

Diagnostic Medical Sonographer



What do they do?

Sonographers work with special equipment using sound waves to create images of organs, vessels and tissues inside of the body. Sonographers take “pictures” and analyze what they see to help diagnose illness or injury, to provide visual guidance for other procedures or to check the health of a growing baby.

Where do they work?

Most Sonographers work in hospitals, physician’s offices, diagnostic laboratories and outpatient care centers. They generally work in dimly lit rooms or at patients’ bedsides.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers is \$60,350.



Education:

Either a two or four-year degree is required to become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

Sonography training in Madison:

Edgewood College and UW Hospital and Clinics are affiliated to offer a bachelor’s degree in ultrasound:

www.edgewood.edu

www.uwhealth.org/ultrasoundschool

High School students interested in becoming a Sonographer should take classes in anatomy, physiology, physics and math.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Diagnostic Medical Sonography are accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).



www.caahep.org

Professional Associations:

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers can choose to join any of the following professional associations:

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

www.sdms.org



American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine:

www.aium.org



Registry:

Sonographers must be registered before they can be employed. Registry exams are administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography:

www.ardms.org



Sonography Principles & Instrumentation Exam:

Sonographers must pass the SPI exam and a corresponding specialty exam to become credentialed. The SPI exam tests the basic skills and knowledge required for all sonography professions. A specialty exam must be passed within 5 years before a sonographer is considered credentialed.

Credentials and corresponding specialty exams are listed below:

Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS):

- Abdomen (AB)
- Breast (BR)
- Fetal Echocardiography (FE)
- Neurosonology (NE)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN)

Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS):

- Adult Echocardiography (AE)
- Fetal Echocardiography (FE)
- Pediatric Echocardiography (PE)

Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT):

- Vascular Technology (VT)

Potential for Advancement:

Sonographers with experience can move into management positions, education, research, sales of ultrasound equipment, or work as an ultrasound machine applications specialist.

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Sonographers is expected to grow 39 percent between 2012-2022, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm>

