

SPI Requirement & Specialty Examination Prerequisites

Sonography Principles & Instrumentation and all corresponding RDMS, RDCS, and RVT specialty exams

To apply for an ARDMS exam, you must qualify through one prerequisite pathway.

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

Choose the one that matches your background.

Step 1: Follow the questions in the online [Prerequisite Prep Tool](#).

Step 2: Use the Prep Tool's recommendation and the details below to confirm you meet the education and clinical requirements.

Step 3: Collect your documentation and apply in your Inteelos portal.

PATHWAY COMPARISON

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

Qualifies for	Pathway	Education	Clinical Experience	Documentation Required
⚠ SPI exam only	SPI Requirement - Early Entry (limited pathway)	Physics course or qualifying CMEs Apply and take the exam before graduation	None required	- Physics transcript (grade C or above) OR CME certificate (min. 12 accepted credits, earned within 2 years) - Clinical Verification form not required See SPI Requirement Pathway notes ↓
SPI and all corresponding RDMS, RDCS, and RVT specialty exams	1 — Allied Health	Two-year allied health program (patient-care related)	12 months full-time ultrasound/vascular ¹ Two ways to meet: Employment-based or Education-based Additional clinical requirements apply for DMS/CVT program/education.	- Official transcript from two-year program - Program certificate, certification, or license - Letter verifying clinical experience - Signed Clinical Verification form See Pathway 1 notes ↓
	2 — Accredited Sonography Program	Graduate of a CAAHEP or CMA/HSO-programmatically accredited DMS, cardiac, or vascular program	None — covered by program	- Diploma or official transcript showing degree conferral date - Prerequisite 2 Application Letter (mandatory format – see sample letters) - The Clinical Verification form is not required if the application is submitted and received within one year of successful completion of the program See Pathway 2 - Graduate notes ↓
		Students whose Program Directors use the Paperless Prerequisite 2 Application Program may apply for the examination(s) up to 60 days prior to graduation. See Pathway 2 - Student notes ↓		

	3A — Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's degree (any major)	12 months full-time ultrasound/vascular ¹ Two ways to meet: Employment-based or Education-based	- Bachelor's degree or official transcript - Letter verifying clinical experience - Signed Clinical Verification form
	3B — Sonography Bachelor's	Bachelor's or student in sonography or vascular technology program (or foreign equivalent)	None — covered by program Students may apply up to one year before completion, provided 12 months full-time clinical is completed within the program	- Bachelor's degree or official transcript - Student or Graduate Prerequisite 3B Application Letter (mandatory format — see sample letters) - Clinical Verification form conditions vary for students vs. graduates See Pathway 3B notes ↓
SPI and all corresponding RDMS, RDCS, RVT specialty exams	5 — Already Credentialed	Active credential through: CCI: RCS, RCCS, or RVS ARRT: Sonography, Vascular Sonography, or Breast Sonography Sonography Canada: CRGS, CRCS, or CRVS	None — covered by existing credential	- Copy of active credential ID card or license - Signed Clinical Verification form
	Physician	MD, DO, or MBBS	500 clinical diagnostic studies in applied-for specialty over 6 months	- Copy of current valid medical license/registration from any country - Letter verifying clinical experience - Signed Clinical Verification form
	Reapplicant Previously approved for a specialty exam	No additional requirements if previously approved for a specialty exam.		Clinical Verification form (if no valid CV form is on file at the time of application) Clinical Verification forms are valid for one year from date of sponsor signature

¹CLINICAL EXPERIENCE -- PATHWAYS 1 and 3A ONLY

Obtain one of two ways: Employment or Education

Employment-based: Minimum: 12 months and 1,680 hours in ultrasound/vascular clinical setting.
or

Education-based: Successful completion of formal, full-time ultrasound/vascular program. Minimum: 12 months and 1,680 total program hours, including appropriate clinical and didactic hours, and requires clinical internship/externship to complete the program. If the program exceeds 12 months, Applicant must successfully complete the program in its entirety.

