



CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT
CORE SONOGRAPHIC SKILLS EXAMINATION

This blueprint applies to the examination as of January 2022 and is based on NCP 6.1

This blueprint may be modified prior to future examinations, in which case advance notice will be provided.

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Table of Contents

Purpose of Examination Blueprints	2
How Should Candidates Use the Examination Blueprint?	2
Assessment Environments	3
Core Sonographic Skills Examination Blueprint	4

Purpose of Examination Blueprints

As part of the requirements to qualify for certification as a Generalist, Cardiac and/or Vascular Sonographer, candidates will be required to successfully complete both the Core Sonographic Skills Examination and the relevant specialty examination (Generalist, Cardiac and/or Vascular).

Each examination (including Core) has a separate Examination Blueprint. The purpose of an Examination Blueprint is to describe how the examination should be developed. Examination Blueprints are based on the Sonography Canada National Competency Profiles (NCP) and identify the competencies upon which questions will be based (these are referred to as "examinable competencies"). Item numbers and references to Appendices that appear in the Examination Blueprints refer to the corresponding items in the NCP. **As of January 2022, the content of each examination is based upon [NCP Version 6.1](#).**

The Examination Blueprint also identifies the total number of questions in the examinations, and the approximate distribution of those questions among the examinable competencies. This distribution is listed as a percentage range for each grouping of examinable competencies.

The Core Sonographic Skills Examination consists of 80 questions. The total time allowed is 80 minutes.

How Should Candidates Use the Examination Blueprint?

As described above, examination blueprints are intended to describe how the examination is to be developed. They are not designed explicitly for study purposes but do provide valuable information about the examination content, the number of questions and how content is distributed within the exam. Candidates should refer to the appendices in the NCP for a list of the relevant sonographic principles and techniques (see column headings in the appendices).

Assessment Environments

The National Competency Profiles (NCPs) designate the *Assessment Environment* for each competency which denotes the educational setting for assessing student proficiency. The appropriate environment is determined by national survey responses. Educators and student assessors are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of the NCPs. Employers should be familiar with the NCPs to manage entry-level expectations.

The following assessment environments are found in the relevant Appendices:

Assessment Environment	Definition	Criterion for Student Success
<p style="text-align: center;">A (Academic)</p>	<p>Academic education takes place in a classroom or through guided study involving cognitive and / or affective learning.</p>	<p>Academic assessment consistent with the definition of entry-level competence.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">S (Simulation)</p>	<p>Simulation involves cognitive, affective and / or psychomotor learning in a setting that simulates a practice activity.</p>	<p>Simulated performance consistent with the definition of entry-level competence.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C (Clinical)</p>	<p>Clinical education involves cognitive, affective and / or psychomotor learning where learners work directly with human patients in a setting designed to provide patient care. Learners are supervised throughout their clinical education, in a manner that facilitates their development of independent clinical abilities while ensuring safe, effective and ethical patient care.</p>	<p>Reliable clinical performance consistent with the definition of entry-level competence.</p>

Core Sonographic Skills Examination Blueprint

The Core Sonographic Skills Examination consists of 80 questions		
Examinable Competencies		% Range
2.1	Legal and ethical requirements	3-5%
2.1b	Adhere to relevant professional scope of practice and code of ethics.	
2.3	Professional conduct	1-3%
2.3l	Recognize, respond to and disclose adverse events.	
3.1	Patient safety and comfort	1-3%
3.1d	Employ universal precautions for infection control.	
3.1j	Recognize and respond to emergency situations.	
4.2	Operation of equipment	76-84%
4.2b	Perform sonographic examination of structures of interest using knowledge of sonographic principles, instrumentation and techniques listed in Appendices A to F. <i>*see techniques listed as column headings in NCP Appendices</i>	
4.2c	Monitor output display indices and adjust power output in accordance with "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) principle.	
4.3	Equipment maintenance	1-3%
4.3b	Identify degraded instrument performance.	
4.3c	Understand basic trouble shooting.	
5.4	Technical analysis	4-6%
5.4c	Understand the variables and their relationships within calculations.	
6.2	Self protection	4-6%
6.2b	Practice ergonomic techniques.	
6.2d	Follow standardized procedures for handling and disposing of sharps, and contaminated and biohazardous materials.	