certification with Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)-RCS or RVS, American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT)-Vascular Sonography, Sonography or Breast, or Australian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM)-DMU.

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Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

Previously met by achievement of other organization credential.

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Documentation Required with Application

1) Copy of Active certification identification card or copy of license.

and

2) Original signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area(s). CV forms are located on pages 31-39.

Notes About the Prerequisites

¹ A two-year allied health education program that is patient-care related is defined as (1) 24 full-time consecutive calendar months or (2) 60 semester credits or (3) 84 quarter credits (4) and requiring a clinical internship/externship to complete the program. Credit hours are based on U.S. equivalency in a post secondary institution. Transcripts reflecting clock hours must be converted to credit hours. If submitting a foreign degree, an original course by course foreign transcript evaluation must accompany the application and indicate the aforementioned requirements.

² Full-time is defined as 35 hours per week, at least 48 weeks per year. If working part time, the requirements are prorated. Twenty hours per week would take approximately two years.

³ Clinical ultrasound/vascular experience may be obtained one of two ways; (1) being employed as a full-time ultrasound/vascular sonographer in a clinical setting for 12 months, or (2) successfully completing a formal, full-time ultrasound program that is a minimum of 12 months in length and includes appropriate clinical and didactic hours. Clinical diagnostic settings include hospitals, clinics, and private practices. It is recommended that an applicant be directly involved in a minimum of 800 diagnostic cases during his/her clinical experience in each specialty area for which he/she is applying. ARDMS does not accept volunteer, instructorship, unpaid, barter, or veterinarian experience. The time frames in which the education and clinical requirements are met cannot overlap. Clinical experience earned to document the education requirement cannot also be used to support the clinical requirement.

⁴ First-time applicants: Acceptable documents include ARDMS-accepted CME credits. For those in formal ultrasound programs, acceptable documents include official program descriptions listing core subjects taken by hours submitted by the program director on the Clock Hours Form. Credits must have been obtained within the two years immediately preceding submission of the application.

⁵ The mandatory program director letter, found on page 9, (for prerequisite 2) is valid for one year from the date of graduation. This applies only to students who graduated after January 1, 2007. If the application and appropriate supporting documentation are not received after one year of successful completion of the program, or if you graduated prior to January 1, 2007, the applicant will need new documentation verifying successful program completion, and a current, completed, original CV form for each applied-for specialty area.

⁶ The mandatory program director letter, found on page 9, (for prerequisite 3B) is valid through the expected graduation date. If the student chooses to apply after graduation, then new supporting documentation verifying successful program completion and a current, completed, original CV form for each applied-for specialty area will be required.

Note: If the Bachelor's Degree Sonography/VT program is also programmatically accredited through one of the following: Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), United States Department of Education (USDOE), or Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and the students have graduated, then the prerequisite 3B students should apply under prerequisite 2.