



**RMSK**

# Certification / How to Apply Guide

Registered in Musculoskeletal® (RMSK®) sonography

## MSK EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Visit [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK) to apply.

• **Application Dates:**  
Examination Administration Dates:

**January 21, 2025 - April 1, 2025**  
April 15, 2025 - May 15, 2025

• **Application Dates:**  
Examination Administration Dates:

**July 29, 2025 - October 7, 2025**  
Oct. 21, 2025 - Nov. 20, 2025



**APCA™**

Alliance for Physician  
Certification & Advancement

APCA.org  
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@APCA\_Council

# About this Guide

This guide walks you through the application process for taking the Musculoskeletal (MSK) sonography examination in order to earn the Registered in Musculoskeletal® (MSK®) sonography certification. The MSK examination is administered and the RMSK certification is awarded by APCA™, the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™.

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APCA, created to exclusively meet the needs of the physician community, is part of the nonprofit Inteleos™ family of councils spun out of the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®). The Inteleos Foundation oversees the philanthropic work for the organization.

Supporting over 18, 000 professionals worldwide, APCA is dedicated to helping physicians and advanced care providers secure certification in various types of medical imaging (and other specialties, offering outstanding customer care, and guiding simple maintenance of existing certifications.

Advanced care professionals can earn the RMSK certification. As APCA continues to research and evaluate the growing field of MSK imaging, there may be a need for future specialized examinations for advanced-care providers.

To keep advancing the use of diagnostic medical imaging for superior patient care, APCA also offers physicians and advanced care providers numerous volunteering opportunities. For information on how to volunteer, visit [APCA.org/Volunteer](https://www.apca.org/Volunteer).

For more information on APCA's other certifications including RPVI, CBCCT, CBCMR, CBNC, ABVM Vascular Medicine Examination, ABVM Endovascular Medicine Examination, as well as our international programs, please visit [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org).

For more information on the Point-of-Care Ultrasound Certification Academy™, please visit [POCUS.org](https://www.pocus.org).

For comprehensive application information on sonographer-level certifications including the RDMS, RDCS, RMSKS, and RVT offered by the ARDMS, APCA's companion council, visit [ARDMS.org](https://www.ardms.org).



Learn why RMSK certification is right for you

## About the RMSK® Certification

The Registered in Musculoskeletal (RMSK) sonography certification sets the standard of musculoskeletal sonography practice worldwide and promotes best practices for enhanced patient care. By earning the RMSK sonography certification, physicians and other advanced care providers gain a critical edge in promoting themselves as preeminent practitioners in musculoskeletal sonography. The RMSK certification program is accredited by ANSI to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17024 Standard.

### Earning the RMSK Certification

The RMSK certification is earned by passing the Musculoskeletal (MSK) sonography examination. The MSK sonography examination is offered during select times of the year at Pearson VUE test centers worldwide.\* Visit [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK) for a complete list of examination administration dates and when the online applications are accepted for each examination period. Also, sign up to receive reminder e-mails for application periods and examination administration dates. For general information about the RMSK certification, please visit [APCA.org/RMSK](https://www.apca.org/RMSK).

### Question Format & Duration

The MSK examination is four hours long and contains ~200 multiple-choice questions. The MSK examination features Advanced Item Types (AIT) questions, which assess and measure your practical musculoskeletal sonography skills. AITs include hotspot items in which you receive questions about individual images. Please visit [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK) to learn more.

\*Please visit [APCA.org/Schedule](https://www.apca.org/Schedule) for a current list of test center locations.

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## Specialty Examination = Certification Earned

MSK (Musculoskeletal) sonography

RMSK (Registered in Musculoskeletal®) sonography

# Applying Online is Fast, Easy and Secure

Get started at [APCA.org/Apply](https://www.apca.org/Apply)

The MSK Examination opens on January 23 – Read below and get ready to apply!

## Application Dates NOTE: Application window closes at midnight EST.

- January 21, 2025 - April 1, 2025\* >>
- July 29, 2025 - October 7, 2025\* >>

## Examination Administration Dates

- April 15, 2025 - May 15, 2025
- October 21, 2025 - November 20, 2025

### 1. Check the MSK examination administration & application dates.

See the chart above for application and examination administration dates.

