

# Diagnostic Medical Sonographer



## Occupational Description

The diagnostic medical sonographer provides patient services using medical ultrasound (high-frequency sound waves that produce images of internal structures). Working under the supervision of a physician responsible for the use and interpretation of ultrasound procedures, the sonographer helps gather sonographic data to diagnose a variety of conditions and diseases, as well as monitor fetal development.



## Job Description

The sonographer provides patient services in a variety of medical settings in which the physician is responsible for the use and interpretation of ultrasound procedures. In assisting physicians in gathering sonographic data, the diagnostic medical sonographer is able to obtain, review, and integrate pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results; perform appropriate procedures and record anatomical, pathological, and/or physiological data for interpretation by a physician; record and process sonographic data and other pertinent observations made during the procedure for presentation to the interpreting physician; exercise discretion and judgment in the performance of sonographic services; provide patient education related to medical ultrasound; and promote principles of good health.



## Employment Characteristics

Diagnostic medical sonographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, private offices, and industry. There is also a need for suitably qualified educators, researchers, and administrators. The demand for sonographers continues to exceed the supply. The supply and demand ratio affects salaries, depending on experience and responsibilities.

According to the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, the salary for diagnostic medical sonographers with less than 1 year of experience is \$30,700.



## Educational Programs

**Length.** Programs are between 1 and 4 years, depending on program design, objectives, and the degree or certificate awarded.

**Prerequisites.** Applicants to a 1-year program must possess qualifications in a clinically related allied health profession. Applicants to 2-year programs must be high school graduates (or equivalent) with an educational background in basic science, general physics,

and algebra. All applicants must demonstrate satisfactory completion of the following courses at college level: general physics, biological science, algebra, and communication skills.

**Curriculum.** Curricula of accredited programs include physical sciences, applied biological sciences, patient care, clinical medicine, applications of ultrasound, instrumentation, related diagnostic procedures, and image evaluation. A plan for well-structured, competency-based clinical education is an essential part of the curriculum of all sonography programs.



## Inquiries

### Careers/Curriculum

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
2745 Dallas Pkwy/Ste 350  
Plano, TX 75093-4706  
214 473-8057  
214 473-8563 Fax  
E-mail: [info@sdms.org](mailto:info@sdms.org)  
[www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

Society for Vascular Ultrasound  
4601 Presidents Dr, Ste 260  
Lanham, MD 20706-4365  
301 459-7550 or 800 SVT- VEIN  
301 459-5651 Fax  
[www.svt.net](http://www.svt.net)

### Certification/Registration

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers  
51 Monroe St, Plaza East Ore  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301 738-8401

### Program Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in collaboration with:  
Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
2025 Woodlane Dr  
St. Paul, MN 55125  
651 731-1582  
E-mail: [jrc-dms@jcahpo.org](mailto:jrc-dms@jcahpo.org)