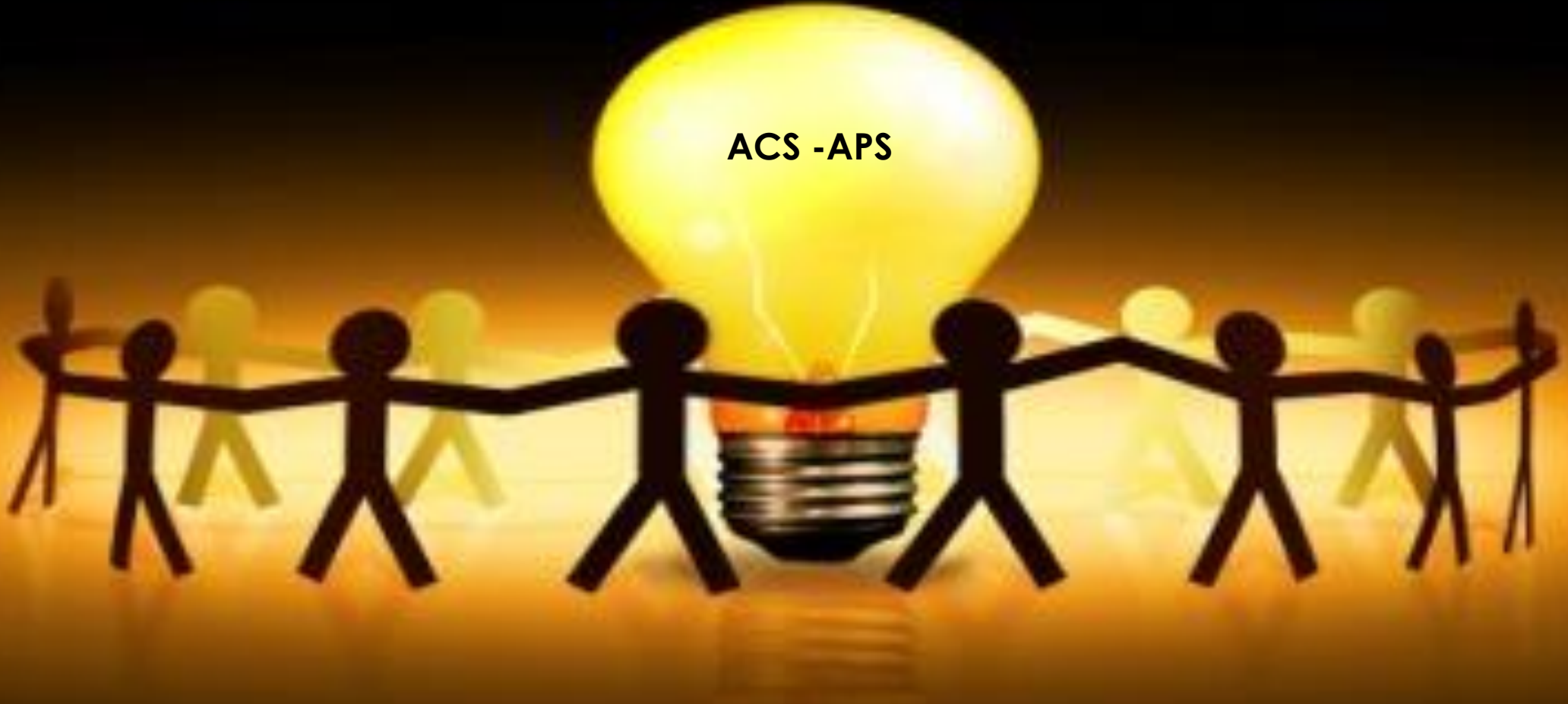




ADVANCED PRACTICE SONOGRAPHY

Joy Guthrie, PhD, ACS, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, FSDMS, FASE

ACS -APS





**Sonographer Demand
Professional Society Support
Physician Buy-in
Employer Support
Credentialing Organization engagement
Accrediting Body Support**

SONOGRAPHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Advanced Cardiovascular Sonographer: A Proposal of the American Society of Echocardiography Advanced Practice Sonographer Task Force

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Echocardiographic examinations require a well-trained and competent sonographer to obtain proper anatomic and physiologic data to establish an accurate diagnosis for clinical decision-making and patient management. Although the formal education and training of cardiovascular sonographers are evolving, many entry-level and staff sonographers may not have sufficient practical or clinical knowledge of the necessary components of the echocardiographic study for the individual patient's clinical presentation. In many settings, echocardiograms are read after the patient has left the laboratory. Thus, there is a role for a sonographer who can practice at an advanced level in a cardiovascular ultrasound laboratory to ensure a proper echocardiographic examination is performed on every patient. In this setting, an Advanced Cardiovascular Sonographer (ACS) would be able to review the indication for and quality of the examination. If additional images were needed, the ACS would assist the sonographer in obtaining these images, which would lead to the performance of a complete and fully diagnostic examination before the patient had left the echocardiography laboratory. In clinical practice, the quality of the examinations performed would improve, advancements in echocardiographic methods could be taught and incorporated into daily practice, and patients would be better served. The present report is a proposal from the American Society of Echocardiography Advanced Practice Task Force that identifies the potential of cardiac sonographers to achieve the ACS level. (J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2009;22:1409-13.)

