

Radiology Assistant (RA) Examination and Testing Program Policy and Procedures

RATIONALE:

The CBRPA possesses the expertise and experience to test at the RA and the RPA level. A need to offer an examination at the RA level has become evident due to developing legislation and absence of availability of a credentialing examination for the RA.

The CBRPA has separate application and qualification for applicants for the RA and the RPA certification examinations. The RA is not eligible to sit for the RPA exam, unless they have completed additional classes at a CBRPA recognized RPA program. This requirement maintains the separation, both in testing and education, between these two advanced practice levels, i.e. RPA and RA.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. The applicant must be a graduate of a RA program housed in a regionally accredited institution and recognized by a mechanism acceptable to the CBRPA. (See Program Approval Policy)
2. The applicant must be an ARRT registered radiographer with an active standing. In addition to being a radiographer, the candidate must have a minimum of three years of practical work experience as an RT. Students currently enrolled in a CBRPA recognized RA program will be required to meet the experience part of this rule, but must test prior to December 31, 2008.
3. Individuals who are not radiographers and are registered only in sonography, nuclear medicine or any other health profession do not qualify for the RA or RPA examination.
4. The applicant must submit an official transcript that includes the grades for all courses, the degree granted and the graduation date from the RA program.
5. The applicant must submit the official transcript that includes the grades for all courses, the degree granted and the graduation date from the RA program.

6. Competency checklists signed by the RA Program official and supervising radiologist must be submitted.
7. The applicant must submit a non-refundable fee with their application. The CBRPA Board of Directors shall determine the fee amount.
8. Those credentialed as a RA (CBRPA) will be eligible to apply to take RPA exam once they have completed additional courses in a recognized CBRPA RPA program.

Program Approval Policy:

1. The CBRPA will accept any RA candidate for testing who has completed all degree requirements provided the institution they graduate from is approved by one of the agencies that the US Department of Education approves for accrediting Colleges and Universities.
2. The CBRPA will accept those students for testing if the ARRT has recognized the college or university they have graduated from, provided the college or university grants the RA degree at the baccalaureate degree level or higher.
3. Any college or university listed on the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Censured List will undergo further review of their circumstances prior to the program being recognized by the CBRPA. Graduates of that program may be allowed to test for the RA if this program review warrants it.
4. The RA Program Director and supervising radiologist must document and verify the mandatory clinical competencies.
5. Pass/fail rates on the RA certification examination will be monitored and will be considered when granting provisional recognition status for RA programs.
6. A separate provisional recognition policy and process for RA programs will be maintained by the CBRPA.