

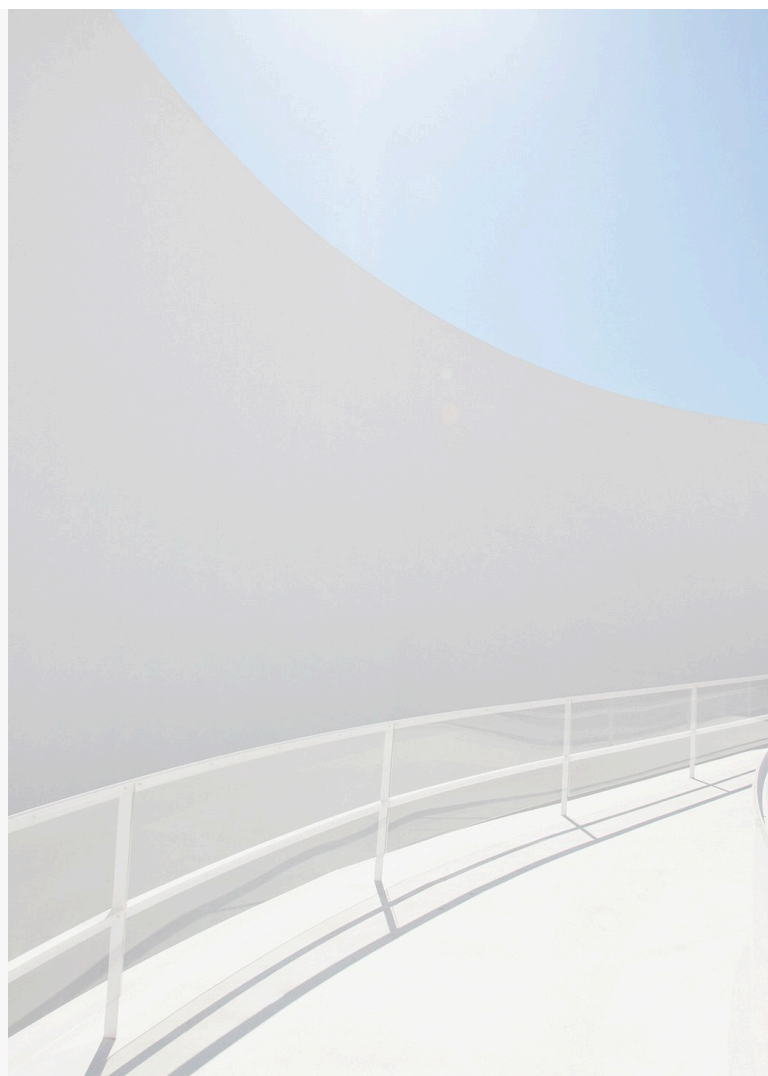


Ultrasound Credentials
For ABHES Accredited Sonography Schools

Ultrasound Credentialing Pathways

Simplified for Students and Applicants

There's more than one path to become a credentialed Sonographer/Ultrasound Technologist. Although this can be a complicated journey, we strive to make it a little easier to understand.



First Things First

Accreditation, Licensing, Clinical Experience & Dedicated Specialty Hours

Be sure that you have answered YES to the following before continuing to the credentialing pathways.

ACCREDITATION

"The school I am applying to or attending is accredited by ABHES, the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools."

The Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) conducts both institutional and specialized, programmatic accreditation. Formed in 1964, ABHES is recognized by the Secretary of Education as a specialized, national accrediting body determined to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered by the educational institutions and programs it accredits. Its approved and recognized scope includes degree and non-degree granting private, postsecondary institutions offering educational programs predominantly in allied health.

YES

LICENSURE

"The school I am applying to is licensed to conduct business by the state that it is located in."

The school must be licensed to conduct business as a school in the state in which it is located in. Unlike nursing and medical assisting, the student is NOT required to take or pass a state licensing examination upon or after graduation in order to practice sonography with the exception of New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota and Oregon. Please refer to the state agencies in charge of licensing for these states.

YES

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

"The school I am applying to or attending has at least 12 months of clinical ultrasound/vascular experience built into the program."

The clinical experience must be equivalent to no less than 1680 hours total built into the program. This equates to full time experience, which is calculated at a rate of 35 hours per week for 48 weeks or the equivalent.

YES

SPECIALTY HOURS

"The school I am applying to or attending has a minimum of 800 dedicated vascular clinical hours OR 800 dedicated cardiac clinical hours."

In order to maximize the applicant's opportunities for success in becoming credentialed in ultrasound, schools must meet the minimum required of 800 vascular clinical hours OR 800 cardiac clinical hours.

YES



Certificate vs. Degree Program

"Does it matter if my school offers a certificate or degree upon graduation?"

You are qualified to become credentialed in ultrasound if you graduate with a certificate or a degree in sonography. Many students prefer a degree as it is seen as a marker of success for future employers and students take pride in earning a degree. However, a degree is not a requirement to become credentialed in sonography and as many as two thirds of working sonographers do not have a degree. Although, in the past few years, more and more students are opting for degree programs as they are becoming more available.

[FIND YOUR PATH NOW](#)



Ultrasound Credentialing Pathways

This is general information provided to those individuals with a High School Diploma or Equivalent, Associates Degree or Bachelor's Degree.

Please refer to the credentialing agencies directly for specific information related to your personal credentialing journey.

"My highest level of education is a High School Diploma or Equivalent."

HERE ARE YOUR OPTIONS:

- If your school has 800 Vascular Clinical Hours and meets the above criteria, applicants with a HSD/GED qualify to become a Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS) via the Cardiovascular Credentialing International Examination under Prerequisite RVS5.
- If your school offers 800 Cardiac Clinical Hours and meets the above criteria, applicants with a HSD/GED qualified to become a Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) via the Cardiovascular Credentialing International Examination under Prerequisite RCS5.
- Upon completing the CCI RVS or RCS Credential, applicants are able to continue their credentialing journey and qualify to take the ARDMS examinations under Prerequisite 5.
- It is recommended that ALL sonography students, regardless of their level of education, take

the ARDMS Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI) Exam. In order to qualify, applicants must successfully complete a general, medical or sonographic physics class/seminar/course and be able to send verifiable transcripts to ARDMS.

"My highest level of education is an Associates Degree." OR "I will graduate with an Associates Degree."

HERE ARE YOUR OPTIONS:

Students with an Associates Degree can apply to take their sonography credentialing exam with any of the pathways listed above for HSD/GED and the following pathway listed below:

- Students with an Associates Degree are able to apply for the American Registry in Radiology Technology (ARRT) pending their school is recognized by the ARRT. Applicants are required to meet the ARRT competencies within their educational program.

"My highest level of education is a Bachelor's Degree."

HERE ARE YOUR OPTIONS:

Students with a Bachelor's Degree in ANY subject can apply to take their sonography credentialing exam with any of the pathways listed above for HSD/GED and Associates and the following pathway listed below:

- Students with a Bachelor's Degree can apply to take the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Exam(s) under Prerequisite 3A.

PLEASE NOTE: The ARDMS does not accredit schools. Contact www.ardms.org for more details.