

## ELIGIBILITY POLICY

### Other Candidates (External)

An individual who is not an eligible graduate of an accredited diagnostic medical sonography program<sup>1</sup>, may apply to qualify for Sonography Canada credential(s) through the External Candidate pathway. Each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis for eligibility to write the qualifying examinations and challenge the Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment™ (CCSA™).

The following three options exist:

#### 1. Pursuing Initial Credential

Minimum requirements:

- relevant education and training equivalent to an accredited sonography program; and
- 5 years of sonography experience for initial credential.

#### 2. Pursuing additional Sonography Canada credential(s)

Minimum requirements:

- relevant education and training equivalent to an accredited sonography program; and
- a minimum of one (1) year of clinical training specific to the relevant credential (see detailed information [here](#)).

#### 3. Upgrading a limited Sonography Canada credential (CRS)

Minimum requirements:

- relevant education and training equivalent to an accredited sonography program; and
- a minimum of one year of sonography experience in the required components (see detailed information [here](#)).

Alternatively, an individual may be approved by a recognized provincial regulatory college to challenge the credentialing examinations and assessments following the Regulatory College Applicant process.

### ***Written Examinations and Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA)***

External candidates applying for the Generalist (CRGS®), Cardiac (CRCS®) and/or Vascular (CRVS®) credential(s) must successfully complete the required credentialing examinations (both written and the CCSA) within four years from the date of eligibility, with a maximum of four (4) attempts.

External Candidates who do not successfully complete the credentialing process within the 4 years of eligibility are not able to re-apply to pursue credentials through this pathway. The only way to requalify for Sonography Canada credentials is to attend and successfully complete an accredited sonography program. At that time, the candidate would fall under the policy for accredited sonography program graduates.

An approved External Candidate who does not attempt either credentialing aspect within the 4-year timeframe AND notifies Sonography Canada, in writing, to withdraw the application (the application fee is non-refundable) would be eligible to re-apply as an external candidate at a later date. The candidate would be required to re-submit an External Candidate application, pay associated fee, submit required documentation, and be assessed under the External Candidate criteria at that time.

<sup>1</sup> An accredited sonography program is a Canadian educational program accredited by a body authorized to do so by Sonography Canada.