



American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

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PRESS RELEASE

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Responding to Educational Trends, ARDMS Expands Prerequisite Definitions

(ROCKVILLE, MD, March 12, 2003) – Considering current trends in ultrasound education, the Board of Directors of the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) approved a resolution to expand the definition of the first of its five educational prerequisites. Applicants for the ARDMS ultrasound/vascular credentials must meet the requirements of one of these prerequisites in order to sit for the ARDMS examinations.

The educational requirement for Prerequisite 1, as spelled out in the *ARDMS Information and Examination Application Booklet*, is "two-year allied health education program that is patient-care related." This requirement had been satisfied by a twenty-four month program and document submission of a certification document, education program certificate, state license or school transcript.

Effective March 1, 2003, Applicants applying under Prerequisite 1 must document completion of a two-year allied health education program by submitting official school transcript(s), and an education program certificate, credential or license that reflects (1) a minimum of twenty-four (24) calendar months of education, or (2) 60 semester credit hours, or (3) 84 quarter credit hours.

The new rule takes into account the U.S. Department of Education's definition of a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per term as full-time post secondary undergraduate enrollment; twelve (12) credit hours during four (4) semesters, plus six (6) credits in two (2) summer sessions, equals sixty (60) semester credit hours; twelve (12) credit hours during six (6) quarters, plus six (6) credit hours during two (2) summer sessions, equals eighty-four (84) quarter credit hours.

Credit hours are based on U.S. Equivalencies in a post secondary institution. Clock hours must be converted to credit hours.

"Adding a further option for demonstrating completion of ultrasound education demonstrates ARDMS' flexibility in responding to the some of the new, content-intensive, compressed-curricular formats now available to sonography students," notes Kari E. Boyce, Ph.D., RDMS, RDCS, Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors.

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The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, incorporated in 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular technology, and ophthalmic biometry.