### 2. Before beginning the online application, please...

Review the MSK examination prerequisite (in this guide or at [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK)) to ensure you meet the requirements.

### 3. Visit [APCA.org/Apply](https://www.apca.org/Apply). Fill out, pay for and submit your application forms.

Upload the required documents through your MY APCA account. Applicants may check the status of their submitted supporting documentation by logging on to [APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA) and navigating to the “View Checklist” green button on the homepage.

### 4. APCA emails eligible applicants an Examination Confirmation Letter (ECL) upon receipt of the application and all required supporting documentation.

ECLs may also be found by logging on to [APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA). The letter lists the approved examination(s) and the eligibility period in which to schedule and take your examination(s).

A website address and toll-free number are provided so the candidate can schedule an appointment. Test centers are located in the U.S., Canada and select international locations.\*

If you are ineligible, you are notified via email of your ineligibility and reasons for that decision. APCA retains a \$100 USD processing fee for each examination.

### 5. Prepare for the examination.

Review the MSK content outline and register to take the practice examination at [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK).

### 6. On examination day:

The MSK examination is administered on a computer in a secure Pearson VUE test center.

### 7. After the examination:

Results and a full score report will be available approximately 60 days after the close of the examination administration. At that time, an email will be sent to you with instructions on how to access your score report in MY APCA ([APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA)) when the score becomes available. The award date of your RMSK certification will be the date the score is officially released.

Within six weeks after the RMSK certification has been awarded, the Certificant will receive a certificate and information related to maintenance of certification. \*\*

Certificants are listed in the Directory of Certificants at [APCA.org/Directory](https://www.apca.org/Directory).

\*Please visit [APCA.org/Schedule](https://www.apca.org/Schedule) for a current list of test center locations.

\*\*Certification is awarded only to those who have passed the MSK examination.



# RMSK Prerequisite Information



APCA offers one prerequisite under which to apply for the MSK examination. All applicants, including existing APCA Certificants, must meet all requirements of the MSK prerequisite in order to apply.

Eligibility will not be determined by telephone, fax, or email. Applicants must apply online

and submit all fees and required supporting documentation before eligibility is determined.

Visit [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK) for a complete list of examination administration dates and the dates during which the online applications are accepted for each examination period.

Please note: Prerequisites apply to first-time applicants only. For more information, please visit [APCA.org/MSK](https://www.apca.org/MSK).



## Musculoskeletal (MSK) sonography Prerequisite

Note: All listed items must be met and completed prior to submission.

Licensure	Required Clinical Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Experience**	Documentation Required with Application	CMEs
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)* Nurse Practitioner (NP)* Physician Assistant (PA)* Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)* Physiotherapist \ Physical Therapist (PT)*	Performed and/or authorized diagnosis of a minimum of 150 musculoskeletal ultrasound studies within the preceding 36 months of application. No more than 5% (8 cases) of the 150 case log requirement can be labeled as therapeutic (injection or aspiration).	Medical License  Attestation Letter  » Patient Log (only submit if audited/requested)	Although CMEs are not required to apply for the MSK examination, APCA highly recommends and encourages applicants to earn a minimum of 30 MSK CMEs.

### Documentation Required with Application

- Medical License:** Copy of a valid medical license in good standing without any conditions or restrictions to practice as an MD, DO, DPM, MBBS, DC, NP, PA, DPT or PT.
- Attestation Letter:** Completed third-party attestation form indicating the performance and/or authorized diagnosis of a minimum of 150 musculoskeletal ultrasound studies within the preceding 36 months of application. To download the form, go to [APCA.org/MSKAttestation](https://www.apca.org/MSKAttestation).
- Patient Log:** This log does not need to be submitted with the application but may be requested as part of a random audit. Applicants must maintain a patient log indicating the performance and/or authorized diagnosis of a minimum of 150 musculoskeletal ultrasound studies within the preceding 36 months of application. No more than 5% (8 cases) of the 150 case log requirement can be labeled as therapeutic (injection or aspiration).

