**SPI Examination Requirement**

The Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) Examination Requirement allows students to apply for and take the SPI examination prior to graduation. The SPI Examination Requirement can be found in the Prerequisite section of this guide.

The SPI Examination Requirement cannot be used when applying for a specialty examination (e.g. AB, BR, OB/GYN, FE, AE, MSKS, PE, PS, VT). Applicants previously approved for the SPI examination under the SPI Examination Requirement must choose a prerequisite in order to apply for a specialty examination.

**Choosing a Prerequisite**

To earn an ARDMS credential, Applicants must choose and meet the requirements of a prerequisite.

Please follow the steps below.

1. Review the Prerequisite Chart section of this guide.

2. Find your education level in the section labeled Education.

3. Ensure you have met the clinical experience requirement within that prerequisite.

4. When you see a numbered term, please refer to Notes About the Prerequisites section of this guide.

5. Assemble the required documentation under Documentation Required with Application and submit with the online application form and appropriate fees. You may now submit your documentation by uploading it into your MY ARDMS account (or MY APCA for physicians)!

Eligibility will not be determined by telephone, fax or e-mail. For a complete prerequisite chart, log on to ARDMS.org/PrereqChart.

Applicants must apply online, pay all fees, and submit all of the required supporting documentation by the deadline provided in order for ARDMS to determine eligibility.
Examination Requirements & Prerequisites

SPI Examination Requirement

Note: All listed items must be met and completed prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for footnotes, definitions and complete details.

Prerequisite 1

All students must meet the following criteria for entry to the application process:

• Copy of a medical school diploma or copy of an official transcript indicating the date the degree was conferred.

Documentation Required with Application

• A complete transcript summary with the application indicating that the degree is equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada.

Prerequisite 2

All students must meet the following criteria for entry to the application process:

• Copy of a medical school diploma or copy of an official transcript indicating the date the degree was conferred.

Prerequisite 3A

All students must meet the following criteria for entry to the application process:

• Copy of a medical school diploma or copy of an official transcript indicating the date the degree was conferred.

Prerequisite 4A1, 4A2, 4B1, and 4B2 prerequisites or the new physician examination. Effective January 1, 2020, physicians can apply under the new physician examination/successful completion of sonography program. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/SampleLetters.

Education

Graduate of an accredited Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada in diagnostic medical sonography or vascular technology.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time ultrasound/vascular experience.*

*Please visit ARDMS.org/CME for more information about CME requirements. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for footnotes, definitions and complete details.

New 2020 ARDMS Physician Prerequisites:

Effective January 1, 2020, physicians can apply under the new physician examination/successful completion of sonography program. On July 1, 2020, the new physician prerequisites will be required. For more information, please visit ARDMS.org/ApplicantEducation.


Prerequisite 3B

Note: All listed items must be met and completed prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for footnotes, definitions and complete details.

Documentation Required with Application

1. Letter from residency/fellowship program director indicating that the degree is equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada.

Prerequisite 4A1

Note: All listed items must be met and completed prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for footnotes, definitions and complete details.

Education

Graduate of an accredited Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada in diagnostic medical sonography or vascular technology.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time ultrasound/vascular experience.*

*Please visit ARDMS.org/CME for more information about CME requirements. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for footnotes, definitions and complete details.

Education

4. Applicants should maintain a patient log or other record of their experience, including at least 24 months of full-time ultrasound/vascular experience. If the program is not completed within the stated minimum of 24 months, the dissertation is submitted and received within one year after successful completion of the sonography program. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/SampleLetters.

3. Letter from a supervising physician, ARDMS-Registered sonographer/technologist indicating that the degree is equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada.

2. Letter signed by your program director indicating your date of graduation and successful completion of the program.

5. Copy of a non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with signature; the first and last names on the ID must exactly match the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.

