

# PVI Examination Prerequisites

## Physicians' Vascular Interpretation

All listed items must be met and completed prior to application submission.

### 1. AT A GLANCE

The chart provides a summary of requirements. Please read all pathway and documentation requirements below carefully and thoroughly before you submit an application.

Licensure	Clinical Experience	Documentation Required
<p><b>MD or DO</b></p> <p>Current, valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in the U.S. or Canada.</p> <p><b>Outside U.S. / Canada:</b></p> <p>MD or DO equivalent degree (credential report required) with a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine as a physician in any country.</p>	<p><b>Minimum 500 cases</b></p> <p>Vascular interpretation in a clinical diagnostic setting over a minimum of one month within the preceding 36 months.</p> <p>Up to 100 cases may be didactic or simulated. Cases must span all six testing areas with no more than 50% from any one area.</p> <p>Hospitals, clinics, and private practices only. Volunteer, unpaid, barter, or veterinarian experience not accepted.</p> <p>Experience must be obtained through one of three pathways. ↓ See below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical license (current, valid, unrestricted)</li> <li>• Experience verification letter (per pathway)</li> <li>• Case log (min. 500 studies; retain 3 years)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Simulated case letter</a> (if applicable)</li> <li>• International credential report (if applicable)</li> </ul>

### 2. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE — WHICH PATHWAY APPLIES TO YOU?

Vascular interpretation experience must be obtained and documented through one of the three pathways below.

Choose the one that matches how you gained your experience.

	PATHWAY 1 Accredited Residency or Fellowship	PATHWAY 2 Non-Accredited Post-Graduate Program	PATHWAY 3 Physicians in Practice
<b>How you trained</b>	ACGME, RCPSC, or AOA accredited program including didactic instruction and vascular lab training.	Post-graduate program not accredited by ACGME, RCPSC, or AOA, but including didactic instruction and vascular lab training.	Employment or contractual work in a supervised clinical diagnostic setting.
<b>Program requirements</b>	No minimum hour requirements  Accreditation of the program covers this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min. 48 weeks clinical training</li> <li>• Min. 30 hrs didactic instruction (vascular lab topics)</li> <li>• Min. 40 hrs observation or supervised participation in a vascular lab</li> </ul>	No program requirements Experience is documented through employment or contract.
<b>CME required</b>	Not required	Not required	<b>Yes — required</b> 40 hrs AMA PRA Category 1 CME relevant to the vascular laboratory within the preceding 3 years.
<b>Verification letter signed by</b>	Program director, Medical Director of the vascular lab, or appropriate RPVI-certified program affiliate.	Program director, Medical Director of the vascular lab, or appropriate RPVI-certified program affiliate.	Medical director of the vascular laboratory. If applicant is the medical director: another qualified physician.

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### 3. WHAT CASES COUNT TOWARD YOUR 500

Cases must be distributed across all six testing areas. No more than 50% of the total may come from any single area.

#### Six required testing areas

- Carotid duplex ultrasound (extracranial cerebrovascular)
- Transcranial Doppler (intracranial cerebrovascular)
- Peripheral arterial physiologic testing (excludes ABI and single level exams)
- Peripheral arterial duplex ultrasound
- Venous duplex ultrasound
- Visceral vascular duplex ultrasound

#### If using didactic or simulated cases (up to 100 of your 500)

##### Each simulated case must meet all of the following:

- Indications and relevant clinical information are presented to the interpreting physician.
- Complete technical information is provided — images, cine loops, worksheets, and sonographer notes.
- The interpreting physician completes a final report meeting IAC Vascular Testing Standards and Guidelines.
- Feedback from an educator or supervisor confirms the interpretation met standards or identifies required changes.
- Time to complete each case is not less than what would be required in a clinical diagnostic setting.

Case details must be available for audit by APCA.

### 4. DOCUMENTATION DETAILS

#### Submit through your APCA portal at [my.apca.org](https://my.apca.org)

##### 1. Medical License

Copy of current, valid, unrestricted medical license.

International physicians not licensed in the U.S. or Canada must provide a credential report confirming their medical degree is equivalent to a U.S. or Canadian doctor of medicine degree.

##### 2. Experience Verification Letter

Must describe your experience with vascular laboratory interpretation.

Physicians may not sign their own letters.

**Choose one option based on whether your experience includes simulated/didactic cases.**

##### **If your 500-case log does not include any simulated/didactic cases:**

Letter from the appropriate individual describing your vascular interpretation experience.

Use the [sample letter](#) 'without Simulation Cases'.

##### **If your 500-case log includes simulated/didactic cases (up to 100):**

Letter from the appropriate individual describing your vascular interpretation experience, including the number and distribution of simulated/didactic cases.

Use the [sample letter](#) 'with Simulation Cases'.

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### 3. Case Log

Minimum 500 vascular laboratory studies. Retain for at least 3 years after application approval. Logs are subject to audit.

Your log must include: [\[sample log\]](#)

- Date of each case
- Testing area
- Whether the case was simulated/didactic or clinical
- Name of supervising physician/medical director and clinical site with contact information

### 5. GENERAL NOTES

#### Before you apply

- The name on all supporting documentation must match your application name exactly. If it does not, submit legal documentation of the name change (e.g. marriage or divorce certificate).
- Prerequisites are subject to change. You must meet the requirements in effect at the time of application.
- Documentation in a language other than English must include a notarized translation.
- All submitted documents become the property of APCA and will not be returned.
- All documentation must be uploaded and submitted through your [MY APCA portal](#) .

Please be advised that your initial approved application may be subject to a post-approval audit, which may require us to request additional documentation or clarification to ensure the integrity of our certification standards. If then found ineligible during this final review, your application may be canceled with a partial refund offered, and any scheduled exam appointments would then be automatically canceled.

#### Impartiality

Inteleos/ARDMS/APCA function under policies intended to demonstrate impartiality, high ethical standards, and validity of its certification assessments. Inteleos/ARDMS/APCA do not restrict Applicants, Candidates, or becoming a Registrant based on limiting conditions, such as membership of an association or professional society of any organization. Inteleos/ARDMS/APCA will not unfairly impede or inhibit access to its certification to Applicants, Candidates or Registrants who meet our stated policies regarding qualification requirements, renewal requirements and/or passing Inteleos' psychometrically sound certification assessments.