



Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Educational Program Questionnaire

There are several important questions to ask before making your decision to apply to an educational program for admission. Definitions of unfamiliar words may be found at the end of this document.

Program Name: _____

Contact Person/Telephone/Email: _____

| Question | Notes |
|---|-------|
| <p>1. Is the program accredited by the CAAHEP or CMA? A list of accredited programs is available at:</p> <p>http://www.caahep.org/Find_An_Accredited_Program.aspx</p> <p>http://www.cma.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/50595/la_id/1.htm</p> | |
| <p>2. If the program is not accredited by CAAHEP or CMA, can graduates still apply to take the ARDMS, ARRT or the CCI certification examinations without further clinical experience or education? Eligibility requirements are available at:</p> <p>http://www.ardms.org/default.asp?contentID=135 (ARDMS)</p> <p>http://www.rrt.org/index.html?content=certification/certgenelig.htm (ARRT)</p> <p>http://www.cci-online.org/index.html (CCI)</p> <p>If you are uncertain if the educational program you are interested in qualifies you to take the certification exams upon graduation, contact the ARDMS by calling (800) -541-9754 or the ARRT (651) 687-0048 or CCI (800) 326-0268.</p> | |
| <p>3. How long has the program been graduating students?</p> | |
| <p>4. How many students began the program last year and how many graduated?</p> | |
| <p>5. What are the general reasons students have not completed the program?</p> | |
| <p>6. What credentials does the program director hold?</p> | |
| <p>7. What credentials do the faculty members hold?</p> | |



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|---|-------|
| 8. What percentage of graduates passed the national certification exams on their first try? Example: If the educational program offers a general concentration in sonography how many students pass the ARDMS exams in Physics (SPI), Abdominal (AB) and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB), respectively? | |
| 9. What percentage of program graduates became employed in sonography? | |
| 10. What types of job opportunities are available to new graduates? | |
| 11. Can the program provide student or employer testimonials about the quality of the graduates? | |
| Additional Questions | Notes |
| 12. | |
| 13. | |

Terminology defined:

Accredited – This means a program meets minimum standards and guidelines as defined by an accrediting agency such as the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or the United States Department of Education (USDOE). Colleges and universities have a separate accreditation agency and process than sonography programs, so you need to be sure that it is the “program” that is accredited.

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) – a professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams.

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) – a professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams.

Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) – a professional organization that administers certification examinations in sonographic specialty areas and awards credentials to those who pass the exams.



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Credential – a title recognizing that a certification examination has been passed in a specialty area. For example, The ARDMS offers several credentials which include “RDMS – Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer”. Someone who holds this credential has passed certification exams in a specialty area such as abdomen and a physics certification exam. The ARRT credential in sonography is recognized by the abbreviation “ARRT (S)” after one’s name that has passed the sonography certification exam administered by the ARRT. The CCI credential is recognized in the field of Cardiovascular Technology. CCI offers several credentials, one of which includes “RCS – Registered Cardiac Sonographer” for professionals working in the area of Non-Invasive Echocardiography. Someone holding this credential has passed (or received exemption from) the Cardiovascular Science Examination and passed the Non-Invasive Echo Registry Examination.

Credentialed – used in reference to an individual who has passed certification examinations administered by a national certifying agency such as the ARDMS, ARRT or CCI.

Registered – applies to an individual who has obtained one or more sonography credentials and their name is listed (registered) with the credentialing agency such as the ARDMS, ARRT, or CCI.