Regulations

Certificate in Allied Health Performed Ultrasound (CAHPU)

Approved by ASUM Board of Directors 29 Jun 2025

Latest amendment 01 July 2025

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) is the premier multidisciplinary not for profit society advancing the clinical practice of diagnostic medical ultrasound for the highest standards of patient care. The Certificate in Allied Health Performed Ultrasound (CAHPU) is offered by ASUM as a credential for Allied Health Practitioners who are not imaging specialists but who use ultrasound as an imaging tool at the point of care. The ASUM Board of Directors will award a CAHPU to those candidates who have met the passing standard of all components of the program and have been endorsed by the ASUM CCPU/CAHPU Committee.

2.0 SCOPE

These regulations pertain to all candidates enrolled in the CAHPU as well as all associated supervisors and assessors. It is the responsibility of each candidate and supervisor to ensure they read and understand the CAHPU regulations and all other associated ASUM policies, e.g. The ASUM Code of Conduct and Consent and the Academic Misconduct / Plagiarism Policy. Any requests outside of these regulations will require CCPU/CAHPU Committee approval.

3.0 PURPOSE

The regulations provide all candidates with the framework of training and assessment for allied health practitioners using point of care ultrasound, to ensure that the minimum ASUM standard is achieved by all candidates, to improve patient outcomes.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for enrolment into the CAHPU must:

4.1 Be allied health practitioners who are practising and registered with their national medical registration authority, for e.g. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), The Nursing Council of New Zealand, The Midwifery Council of New Zealand, and The Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand.

4.2 Be practicing ultrasound in the relevant field of study.

Please note: *Some units require additional specific prerequisites as described in the unit.*

5.0 ADMISSION

To apply for enrolment into the CAHPU candidates must complete the on-line application and pay the prescribed fee on the ASUM Learn Education Portal.

Additional documentation is required to be included with your application:

5.1 Proof of identity (certified copy) e.g. passport, drivers' licence, or photo ID

5.2 Proof of registration in Australia and New Zealand i.e. AHPRA certificate or MCNZ Practising certificate

5.3 Primary Supervisor Declaration form

All applications should be submitted on the ASUM Learn education portal.

Only completed applications will be considered and ASUM reserves the right to refuse or return incomplete applications.

Prospective candidates must identify any already completed components of the CAHPU, specifically the accredited course, logbooks, or assessments, at the time of admission, through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy (Section 15.0).

CAHPU enrolment is valid for three (3) years from the date of enrolment.

6.0 SUPERVISION

A primary clinical supervisor for training, is mandatory for completion of the CAHPU. Every scan must be performed under the supervision of the candidates nominated primary supervisor. It is expected that all candidates will have direct supervision in the first instance until the candidate reaches a safe proficiency level to perform and interpret the scan by means of indirect supervision.

A primary supervisor can be nominated if they fulfil one of the following criteria:

6.1 A current accredited medical sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB)

6.2 A current CAHPU holder in the unit of study

6.3 A current CCPU holder in the unit of study

6.4 A current DDU holder in the relevant field of study

6.5 A Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (FRANZCR)

*All nominees for primary clinical supervisor must hold current registration with AHPRA or other relevant registration body.

The primary supervisor must sign off the logbook and formative and summative assessments.

A nominated primary clinical supervisor must complete the clinical supervisor form for the candidate to submit with the enrolment application. ASUM must be notified of any changes to the nominated primary clinical supervisor due to workplace changes or unit selection.

Please note: Supervisors are reminded to consider patient safety as a primary principle when determining the appropriate level of direct/indirect supervision. Supervisors are reminded of their responsibilities under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law) that requires practitioners, employers and education providers to report 'notifiable conduct', as defined in section 140 of the National Law, to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), in order to prevent the public being placed at risk of harm.

7.0 ASSESSMENTS

The intention of the CAHPU is to ensure a minimum standard is achieved by each candidate to safely undertake the practice and diagnostic application of point of care ultrasound for improved patient outcomes. ASUM has incorporated a variety of assessment tools in the CAHPU to validate this standard.

7.1 Unit Quiz

Some units require meeting the passing standard of the unit quiz. This assessment measures theoretical knowledge to the minimum standard expected.

The Applied Physics in Ultrasound unit online course and associated quiz is a prerequisite for all other units and no RPL will be granted for this unit.

