

The value of credentials

Sonography Canada is the official credentialing body for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in Canada. We provide entry-to-practice certification exams, develop professional practice guidelines, and are responsible for National Competency Profiles.

Sonography Canada credentials confirm that an individual has the professional knowledge, competencies, clinical skills, and judgment to practice sonography. The successful completion of Sonography Canada entry-to-practice examinations, as well as the Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA™), gives an individual the right to append the appropriate professional specialty credential – CRGS®, CRVS® or CRCS® – to their name. These credentials are recognized across Canada and worldwide.

Sonography Canada Credentials

Our mission is to foster best practices and promote the pursuit of excellence in sonography in Canada. To this end, Sonography Canada currently grants individuals the following three professional designations:

CRGS®

Canadian Registered Generalist Sonographer

This credential signifies that a Canadian sonographer has successfully completed the Sonography Canada credentialing examinations. This credential denotes a sonographer who specializes in imaging the abdomen, pelvis, superficial structures, peripheral veins for deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and obstetrics.

CRCS®

Canadian Registered Cardiac Sonographer

This credential signifies that a Canadian sonographer has successfully completed the Sonography Canada credentialing. This credential denotes a sonographer who specializes in imaging the anatomy and function of the heart, as well as congenital heart conditions in adults.

CRVS®

Canadian Registered Vascular Sonographer

This credential signifies that a Canadian sonographer has successfully completed the Sonography Canada credentialing examinations. This credential denotes a sonographer who specializes in imaging the abdominal, peripheral, and extracranial vessels.

The laws, regulations, and standards governing healthcare practices in Canada can differ significantly from those in other countries. Sonography Canada provides the only credentials that specifically align with the Canadian context and verify both the theoretical knowledge and practical clinical skills considered for entry to practice in Canada.

To verify a sonographer's credentials with Sonography Canada, a searchable directory is available on our website.

Refer to the National Competency Profiles for the competency requirements associated with each of the above-mentioned credentials.

Why Credentials Matter



They validate knowledge, competencies, judgment, and clinical skills: Finding, hiring, training, and retaining qualified, high-quality employees can be a time-consuming task. Individuals with credentials can hit the ground running and generally require less on-the-job training. **Employers save valuable time by requiring a credential as an essential condition of employment.**



They set a clear path for career advancement: Sonography is increasingly acknowledged as a profession and is gradually being regulated across Canada. **Sonographers can enhance their credibility and increase their eligibility for promotions or new job opportunities by obtaining or enhancing their credentials.**



They support patient safety: Credentials are a crucial component of the professionalization of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. A credentialed sonographer has demonstrated that they possess the knowledge, skills, and judgment necessary to practice safely. **When Canadians enter a healthcare facility, they expect that employees are qualified to complete the examination their doctor has requested.**



They support risk management: Credentials help ensure consistent, high-quality care to patients and reduce the incidence of professional incompetence, misconduct, or incapacity. **Hiring qualified staff to provide quality patient care prevents potential lost revenues and legal issues.**

Additional Information

- Sonography Canada advocates that credentials be an essential requirement to practice in all regions of Canada.
- For those who currently hold credentials with Sonography Canada or another approved certification organization, you are invited to expand your professional knowledge and skills by obtaining additional credentials through the completion of other entry-to-practice examinations (e.g. cardiac, vascular, etc.) or by obtaining additional certificates in different specialty areas.
- If a sonographer lets their credentials lapse for more than five (5) years, they must repeat the entry-to-practice exams to once again obtain their credentials.
- Newly credentialed members are encouraged to obtain and maintain their credentials as further confirmation that they meet the requirements to practice.
- Members who have already earned credentials and are currently practicing, or plan to return to practice after a leave of absence, are encouraged to maintain their existing credentials.