

Examinations: Credentialing Eligibility Policy – Canadian Accredited Sonography Program Graduates

 **Policy Level:** Certification
Approved: November 6th, 2021
Approved by: Board of Directors
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PURPOSE

Obtaining a Sonography Canada credential consists of two components; knowledge-based examinations and a clinical component called the Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA™). Both components must be successfully completed to earn a credential.

This policy outlines the requirements and timelines for individuals that have successfully completed a course of study at an accredited Canadian diagnostic medical sonography educational program.

SCOPE

Graduates of a Canadian educational program accredited by a body authorized to do so by Sonography Canada (e.g., Accreditation Canada). Accredited status can refer to *Accredited* or *Accredited with Condition*. “Graduate” is defined as a student who has successfully completed all program requirements.

POLICY

Clinical Component Eligibility:

The Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA) is completed during the educational program. Results are forwarded to Sonography Canada prior to students being deemed eligible to challenge the credentialing examinations. Students enrolled in an educational program that holds a *Registered* status can initiate the CCSA process; however, a *Registered* program must be awarded an *Accredited* or *Accredited with Condition* status prior to a graduate’s program completion date in order for the CCSA to be valid. If a *Registered* program fails to achieve an *Accredited* or *Accredited with Condition* status, the CCSA will not be recognized.

Repeats of the CCSA are at the discretion of the sonography educational program and completed in accordance with the program’s institutional policies.

Written Exam Eligibility:

Students in accredited sonography programs may apply to write the Core examination prior to program completion subject to Sonography Canada receiving written confirmation of the student’s eligibility. Students must have completed all coursework in physics principles and instrumentation and professionalism. Each program will independently determine when the student is eligible.

A graduate of an accredited sonography program must successfully complete all credentialing examinations within five (5)* years of program completion date¹.

A maximum of four (4) attempts of each of the Generalist, Core, Cardiac or Vascular exams are allowed. While the candidate has five years to complete the process, any application to write an examination more than 18 months after program completion, requires one of the following as proof of clinical competency*:

- documented and verifiable evidence that the applicant has worked at least 500 hours, in the discipline of the credential, within the previous 12 months; or
- successful repeat of the CCSA at an external assessment site.

Candidates who are unable to successfully complete the credentialing process within five (5) years postgraduation, must then re-qualify by attending and graduating from a Canadian educational program accredited by a body authorized to do so by Sonography Canada (e.g., Accreditation Canada). No credit for exams and CCSAs previously completed will be applied to any requalifying application*.

**In regulated jurisdictions, certification exam eligibility requirements indicated by the * may be superseded by eligibility requirements of the provincial regulator. Candidates seeking employment in a regulated jurisdiction, who do not meet the eligibility requirements as outlined above, must consult with the relevant provincial regulator to seek approval to challenge the Sonography Canada exams.*

¹Program completion date is considered the last day of the month within which all program requirements are completed.

RESPONSIBILITY

Policies and procedures relating to the development, maintenance and administration of Sonography Canada's credentialing examinations, including the CCSA are the responsibility of the Examinations Committee, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Executive Director and staff.

CONSEQUENCE

This policy ensures that graduates of accredited programs possess the knowledge, skills and judgement at the entry-level standard as outlined in the National Competency Profiles.