Keywords: Advanced Cardiovascular Sonographer, Sonographer Education, Advanced Practice

many cardiovascular ultrasound laboratories, there are sonographers who provide guidance and management of departmental activities, whereas



Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Standards and Guidelines
for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in
Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography

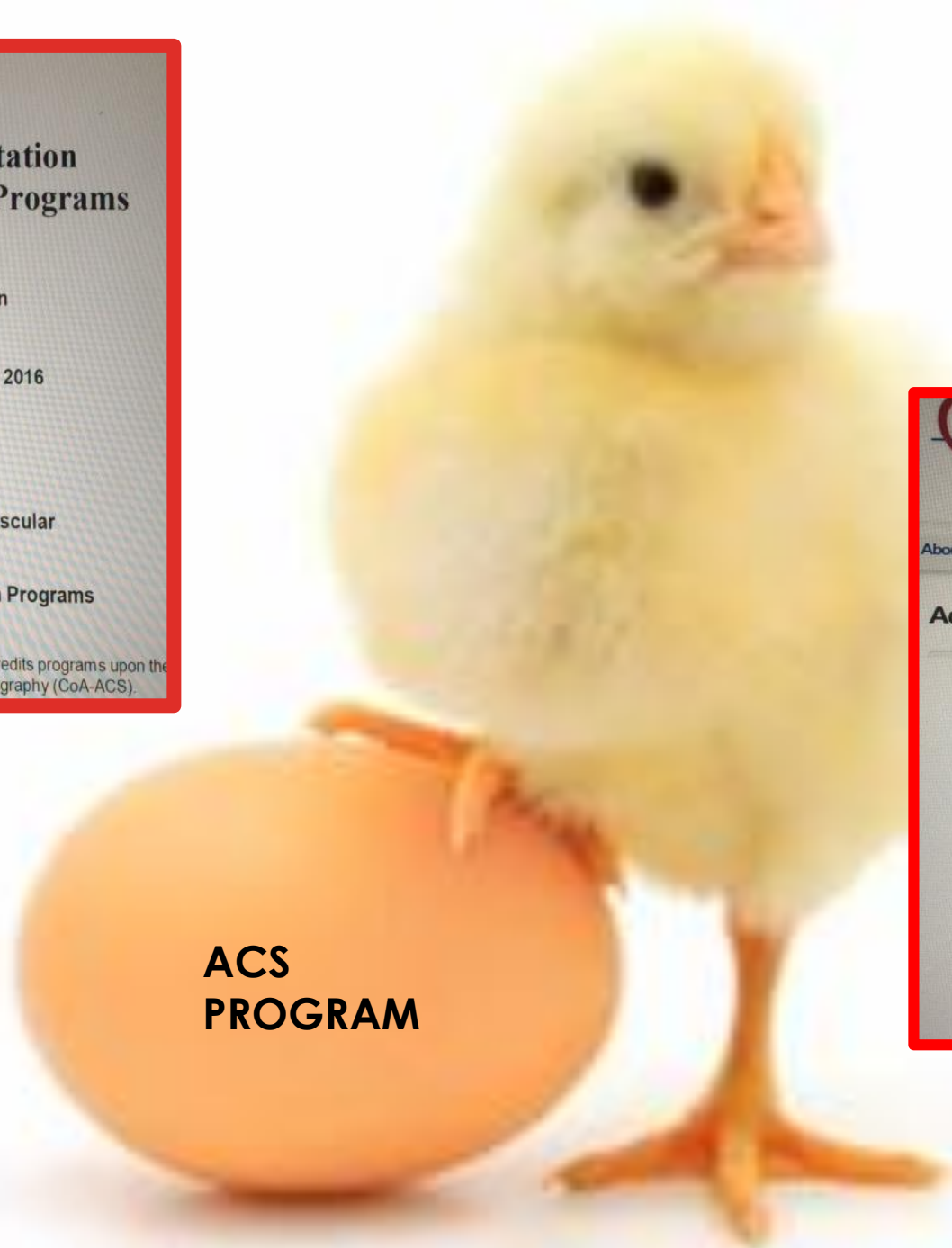
Standards initially adopted in 2012; revised in 2016

Adopted by the


American Society of Echocardiography
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Committee on Accreditation for Advanced Cardiovascular
Sonography
and

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredits programs upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography (CoA-ACS).



ACS PROGRAM



CCI Alerts Online Self Assessment Exams Now Available

About CCI Applicants Registrants For Educators Renew Credential Credential Verification

Advanced Cardiac Sonographer (ACS) Credentialing Program

The Advanced Cardiac Sonographer (ACS) credentialing program was developed in response to a need to expand a career track for sonographers who practice at an advanced level in the echocardiography laboratory. The ACS is committed to improving lab quality and efficiency through preparing preliminary echo assessments; performing advanced echocardiograms; mentoring fellows, students, residents, and staff; developing and implementing educational plans; facilitating continuous quality improvement; and coordinating cardiac ultrasound research.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography profession and view the white paper and standards for The Committee on Accreditation for Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography (COA-ACS).

