

JOB DESCRIPTION

Sonographers are highly skilled professionals who create specialized images of the body's organs and tissues that are used by physicians to make medical diagnoses.

Sonography is often the first imaging test performed when disease is suspected. Sonography uses high-energy sound waves to produce images of the inside of the body. The field of sonography offers several areas of specialization, including: Abdomen, Breast, Musculoskeletal, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Vascular Technology.

Diagnostic medical sonographers typically do the following:

- Prepare patients by explaining the procedure and answering questions
- Prepare exam rooms and maintain diagnostic imaging equipment
- Properly position patients for imaging
- Operate equipment to obtain diagnostic images
- Review images to check for quality and coverage of the areas needed for diagnoses
- Analyze results for abnormalities and provide a summary of findings to physicians
- Record findings and keep track of patients' records

PAY

Median annual salary was \$89,340 (\$42.95 per hour) in May 2024.

JOB OUTLOOK

13% (Much faster than average) 2024-2034

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Diagnostic medical sonographers typically need formal education, such as an associate degree or a postsecondary certificate. Employers may require or prefer that workers have certification. Sonographers must be certified by passing an exam administered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS).

IMPORTANT SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES

- Communication skills. Diagnostic medical sonographers work closely with patients and must be able to explain the procedure clearly. They also must clearly provide information when discussing images with physicians and healthcare team members.
- Detail-oriented. Diagnostic medical sonographers follow precise instructions to obtain the images needed to diagnose and treat patients. They also must be aware of the images they produce, because healthy and unhealthy areas may be subtle.
- Hand-eye coordination. Diagnostic medical sonographers must accurately move equipment on the patient's body based on what they see on the screen.
- Physical stamina. Diagnostic medical sonographers stand for long periods and must be able to lift and move patients as needed.
- Technical skills. Diagnostic medical sonographers need technical skills to operate complex equipment.

CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS

BEACHWOOD MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM (Beachwood)

Beachwood Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program uses a selective process to determine which students will be accepted into the program. The program accepts up to ten students each year based upon clinical site availability. Some college course prerequisites are required for acceptance into the program.

The program is accredited in both Abdomen-Extended and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

www.my.clevelandclinic.org/departments/imaging/medical-professionals/school-of-diagnostic-imaging/diagnostic-medical-sonography-program

CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS *(continued)*

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Parma)

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

This program prepares students for entry-level positions as Diagnostic Medical Sonographers for employment in hospitals and other health care agencies. Cuyahoga Community College offers associate degrees in sonography depending on the specialty chosen. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The cohort-style program offers training in the following specialties:

- Adult cardiac sonography
- Vascular sonography
- Abdominal extended-obstetrics/gynecology sonography

www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/diagnostic-medical-sonography/index.html

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Elyria)

Associate of Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

This program prepares students for an entry-level position as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer for employment in hospitals and other healthcare agencies. Students must complete all pre-admission course requirements before being accepted into this 18-month program. Courses start in the fall each year and require a clinical component. Students are prepared to pass the ARDMS certification exams in sonographic principles & instrumentation with abdomen and obstetrics & gynecology specialties.

www.lorainccc.edu/health/sonograph

STAUTZENBERGER COLLEGE (Brecksville)

Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

This 19-month hybrid program offers partial online coursework. Graduates of the program will be able to perform quality diagnostic ultrasound examinations required of a general sonographer on the abdomen, pregnant and non-pregnant pelvis, fetal structures, fetal measurements, superficial structures and segments of the vascular system.

www.sctoday.edu/programs/sonography_diagnostic_medical_AAS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

www.sdms.org/

EXPLORE HEALTH CAREERS:

explorehealthcareers.org/