



Health Career Directory

Medical Sonographers

Overview

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound) is a rapidly expanding medical technology that uses high frequency sound waves to create images that are used for the assessment and diagnosis of various medical conditions.

Sonographers are medical professionals who perform ultrasound examinations in hospital and clinic settings. They draw on their knowledge of physics and instrumentation, along with patient clinical history and sonographic findings to seek out document and quantify disease. These findings are reported to a physician and form an essential part in the care and management of each patient.

Medical Sonographers perform abdominal, obstetrical, pelvic, peripheral vascular and small parts ultrasound examinations, and observe patient safety practices.

The main duties of a Medical Sonographer include:

- receiving and completing requisitions
- entering relevant data into the diagnostic imaging information system
- preparing patients for specific procedures
- conducting examinations utilizing ultrasound and Doppler techniques.

This profession is exciting and the employment opportunities are quickly growing throughout the health care industry. This occupation pays well. It is also highly stimulating and interesting since no two days are ever the same.

Source: <http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/5640diplt>

Who is suited to become a Medical Sonographer?

Medical Sonographers are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- good problem-solving and communication skills, both orally and written
- good critical thinking skills, sound judgement, and patience
- compassionate, dependable, ethical, and mature
- ability to organize and establish workload priorities in collaboration with others
- ability to be precise and accurate
- strong social skills and leadership ability

- ability to manage high levels of stress associated with life threatening situations and medical conditions.
- self-discipline and self-directed
- the ability to multi-task in a complex and face-paced environment
- physical ability to perform duties of the position
- a clean record, no prior criminal background.

They should enjoy:

- working in a fast paced health care environment where you have a genuine interest in caring for people
- working directly with people who are unwell
- working collaboratively with others in a team environment
- using standard and specialized equipment to gather assessments to provide proper care, and the performance of components, assemblies, and systems

Who employs Medical Sonographers?

Medical Sonographers work as part of an interdisciplinary team. They work in hospital or clinics, in both rural and urban settings. In BC, they are employed by one of the six Health Authorities/employers. They work shift hours, alternating weekends, and are often on call for emergency procedures.

Medical Sonographers are very highly sought after health care professionals. In other words, they have no trouble finding work in their field.

Salary

Salary Range - \$28.28 - \$35.25 per hour/\$54,560 - \$68,500 annually plus shift premiums for evenings, nights and weekends

Required Training and Education to Become a Medical Sonographers

This diploma program is two years (27 months) in length. The program includes theory, labs and clinical training in Sonography of the abdomen, superficial structures, male pelvis, pregnant and non-pregnant female pelvis, vascular tree (carotids and veins) and the heart.

The sonographic specialties are supported by instruction in physical principles and instrumentation, patient care, communication, human behaviour, and research principles.

Once they are accredited, graduates of this program will be eligible to write the examination(s) of the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP) and the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS). This will allow them to hold the professional credentials offered by both organizations.

Available seats into this program are limited. Go to the institution of your interest for the complete list of all entry requirements and intake application dates

Career Advancement

Medical Sonography can be a very rewarding profession. Most sonographers stay in clinical practice for a long time. This is because they enjoy providing one on one care to their patients, and working in a team environment.

Resources:

Education Programs

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
http://www.nait.ca/program_home_76669.htm

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
<http://www.sait.ab.ca/>

British Columbia Institute of Technology
<http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/5640diplt>
<http://www.bcit.ca/admission/fees/fulltime.shtml>

Winnipeg Health Sciences Ultrasound Training Program
http://www.hsc.mb.ca/ultrasound/training_program.htm

College of the North Atlantic
<http://canadaultrasoundprogram.com/college-of-the-north-atlantic/>

Dalhousie School of Health Sciences
<http://schoolofhealthsciences.dal.ca/Academic%20Programs/Undergraduate%20Programs/Diagnostic%20Medical%20Ultrasound/>

St. Clair College
http://www.stclaircollege.ca/programs/postsec/diagnostic_medical_sonography/

Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences
<https://www.michener.ca/ce/postdiploma/ultrasound.php>

Mohawk-McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences
<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/Schools/healthSciences/medradsci.html>

Financial assistance and bursaries

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

Associations

Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP)
<http://www.cardup.org/>

Canadian Society of Medical Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
<http://csdms.com/>

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)
<http://ardms.org/>