CCI is now accepting applications for the ACS. [Click here](#) to download the ACS Examination Application and Overview. For general information about CCI and details about the examination application process, please review the CCI General Overview Booklet. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the CCI General Overview Booklet.

ACS PROGRAM DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

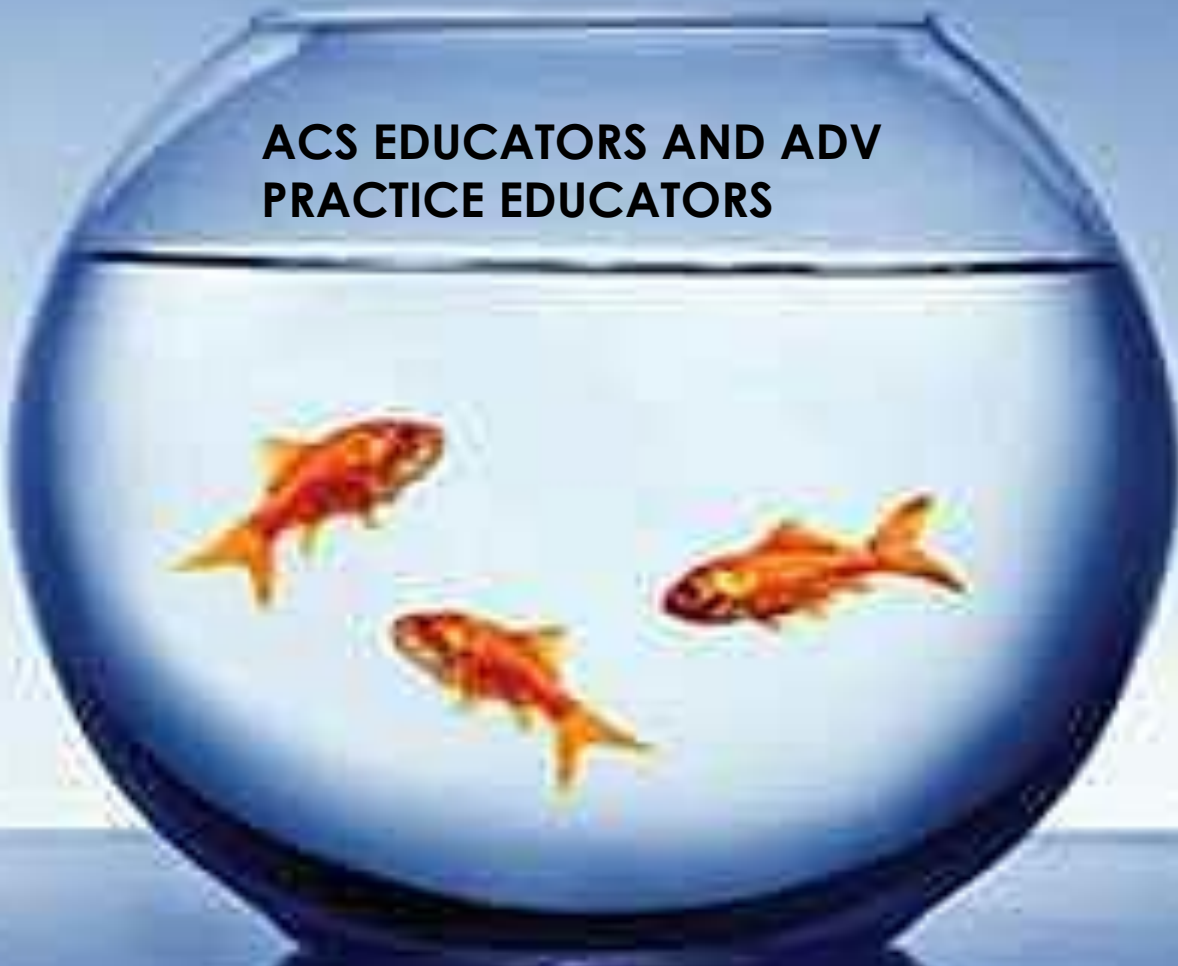
- Masters Degree
- Proficiency in curriculum development
- The equivalent of five years full time clinical experience as a full time credentialed cardiac sonographer

ACS INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

- 1) a licensed physician (MD or DO) with board certification in the subject matter of his/her assigned subject(s), or
- 2) an individual with an earned doctorate degree in the subject matter of his/her teaching responsibilities, or
- 3) an individual who has graduated from a CAAHEP accredited ACS program, or
- 4) an individual with an advanced sonographer credential with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.



**DMS AND CVT
EDUCATORS**



**ACS EDUCATORS AND ADV
PRACTICE EDUCATORS**



**CREDENTIALING EXAM
CAAHEP
ACCREDITATION**

**ADV PRACTICE EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS
APS JOB DESCRIPTIONS**



Thank you! Let's continue the conversation.....