



ATI COLLEGE

A Leader in Career Education

<http://www.ati.edu>

Dear Prospective Students,

Here is some information regarding our accreditation ACCSC vs CAAHEP accreditation.

CAAHEP is an accrediting agency, just as other educational accrediting bodies in the United States. ATI College is an institution, accredited by "ACCSC" www.accsc.org formerly known as ACCSCT which stands for The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges; ATI College is not accredited by CAAHEP. Other institutions for example, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES, are accredited by WASC (Western Association of School and Colleges) but they are not accredited with CAAHEP. This means that Schools, Colleges and Institutions can be accredited by different agencies. In addition to our ACCSC accreditation, ATI College is also approved by "BPPE" www.bppe.ca.gov (Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education), VA Approved, SEVIS Approved and eligible training provider for California Employment Development Department.

What are the advantages of going to a CAAHEP accredited schools (especially if I want to become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer/Ultrasound Technician or Echocardiographer)?

When you go to a CAAHEP accredited school and complete their program, you are immediately eligible to take the ARDMS specialty credentialing tests without a Bachelor's Degree. CAAHEP-accredited schools are usually lower in tuition and costs.

What are the disadvantages of going to a CAAHEP accredited school*?

- There are only 9 schools in the entire state of California currently accredited by CAAHEP in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and they are:
 1. Charles R Drew University - Los Angeles CA
 2. Cypress College - Cypress, CA
 3. Foothill College – Los Altos Hills, CA
 4. Kaiser Permanente School of Allied Health Sciences – Richmond, CA
 5. Merced College – Merced, CA
 6. Orange Coast College – Costa Mesa, CA
 7. University of California San Diego Medical Center – San Diego, CA
 8. Loma Linda University
 9. Santa Barbara Community College

*There are many other schools that are accredited with CAAHEP program accreditations only; this accreditation is specific for certain programs. For example, a school's Surgical Technology program may be CAAHEP accredited but not their Ultrasound program nor the school as a whole.

- Usually, these CAAHEP accredited schools start a class only once a year and there is typically an extensive waiting list.
- Students must take required foundation courses such as Writing/Communication, Elementary Algebra, and Computer literacy before getting into actual ultrasound classes.

Will I be able to sit down for the ARDMS test if I went to a non-CAAHEP school?

Yes, some can sit for the ARDMS tests even if they went to a non-CAAHEP school, depending on what ARDMS Pre-requisite category they fall into. Registration with ARDMS requires passing a general physical principles and instrumentation examination (SPI) (upon completion of Physics module at ATI College will be eligible sit for the SPI exam immediately with or without a Bachelor's Degree) in addition to passing an exam in a specialty such as Obstetric and Gynecologic sonography, abdominal sonography, or Vascular Technologist.



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Example: If the student has a Bachelor's Degree (in any major or discipline) within the US or Canada, she/he falls into pre-requisite 3A. In this category, the student will be able to take the ARDMS credential specialty tests immediately after passing and completing the Ultrasound program and along with other additional requirements listed in the ARDMS website. Please [Click Here](#) to find out your eligibility.

Student who finishes their Bachelor's Degree from foreign countries must have their transcript evaluated by an ARDMS recommended evaluating agency. There is only one in CA in Culver City.

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If the student does not have a Bachelor's Degree but finishes a Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, then she/he needs a minimum of 1680 PAID hours of clinical ultrasound / vascular experience earned outside the program, along with other documentation required in the ARDMS website before she/he can take the ARDMS credential test. Please [Click Here](#) to find out your eligibility.

Please visit this link to view all the other pre-requisites from the ARDMS official website:

<http://www.ardms.org/Prerequisite.asp>

Although the ARDMS website recommends CAAHEP accredited schools, some students from non-CAHEEP schools can also sit for the tests as long as they are eligible and all the pre-requisites are met. If you want to get information directly from ARDMS, they can be reached by telephone at (301)738 - 8401 or (800) 541-9754.

It is our hope that this information enlightens you as you consider Ultrasound or Echocardiography Programs. I also wish you the best in any endeavors you choose to take: be it here or another school, healthcare field or not. Should you have any more questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Andy Hsu

Director of Admissions