

## CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment in the field of diagnostic medical sonography is expected to grow approximately 30 to 32% over the next 8 - 10 years. This is a rate that is faster than the average for all occupations in the United States. The increased demand for sonographers is the result of the growth in both the overall population as well as the growth in the aging population. Also, growth in this field is spurred on by the health profession move toward less invasive types of diagnostic procedures.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
2745 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 350  
Plano, TX 75093-4706  
Phone: (214) 473-8057  
Phone: (800) 229-9506  
Fax: (214) 473-8563  
Web: [www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers  
600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 360  
Rockville, MD 20852-1150  
Phone: (301) 738-8401  
Phone: (800) 541-9754  
Fax: (301) 738-0312 or 0313  
Web: [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)



## MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

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## POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Sonographers use special equipment to direct non-ionizing, high frequency sound waves into areas of the patients body, then collect reflected echoes to form an image. The formed image may be videotaped, transmitted, or photographed for interpretation and diagnosis by a physician.

They are responsible for explaining the procedure to the patient, recording previous medical history, selecting the appropriate equipment settings, and directing the patient to move in the proper position that will provide the best view for diagnosis.

By viewing the image on the screen during the scan, sonographers look for visual cues that would contrast healthy areas from unhealthy ones. They decide whether the images are satisfactory for diagnosing purposes and select the best image for the appropriate procedure.

Sonography may specialize in obstetrics and gynecology sonography, abdominal sonography, neurosonography, vascular technology or echocardiograph sonography, and ophthalmologic sonography.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

More than half of all sonographers works in hospitals. They also work in physician offices, clinics, offices specializing in obstetrics, and diagnostic imaging centers.

## HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a sonographer should take courses in computer skills, biology, chemistry, physics, emergency medical technology, algebra, geometry, and English.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

There are several entry avenues into the field of diagnostic medical sonography. They may train for a certificate program in hospitals and vocational technical institutions.

Colleges offer formal program Associate program Bachelor Associate most prev Students phy shou informati course of

## EDUCATION

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