ARDMS.org offers a Physicians Application Program for Prerequisite 2 Applicants. For more information please visit ARDMS.org/ Apply.
Examination Requirements & Prerequisites

SP1 Examination Requirement

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Prerequisite 1

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

• A doctor of medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degree earned in the U.S. or Canada.

• A graduation evaluation report indicating that the degree is equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada, or a copy of a formal foreign transcript evaluation from an agency recognized by the American Medical Association’s Educational Foundation for Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.

• A minimum of 12 months of full-time clinical experience within the program. 

The application must include a signed and completed CV form for each appropriate specialty area. CV forms are available at ARDMS.org/CV.

Prerequisite 2

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

Graduate or a student in a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Council for Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DEMS), American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS); Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, Canadian American Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers or a program that meets the requirements for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDCMS) certification. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/SampleLetters.

Prerequisite 3A

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

Bachelor’s degree in major or foreign degree equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or Canada.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time* clinical ultrasound/vascular experience.*

Documentation Required with Application

1. A copy of your official transcript from a two-year allied health education program accredited by an agency recognized by the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or other agencies that offer programmatic accreditation under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for each program attended.

2. Letter from residency/fellowship program director indicating the date of graduation and any specialty areas.

3. The clinical verification (CV) form is not required if the applicant has completed 12 months of full-time ultrasound/vascular experience including exact dates of ultrasound/vascular experience/successful completion of sonography program. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/SampleLetters.

Prerequisite 3B

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

Graduate of at least 2 years in basic science and/or research and/or diagnostic medical sonography/vascular technology in the U.S. or Canada.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

6 months of full-time clinical ultrasound/vascular experience.

Description

The applicant must be able to document clinical experience with a minimum of 600 studies in the area for which he/she is applying.

ARDMS offers a Pass/fail Objective Program for Prerequisite 2 Applicants. For more information please visit ARDMS.org/ Apply

Documentation Required with Application

1. Copy of a Bachelor’s degree or an official transcript from a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or other agencies that offer programmatic accreditation under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for each program attended.

2. Letter signed by an evaluation program director indicating the length and completion of each appropriate specialty area.

3. The clinical verification (CV) form is not required if the applicant has graduated from or is currently in a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or other agencies that offer programmatic accreditation under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for each program attended.

4. Letter from supervising physician, ARDMS-Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) indicating a minimum of 12 months of full-time clinical/vascular experience including exact dates of ultrasound/vascular experience/successful completion of sonography program. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/SampleLetters.

Prerequisite 4A

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

General, U.S., and Canada – MD or DO degree earned in the U.S. or Canada.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

12 months of full-time* clinical ultrasound/vascular experience.*

Documentation Required with Application

1. Copy of a medical school diploma or copy of an official transcript for each appropriate specialty area.

2. Letter from residency/fellowship program director indicating the length and completion of each appropriate specialty area.

3. The clinical verification (CV) form is not required if the applicant has graduated from or is currently in a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or other agencies that offer programmatic accreditation under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for each program attended.

4. Copy of a non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with signature; the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.

5. Copy of a non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with signature; the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.

Now 2020 ARDMS Physician Prerequisite:

Physicians effective January 1, 2020, can apply under the new ARDMS Physician Prerequisite. On July 2, 2020, the new physician prerequisites will be available for anyone applying for ARDMS examinations.

Prerequisite 4A2

Note: All of the above must be met and complete prior to submission. See the Notes About the Prerequisites on page 11 for definitions and complete details.

Education

General Medical Education (ACGME), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) in the U.S., or Canada – MD or DO degree earned in the U.S. or Canada.

Clinical Experience

• A minimum of 12 months of full-time* clinical ultrasound/vascular experience.*

Documentation Required with Application

1. Copy of a medical school diploma or copy of an official transcript for each appropriate specialty area.

2. Letter from residency/fellowship program director indicating the length and completion of each appropriate specialty area.