- Clinical settings must be hospitals, clinics, or private practices only.
- Volunteer, unpaid, barter, instructorship, or veterinarian experience is not accepted.
- Education and clinical experience timeframes cannot overlap.
- Full-time is defined as 35 hours per week, minimum 48 weeks per year (1,680 hours minimum). Part-time experience is prorated accordingly.
- Non-diagnostic ultrasound/vascular experience (e.g., 3D/4D scans) does not count toward ARDMS clinical experience requirements.

PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS

SPI Requirement - Early Entry Pathway

- Completion of graded general, medical or sonographic college, post-secondary or higher education physics class
- Physics transcript must show applicant name and school name. Course title must specifically include “Physics,” “Physical Principles,” and/or “Instrumentation.” Unofficial transcripts accepted. Grade of C or above required.
- Number-only grades must include a letter grade equivalent key on the transcript.
- Handwritten transcript information will not be accepted.
- CME certificate: minimum 12 ARDMS-accepted credits from a physics seminar, review course, or correspondence course. Credits must be earned within two years prior to application.
- Clinical Verification form is not required for the SPI examination.
- If the SPI is your first ARDMS exam and you can qualify under a full prerequisite pathway, applying under that pathway is recommended — future application processing will be faster.

Pathway 1

- Must be a single program: e.g. sonography, registered technologist, RN, PT, OT, respiratory therapist
- A two-year allied health education program that is patientcare 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. The program or school must be authorized by an accrediting agency to award semester or quarter credits and the type of credits granted must be reflected on the transcript. Transcripts reflecting clock hours must be converted to credit hours.
- Transcript must be official; must state specific number of credits and indicate quarter or semester system; must include graduation information.
- If using DMS/CVT program for education, 12 additional months clinical experience is required outside the program.
- Clinical experience letter must meet ARDMS requirements — see [Sample Letters](#) for Employer or Program Completion sample letters.
- Clinical Verification form required for each specialty area applied for — see [sample forms](#).

Pathway 2 - Graduate

- ARDMS does not allow for retro accreditation.
- Program director letter is valid for one year from graduation date. If applying after that window, new documentation and a current Clinical Verification form are required.
- The Clinical Verification form is not required if the application is submitted and received within one year after successful completion of the program. After one year, a signed CV form for each specialty area is required.

Pathway 2 - Student

- Paperless Application Program for eligible students. [Learn more](#), then contact your [Program Director](#).
- Students applying before graduation through the Paperless Prerequisite 2 application process must successfully complete their program to retain any passed exam results obtained through this process.
- ARDMS will rescind any passed exam results and/or certification(s) obtained through this process if the program is not successfully completed.
- The Clinical Verification form via this program is valid for 60 days prior to graduation and 1 year from that date of exam eligibility (not 1 year from graduation date).

Pathway 3B

- Students may apply up to one year before completion, provided 12 months of full-time clinical experience within the program is completed at time of application.
- If the program is also CAAHEP/USDOE/CMA-accredited and the student has graduated, apply under Pathway 2 instead.
- Clinical Verification form is not required if applying within one year prior to program completion and 12 months clinical is met. Otherwise, Clinical Verification form required for each specialty area.
- Student applicants must have completed a minimum of 1,680 hours of clinical scanning experience over a minimum of 12 months within the program.
- Student letter valid through expected graduation date. After graduation, a graduate letter and current Clinical Verification form are required.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Before you apply

- All requirements must be met and documentation submitted by your application deadline.
- 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).
- Documents in a language other than English must include a notarized English translation.
- All submitted documents become the property of Inteleos and will not be returned.
- Official transcripts may be opened for upload into your MY ARDMS or MY APCA portal.
- Eligibility is not determined by phone, fax, or email.
- Prerequisites are subject to change. You must meet the requirements in effect at the time of application.
- Inteleos, ARDMS, and APCA may request from you or others information concerning matters relevant to your eligibility for certification and certification status.

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.

EDUCATION — FOREIGN EQUIVALENCY

Applies to: Pathways 1, 3A, 3B, and SPI Requirement

- All foreign degrees or transcripts must be accompanied by a formal course-by-course evaluation from a Foreign Education Transcript Evaluation Organization.
- This evaluation must confirm that the applicant has met the education requirements for the corresponding pathway under which they are applying.

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.