

## The TRUTH:

### “Accredited” vs. “Non-accredited”

#### **FAQ's:**

**Is it possible to obtain accreditation before you have graduates from a program? If it is not possible, at what point do the graduates become eligible to sit for the registry?**

ANSWER: Yes, it is possible to obtain accreditation prior to graduating a class. Typically, a program that does this will be asked to send outcomes to the JRC-DMS each year in the form of progress or annual reports. Accreditation is generally recommended for a shorter time period than the usual maximum, pending outcome information for the graduating classes. If the program is accredited anytime during an academic year, even just before the class graduates, the class can sit for the ARDMS exams under the prerequisite that states graduate of an accredited program. Otherwise the class would have to apply under one of the other prerequisites named by the ARDMS.

<http://www.jrcdms.org/faqs.htm>



The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredits programs upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS)

A program's sponsoring institution must be at least ... A post-secondary academic institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a post-secondary program which awards a minimum of a certificate at the completion of the program.

**Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) [abhes.org](http://abhes.org)**

ABHES is the only agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an institutional and specialized accreditor focusing on health care education and training.

## INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATIONS

In order for an institution to apply for accreditation by the Commission and to remain accredited, it must meet the following minimum criteria:

It has been operating and continuously providing instruction as an institution for at least the prior two years

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*American Registry for Diagnostic Sonography (www.ardms.org)*

ARDMS prerequisites for sitting for registry exam are:

#1

Education

A Single two-year allied health education program that is patient-care related.\*

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Required Clinical Ultrasound Experience

12 Months of full time clinical ultrasound experience.

\*A two-year allied health education program that is patient-care related is defined as (1) 24 full-time consecutive calendar months or (2) 60 semester credits or (3) 84 quarter credits and requiring a clinical internship/externship to complete the program.

#2

Education

Hold an Active certification with Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) RCS or RVS.

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Required Clinical Ultrasound Experience

Previously met by achievement of other organization credential

*Cardiovascular Credentialing International ( [www.cci-online.org](http://www.cci-online.org) )*

CCI prerequisites for sitting for registry exam are:

# 1

Education

A graduate of a NON CAAMEAHEP accredited educational program which has a minimum of one year of specialty training and includes a minimum of 800 clinical hours.