



DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

What are Diagnostic Medical Sonographers?

A diagnostic medical sonographer works as a member of the health care team to facilitate diagnoses and contribute to overall care. The sonographer performs ultrasound examinations, which can be done on almost every area of the body. Areas of particular interest include the abdomen, the pregnant and non-pregnant female pelvis, the vascular system, and the heart. Medical sonographers may specialize in abdominal, cardiac, cerebral, obstetrical and gynecological, ophthalmic, intraluminal or peripheral vascular sonography. They may also specialize in adult or pediatric echocardiography or neurosonology.

The job responsibilities for a diagnostic medical sonographer generally include:

- Performing diagnostic scanning procedures;
- Patient care;
- Physically assisting the moving of patients and equipment;
- Creating technical reports and consultation with other health professionals; and
- Performing operational checks on ultrasound equipment and minor repairs and adjustments

A career in sonography generally requires:

- A high degree of technical skills;
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills;
- Ability to problem solve in a clinical environment;
- Excellent hand-eye coordination; and
- Strength, especially in the upper body and back.

How do you become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

In Saskatchewan, employment as a diagnostic medical sonographer typically requires the following:

- Completion of an approved diagnostic medical sonography program
- Successfully passing American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) examinations.
- Certification with the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP) (Voluntary at present)
- Eligibility for registration with the Saskatchewan Association of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (Also volunteer at present)

Where can you be trained to be a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

Manitoba

Health Sciences Centre
http://www.hsc.mb.ca/ultrasound/training_program.htm

Ontario

Mohawk-McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences
<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/calendar/>

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

Alberta

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
<http://www.nait.ab.ca/programs/DMS/>

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
<http://www.sait.ab.ca/calendars/daycalendar/courses/adms.htm>

British Columbia

British Columbia Institute of Technology
<http://programs.bcit.ca/5650DIPL>

What do you need to get into a Diagnostic Medical Sonography program?

There are two different kinds of programs in Canada:

1. “Direct Entry” programs typically require:

- High School Diploma, and typical courses of English; Biology; Math; Physics; and Chemistry.

2. “Post-diploma” programs require:

- Successful completion of an accredited program in defined health disciplines, (for example, Medical Radiation Technology, Radiation Therapy or Nursing).

The programs may also consider patient care experience, English proficiency, references, and career plans. Check with the individual educational programs for specific requirements.

What does a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer study?

A program in diagnostic medical sonography typically includes:

- Patient care;
- Physics;
- Anatomy and physiology;
- Equipment instrumentation;
- Quality control; and
- Performance of diagnostic scanning procedures.

Programs also include a clinical component.

Where do Diagnostic Medical Sonographers work?

- Regional Health Authorities (hospitals, clinics)
 - Research Centres
 - Private Clinics
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What is the salary of a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers pay rates are according to the Service Employees International Union/SAHO Collective Agreement. <http://www.seiu.org/health/> or the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) <http://www.cupe.sk.ca/>

Related Links

Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

<http://www.csdms.com/home.html>

Saskatchewan Association of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers- SADMS

www.sadms.com/

The Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP)

<http://cardup.org/english/index.html>

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS)

<http://www.ardms.org>

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html