3. The clinical verification (CV) form is not required if the applicant has graduated from or is currently in a program accredited by an agency recognized by the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or other agencies that offer programmatic accreditation under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/Canadian Health Standards Institute (CHSI), Canadian Register of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for each program attended.

4. Copy of a non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with signature; the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.

5. Copy of a non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with signature; the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.
specifying its U.S. or Canadian equivalent can be found at ARDMS.org/SampleLetters. If the Applicant has passed all of the required clinical ultrasound/vascular experience, note: the above two options are not required. Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

1. Copy of formal foreign transcript evaluation report converting the foreign medical degree must indicate that this medical degree includes a minimum of 800 studies in the area in which he/she is applying. For required letter content, please visit ARDMS.org/ForeignTranscripts. If the Applicant has passed all of the required clinical ultrasound/vascular experience, note: the above two options are not required.

2. Letter from supping school/program, including exact dates of ultrasound experience/successful clinical scanning experience over a minimum of 12 months within the appropriate specialty area(s). CV forms are available at ARDMS.org/Prerequisite

3. Any alumni who have been approved to take one of the following examinations will apply as a re-applicant (no required supporting documentation):

   • Clinical verification (CV) form for each specialty area(s). CV forms are available at ARDMS.org/Prerequisite

   • A clinical verification (CV) form is required for the CPI examination only.

   • To apply for the ARDMS credential addresses (RR, FE, FE, FE, AE, PE, FE, PE, VT, PS), an existing ARDMS prerequisite must be met. Documentation received in a language other than English must include a notarized translation in English. All documents, communications, and information concerning matters that may be relevant to your eligibility for ARDMS become the property of ARDMS and will not be returned. ARDMS reserves the right to rescind any credentials earned.

   • The mandatory Student Prerequisite 3B Application letter (found on ARDMS.org) is valid for one year from the date of graduation. If the student chooses to apply after graduation, then the Graduate Prerequisite 2B Application letter should be used.

   • Applicants who have been approved to take one of the following examinations will apply as a re-applicant (no required supporting documentation):

   • Clinical verification (CV) form for each specialty area(s). CV forms are available at ARDMS.org/Prerequisite

   • A clinical verification (CV) form is required for the CPI examination only.

   • To apply for the ARDMS credential addresses (RR, FE, AE, PE, VT, PS), an existing ARDMS prerequisite must be met.
Prerequisite 4B2

3. Signed and completed clinical verification (CV) form for each applicable specialty area(s). CV forms are available at ARDMS.org/CV.

Prerequisite 5

4. A copy of non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.

Required Clinical Ultrasound/Vascular Experience

Required Documentation with Application

1. Copy of a foreign medical school transcript report containing the following: A listing of courses that the applicant has successfully completed, including letter grades or grade points, a listing of the applicant’s degree, and the issuing institution’s signature or seal. 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 at ARDMS.org/ForeignTranscripts.

EDUCATION

4. If the Applicant is a newly graduated Medical Graduate (ECFMG®) certification, a copy of the ECFMG® Certificate of Eligibility and/or Certificate of Waiver (if available) must be submitted with a copy of the ECFMG © application for certification. If the Applicant has passed all required clinical ultrasound/vascular experience as obtained through Australasian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM), through American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), or through ARDMS.org/CV.

2. Letter from the sonographer/technologist or educational program director indicating that the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of 1,680 hours of ultrasound/vascular experience. Note: the above two options are not applicable to Prerequisite 3B. The Applicant must successfully complete the program in its entirety prior to using the program as documentation of the required clinical experience. This clinical experience cannot be transferred into the ultrasound program. This education requirement cannot be completed in one year. This education requirement cannot be transferred into the ultrasound program. This education requirement cannot be transferred into the ultrasound program.

Prerequisite 4A

1. Copy of Active credential identification card or copy of license from the U.S. or Canada in lieu of the evaluation.

EDUCATION

5. A copy of non-expired government-issued photo identification (ID) with the first and last names in your ARDMS/APCA record.