



June 1, 2021

NOTICE to Cardiovascular Educators and Students-Required Graduation Date Extended to July 31, 2021

Over the last year, Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) has received several questions regarding disruptions to students' clinical externships and how this might impact a students' ability to meet certification requirements that include 800 clinical externship hours.

Back in April of 2020, CCI evaluated the situation related to COVID-19 and temporarily changed the minimum 800 clinical externship hour requirement to a minimum of 400 clinical externship hours (in the specialty in which the examination is being requested).

CCI has evaluated the situation related to COVID-19 and its impact on candidates for our credentialing examinations and decided to maintain the temporary change to the clinical hours criteria for applicants graduating from Non-Programmatic Accredited programs between the dates of **April 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021**.

This temporary modification to qualification prerequisites affecting students enrolled in non-programmatically accredited cardiovascular technology and cardiac and vascular ultrasound programs will not be extended to students graduating after July 31, 2021.

CCI understands that educational programs are relying on alternative approaches for students to complete their requirements to graduate. CCI supports the efforts of programs to determine the best alternatives for students to complete their requirements for graduation (including academic courses and clinical externship hours) under the current conditions.

As your program determines the specific requirements for graduation, CCI's expectations are that programs continue to provide opportunities for knowledge and skills to be developed, and that programs are confident in the competencies of their graduates to meet CCI's examination eligibility requirements and to enter the workforce.

This change only impacts candidates applying under the following qualification prerequisite pathways:

- Qualification Prerequisite **RCCS5** for the Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer (RCCS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCE5** for the Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist (RCES) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCIS5** for the Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RCS5** for the Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS) exam
- Qualification Prerequisite **RVS5** for the Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS) exam

Clinical verification letters must be submitted per CCI's guidelines, stating the number of clinical hours completed and the time-period during which the clinical hours were completed. For complete CCI guidelines, please download the sample supporting documentation from www.cci-online.org.

This change will only apply to students with program completion dates between April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021.

CCI remains committed to supporting cardiovascular educational programs and their students during the public health threat of COVID-19.