7.2 Two (2) Formative Assessments

The workplace-based assessments are to be completed in the clinical setting and not as part of an accredited course. They must be completed by an ASUM approved primary supervisor with the intention to provide feedback and guidance to drive self-directed learning. These tools support self-reflection and in conjunction with the supervisor, monitor performance. The intent of the formative assessment is that one would be completed at the start of your clinical practice, one later in your clinical practice and with adequate time to prepare to sit the summative assessment. Formative assessments must not be counted towards your logbook numbers.

Please note: Formative assessments will not be accepted if they are completed within one week of each other or on the same day as the summative assessment.

7.3 Summative Assessment

This workplace-based assessment is to be completed in the clinical setting and not as part of an accredited course. It must be completed by an ASUM approved primary supervisor. The intent of this assessment is to measure the level of competency of the candidate against

the ASUM minimum standard and should be completed after you have achieved your logbook numbers. It does not count towards your logbook.

Please note: Summative assessment will not be accepted if dated the same day as the formative assessments.

7.4   Logbook

The logbook is a record of practice and an instrument to demonstrate progression of applied learning, encompassing practical skill and diagnostic capability. Each logged scan must include the following information:

- Date of scan, indication, positive, candidate's interpretation, comparison with gold standard (further imaging, clinical unit, supervisor observation, etc.), supervisors name, comments and decision on whether the scan is adequate and correctly interpreted). An example of suitable logbooks can be found on the ASUM website.

- Logbooks for the specialist units must be completed within two (2) years of attending an ASUM accredited training provider course. Note, each scan must also have been performed within this time frame (i.e. scans older than this will not be accepted).

- Logbooks can be completed before or after attending an accredited course. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to determine when the candidate is ready to commence the logbook.

ASUM reserves the right to audit logbook, formative and summative assessments to ensure the intent of the CAHPU is upheld. Additional assessments may be applied under the direction of the CAHPU/CAHPU Committee should there be concerns regarding a candidate's competency.

8.0 ASSESSORS

8.1 Logbook assessors and assessors of summative and formative assessments should be an accredited Medical Sonographer or possess a current CAHPU or CCPU in the relevant unit or a current DDU or a FRANZCR.

8.2 Assessors must be practicing in the relevant area and hold current registration with the relevant accreditation body as outlined in section 2.

9.0 CAHPU COMPLETION

The CAHPU certificate will be awarded to an allied health practitioner who has completed and provided evidence of the following requirements:

9.1 Completion of the Applied Physics in Ultrasound unit and evidence of competency by meeting the passing standard in the online multiple-choice question (MCQ) assessment.

9.2 Completion of an ASUM Accredited training course approved for the CAHPU unit of study. Only ASUM accredited courses are accepted, and a list can be found on the ASUM CAHPU website. Accredited training course can be completed at any time during the 3 years of enrolment.

9.3 Completion of two (2) formative assessments as per the unit of study syllabus.

9.4 Show competency by meeting the passing standard in the one (1) summative assessment as per the unit syllabus.

9.5 Completion of the ASUM approved logbook as outlined in the unit syllabus within two (2) years post attendance of the ASUM accredited training course relevant to the unit of study.

9.6 Logbook scans must not include any scans undertaken whilst attending the training course and any scans recorded outside the two-year time limit will not be accepted. Only the ASUM approved logbook format (available on the website) will be accepted and all cases must be clinically indicated.

9.7 All completed components should be submitted on the ASUM Learn Education Portal.

9.8 The CAHPU Certificate will list the specialist units completed and date of expiry.

10.0 WITHDRAWAL

10.1 Candidates may withdraw from the CAHPU by writing to education@asum.com.au. The date of withdrawal is the date on which the written notice is received at the ASUM office.

10.2 When a candidate withdraws from the CAHPU within the first six (6) months, ASUM will refund 50% of the enrolment fee. When a candidate withdraws from the CAHPU after six (6) months, no refund will be provided.

10.3 No refunds will be given if units have been completed.

11.0 TERMINATION OF CANDIDACY

The CCPU/CAHPU Board may terminate the candidacy of any candidate who:

11.1 Ceases to meet any of the requirements of admission to the CAHPU.

11.2 Failure to submit required documents, fees, or assessments within the given timeframe.

13.3 If a candidate chooses to withdraw from the process.

12.0 APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

The CCPU/CAHPU Board may determine recognition for prior learning following an evaluation of evidence submitted by the applicant. Please see the RPL policy for further details.

