



HEALTH CARE OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

Medical Sonographer

This profession is also known as:

- Ultrasound Technologist/Technician
- Echocardiographer

What is a medical sonographer?

A medical sonographer operates ultrasound equipment to produce and record images of various parts of the body to aid physicians in monitoring pregnancies and in diagnosing cardiac, ophthalmic, vascular and other medical disorders.



What are the main duties of a medical sonographer?

A medical sonographer

- Operates ultrasound imaging equipment that transmits high frequency sound pulses through the body to produce images of those parts of the body requiring examination
- Monitors examination by viewing images on video screen, to evaluate quality and consistency of diagnostic images, and make adjustments to equipment, as required
- Records, stores and processes scanned images by using camera unit connected to ultrasound equipment
- Observes and cares for patients throughout examinations to ensure patient safety and comfort
- Prepares examination reports for physicians to aid in the monitoring of pregnancies and the diagnosis of cardiac, abdominal, ophthalmic, vascular and other disorders
- Performs quality control checks on ultrasound equipment to ensure proper operation and perform minor repairs and adjustments as required
- May supervise and train student and other medical sonographers.

A medical sonographer may specialize in abdominal, cardiac, cerebral, obstetrical and gynaecological, ophthalmic, intraluminal or peripheral vascular sonography. He or she may also specialize in adult or pediatric echocardiography or neurosonology.

What personal characteristics or desired traits should I have for this profession?

- Compassion and strong interpersonal skills
- Interest in advancement of medical technical skills and continued learning
- Dedication to ensuring examinations are of highest quality possible
- Physical stamina as you may be on your feet for long periods of the day

Where do Medical Sonographers Work?

They are employed in health care clinics and hospitals.

What are the typical work conditions for this profession?

- Shift work is commonplace in hospital settings
- May spend long periods of time standing

What qualifications do I need?

- Completion of a three- to four-year program in diagnostic medical sonography or ultrasound technology or
- Completion of a two- to three-year program in a related allied health field and a one-year post-diploma program in diagnostic medical sonography from an accredited institution are required.
- Registration with the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound Professionals and/or the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers is usually required by employers.
- Registration with l'Ordre des Technologues en Radiologie du Québec is required in Quebec.



What communication skills do I need?

You must:

- Communicate well both orally and in writing
- Be able to interact effectively with clients and their families, co-workers, physicians, other health care staff, and staff of external agencies

For a listing of the essential skills you may need for this profession, view http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=59&lang=eng

What wage may I be paid for this work?

Average Canadian hourly wage **Low \$ 25.00 Median \$35.00 High \$48.00**
http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3216&reportOption=wage

Career Outlook

http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3216&reportOption=outlook

Are there opportunities for advancement?

Experience in the field can lead to supervisory, teaching positions

Learn more about medical sonographers by viewing these sites:

- National Occupation Code 3216
The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/profession. Use this code to learn more about medical sonographers through government sites.
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/QuickSearch.aspx?val65=3216>
- Self Assessment Readiness Tool (SART)™ for Medical Sonographer
This tool will allow you to compare your own skills and competencies to this occupation. This may help you make an informed decision about this career option.
<https://assesshealthcareers.ca/>

References

- Government of Canada, NOC
- <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Welcome.aspx>
- Outline from CSMLS webpage, Accessed 3/25/2016
<http://altcareers.csmls.org/careers/assayer/>
- Workopolis
www.workopolis.com
- Government of Canada, Job Bank
www.jobbank.gc.ca