



Educating and Creating Medical Professionals

WCUI Announces **ARRT** Approval!

As of January 21, 2016, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) has recognized WCUI's Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) programs. Graduating from WCUI's Diagnostic Medical Sonography and MRI Associates programs now means immediate eligibility to sit for a certification examination through ARRT if you meet the clinical competency requirements.

ARRT approval FAQs for new and prospective students

What does ARRT approval mean for new MRI students?

MRI students who graduate after January 21, 2016 will be immediately eligible to apply for primary certification and registration in MRI through ARRT. ARRT requires certain clinical competencies which WCUI will facilitate through a student's time in externship. Upon completion of WCUI's programmatic review, eligible students will receive the ARRT MRI examination packet and application.

What does ARRT approval mean for new Diagnostic Medical Sonography students?

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students who graduate after January 21, 2016 will be immediately eligible to apply for primary certification and registration in Sonography through ARRT. ARRT requires certain clinical competencies which WCUI will facilitate through a student's time in externship. Upon completion of WCUI's programmatic review, eligible students will receive the ARRT Sonography examination packet and application.

What does ARRT approval mean for ARDMS?

Once registered with ARRT under the Sonography pathway, an eligible graduate can immediately sit for an American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Registry exam under Prerequisite Pathway 5 (without having to work in the field for one year). WCUI encourages all graduates to sit for both the ARRT and ARDMS Registry examinations in order to fully demonstrate their ultrasound proficiency and improve their marketability.

What does ARRT approval mean for new Cardiovascular Sonography students?

Associates Program: Cardiovascular Sonography graduates at the associates level will not be eligible to immediately apply for primary certification and registration through ARRT. However, they will be eligible to take the SPI exam offered by ARDMS upon completion of the Physics course offered by WCUI. Cardiovascular Sonography graduates at the associates level are also eligible to sit for Registry exams with both ARDMS and Cardiac Credentialing International (CCI) after one year of **full-time** work experience.

Bachelors Program: Cardiovascular Sonography graduates at the bachelors level are eligible to apply for certification and registration through ARDMS immediately upon graduation.

Should MRI students take both the ARRT and ARMRI registry exams?

WCUI strongly encourages all students to research all registry organizations and understand the benefits to certification and registration with that organization. WCUI supports registration with both ARRT and the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRI) so that a graduate can fully demonstrate their MRI proficiency and establish their commitment to the MRI profession.

What should I expect from the ARRT exam?

Both the MRI and Sonography exams are comprehensive and will cover a broad range of information including, but not limited to, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, patient care, and safety. All students must complete WCUI's programmatic review prior to sitting for an ARRT Registry exam. For more information on ARRT's exams, please visit www.arrt.org/examination/format-and-length.

The **ARRT Sonography exam** consists of 400 questions (40 of which are ungraded pilot questions) with a total exam time of 6.5 hours. The exam is broken down into two major categories 1) Sonographic Procedures and 2) Patient Care and Physical Principles of Ultrasound. The exam will include, but is not limited to, abdomen, abdominal vasculature, obstetrics and gynecology, superficial structures, musculoskeletal and interventional ultrasound, and ultrasound instrumentation.

The **ARRT MRI exam** consists of 220 questions (20 of which are ungraded pilot questions) with a total exam time of 3.5 hours. The exam will include, but is not limited to, patient care, sectional anatomy, MRI physics, protocols, contrast, safety, and image optimization.

How should I prepare for the ARRT exam (both Sonography and MRI)?

ARRT publishes a Primary Pathway Magnetic Resonance Imaging Certification and Registration Handbook and a Primary Pathway Sonography Certification and Registration Handbook (available on arrt.org). Students are encouraged to review the applicable Handbook in detail. Additionally, WCUI will be offering programmatic reviews in preparation for the ARRT exams. WCUI does not guarantee that any graduate will pass a Registry exam.

Why should I get registered with ARRT or another Registry?

Certification and registration with a registry organization is not currently required to be an MRI or ultrasound technologist in California or Arizona. However, it is a requirement for many medical imaging organizations, including many hospitals. Potential employers will often ask if you are registered. Certification and registration is also helpful in building your professional resume, demonstrating that you have the skills necessary to be successful in your field, and improving your marketability.

ARRT approval FAQs for continuing students

I am currently in externship, will I be eligible to sit for an ARRT Registry exam?

Diagnostic Medical Sonography and MRI students who graduate after January 21, 2016 will be eligible to take an ARRT Registry exam if they also meet ARRT's clinical competency requirements. For this reason, WCUI encourages all students to record every exam, study, and clinical procedure that you have completed at your externship site.

In this transitional period, WCUI does not guarantee that you will meet all of the clinical competency requirements to sit for the ARRT exam. WCUI will analyze each student's situation on an individual basis. Please speak with the Externship Director at your campus for more information. Please also visit www.arrt.org for more information on ARRT's clinical competency requirements.

What if I start externship next term?

Diagnostic Medical Sonography and MRI students who graduate after January 21, 2016 will be eligible to take an ARRT Registry exam if they also meet ARRT's clinical competency requirements. For this reason, WCUI encourages all students to record every exam, study, and clinical procedure that you have completed at your externship site.

Moving forward, WCUI will be using the Trajecsys online tracking system to monitor all clinical procedures to assist in a graduate's application to ARRT. This will be a transitional period for WCUI as we develop our externship department capabilities in order to track studies and exams to the specificity required by ARRT. WCUI does not guarantee that you will meet all of the clinical competency requirements to sit for the ARRT exam. WCUI will analyze each student's situation on an individual basis. Please speak with the Externship Director at your campus for more information. Please also visit www.arrt.org for more information on ARRT's clinical competency requirements.

ARRT approval FAQs for graduates

I graduated before January 21, 2016, what are my options?

Diagnostic Medical Sonography and MRI students who graduated before January 21, 2016 will be able to re-enroll at WCUI and graduate with an AAS degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography or MRI. This option will allow a graduate of WCUI's Diagnostic Medical Sonography or MRI programs to be eligible for an ARRT Registry exam. Please be sure Career Services has your updated status and contact information. If you are interested, please call 1.866.559.9284 or email admissions@wcu.edu.

Will eligibility requirements stay the same until I am ready to take a Registry exam? Also, where can I get more information about Registry organizations?

Eligibility prerequisites are subject to change without notice because each registry is an independent organization. WCUI encourages all students to become educated on all applicable registries. More information can be found at each registry's website.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

American Registry Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)

arrt.org
ardms.org

Cardiovascular Sonography:

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)
Cardiac Credentialing International (CCI)

ardms.org
cci-online.org

MRI:

American Registry Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT)

arrt.org
armrit.org