13.0 RECERTIFICATION

In order to support ongoing education to improve patient care, CAHPU holders are required to recertify at five-yearly intervals after the initial certification date recorded on the issued CAHPU certificate. Recertification will require presentation of the requisite evidence demonstrating that the candidate has met practice requirements and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

To achieve recertification the candidate must:

13.1 Continue to fulfil the conditions for Eligibility and Admission to the CAHPU.

13.2 Complete at least 50% of the original logbook requirements per unit per annum as specified in the relevant unit syllabus. All scans must be clinically indicated, and the logbook must be submitted to ASUM with your recertification application. (Some specific requirements for breast and neonatal units are defined in the individual syllabus.)

13.3 Record at least five (5) points of relevant CPD per year for each specialist unit. The maximum number of CPD points required per year for each candidate is a total of fifteen (15) points.

13.4 Recertification will only be given for those specialised units where recertification requirements have been met.

13.5 A CAHPU holder who fails to meet the recertification requirements will be removed from the ASUM CAHPU certified list and will be required to forgo the use of the post nominals.

13.6 The recertification grace period is 3 years after the original recertification due date.

14.0 RETURN TO CAHPU PRACTICE

A CAHPU holder will cease to be current if they:

14.1 Cease to be a clinical affiliate of the ASUM; or

14.2 Fail to meet the requirements for recertification.

In the case of an expired CAHPU, the applicant will need to complete the return to practice form and provide evidence of current practice as outlined in the section 13.0 Recertification above. The CAHPU Committee will review all applications at their next meeting and will determine an outcome.

APPENDIX 1 – DEFINITIONS

Accredited course - theoretical knowledge and practical skills delivery that has been awarded accreditation by ASUM.

Accredited training provider - agency, ranging from single entity to corporate organisation who has met the accreditation criteria set down by ASUM and been awarded approval to deliver the course per specified unit.

ASUM Council - Board of Directors of ASUM, a publicly listed company by guarantee.

ASUM CCPU/CAHPU Committee - ASUM Council subcommittee awarded delegation to oversee development, implementation and decisions pertaining to the CCPU and CAHPU programs.

Clinically indicated - the symptoms or condition that substantiates the necessity for further investigation by an ultrasound scan.

Current CCPU holder - a financial member who has completed all the DDU requirements in the first instance and complies with the relevant recertification process.

Current CAHPU holder – a financial member who has completed all the CAHPU requirements in the first instance and complies with recertification as outlined in section 13.

Current DDU holder - a financial member who has completed all the DDU requirements in the first instance and complies with the relevant recertification process.

Current Accredited Medical Sonographer (AMS) - A current accredited medical sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB)

CCPU – Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound

DDU - Diploma of Diagnostic Ultrasound.

FRANZCR - Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology.

Significant - substantial in terms of documented work or clinical experience to be of note.

Assessor - a current Accredited Medical Sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB), medical practitioner who holds a current CAHPU in the relevant unit or DDU holder registered with AHPRA or MCNZ in the relevant field of study or a FRANZCR, who determines competency of the candidate in the formative, summative and logbook assessments.

Unit - module of study as outlined in the CAHPU program.

Workplace based instruments – a tool that assesses the skills and practice of a candidate on the job to determine clinical competency.

APPENDIX 2 – RECERTIFICATION LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS

Specialty	CAHPU Recertification Logbook Requirements *Total scans to be completed in the **24 months prior** to the recertification deadline.*
Advanced Early Pregnancy	• 25 1st trimester scans
Basic Early Pregnancy	• 13 scans with: • At least 5 cases of intrauterine pregnancy • At least 3 cases of viable intrauterine pregnancy (demonstrated by a fetal heartbeat) • At least 1 abnormal case (e.g. Pelvic free fluid, intra uterine death, ectopic, etc)
Basic Monitoring the Fetus	• 13 scans comprised of 2nd and/or 3rd trimester scans.
Basic Soft Tissue for Emergency Department	• 3 joint scans with at least 1 effusion • 3 tendons • 3 Muscle scans with at least 2 haematomas/tears • 3 soft tissue infections with 1 collection • At least 1 foreign body
EFAST	• 13 scans
Follicle Tracking	• 25 follicle scans
Lung and Diaphragm Ultrasound for Physiotherapy	• 20 scans with at least 7 positive (demonstrating pathology)
Soft Tissue Ultrasound for Physiotherapy	• 40 scans • At least 7 abnormal cases • 15 shoulder • 5 Achilles • 5 patellar • 5 hamstring • 5 elbow
Vascular Access	• 2 peripheral cannulation techniques • 3 central venous cannulations