\* Advanced-care professionals can earn and retain the RMSK certification. As APCA continues to research and evaluate the growing field of MSK imaging, there may be a need for future specialized exams for advanced-care professionals.

\*\* For purposes of satisfying this requirement, these studies must be completed on actual patients in a clinical diagnostic setting. Simulation is not acceptable for this attestation. Clinical diagnostic settings include hospitals, clinics, and private practices. APCA does not accept volunteer, instructorship, unpaid, barter, or veterinarian experience.

### Additional Notes

1- The name on all supporting documentation must be consistent and must match the name under which you apply. If it does not, you will need to submit legal documentation of the name change (e.g., a marriage/divorce certificate) and all other supporting documentation.

2- Prerequisite requirements are subject to change at any time. Applicants must meet current prerequisite requirements in effect at the time of application. APCA, in its discretion, may request from you or others information concerning matters that may be relevant to eligibility for certification and certification status. Documentation received in a language other than English must include a notarized translation in English. All documents, communications, and other information received by APCA become the property of APCA and will not be returned.

3- Please be advised that your initial approved application may be subject to a post-approval audit, which may require us to request additional documentation or clarification to ensure the integrity of our certification standards. If then found ineligible during this final review, your application may be canceled with a partial refund offered, and any scheduled exam appointments would then be automatically canceled.



Find more information at [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org)

## Fees and Online Resources

Online application payment is fast and secure! Log on to [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org)/[MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org) today to find all the necessary information for submitting documentation and payments.

### Examination Fees

Musculoskeletal (MSK) sonography  
**\$660\***  
(MD/DO/MBBS/DPM)  
Advanced Care Providers can also apply\*\*  
(DC, NP, PA, DPT, PT)

\* This includes a \$100 USD non-refundable processing fee.

\*\* Advanced-care professionals can earn the RMSK certification. As APCA continues to research and evaluate the growing field of MSK imaging, there may be a need for future specialized examinations for advanced-care professionals.

Individuals who are taking APCA examinations at international test centers outside the U.S., Canada, and Mexico will be assessed a **\$50** USD fee.

For comprehensive application information on sonographer-level certification examinations including the RDMS, RDCS, RMSKS and RVT offered by ARDMS, APCA's companion council, visit [ARDMS.org](https://www.ardms.org).

### Additional Resources

Visit and bookmark [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org) to find the following:

- Examination and Application Dates
- Apply for an Examination
- Prepare for an Examination
- Schedule an Examination
- Content Outlines
- Application Resources
- Rules and Policies
- MSK Prerequisite Chart
- Compliance and Legal Information
- Practice Test

### Contact APCA

Toll Free: 800-943-1709  
Local: 240-386-1738  
Fax: 301-424-2095

### [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org)

Information in this "How to Apply Guide" supersedes the information in any prior edition. Earlier versions of this publication may contain outdated information.

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Prepare for your test day

## Test Center Admission and Identification

When you arrive at the test center, be prepared to:

- Check in with a test center administrator**
- Have your palm scanned**
- Present a valid photo ID**
- Take a test-day photograph**

### Special Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), APCA will provide reasonable testing accommodations for candidates with professionally diagnosed disabilities as defined by the ADA.

Visit [APCA.org/ADA](https://www.apca.org/ADA).

### APCA Compliance Policies and Required Review

During the online application process, applicants are required to attest to their compliance with all APCA Compliance Policies. Applicants who have legal or disciplinary actions in their past must be prepared to disclose the matters to APCA at the time of application and submit the required initial review fee of **\$150 USD**. Please review the APCA Compliance Policies ([APCA.org/Compliance](https://www.apca.org/Compliance)) to learn how the policies apply to you.

### Compliance Pre-Application Review

APCA conducts a “pre-application review,” for a **\$125 USD** non-refundable fee, for individuals who wish to determine the impact of a previous violation of APCA Discipline Policies ([APCA.org/Discipline](https://www.apca.org/Discipline)) on their eligibility to apply for APCA certification. You may obtain additional information regarding the pre-application process along with the appropriate forms by visiting [APCA.org/Compliance](https://www.apca.org/Compliance).