Diagnostic Ultrasound Technology Program

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We are an equal opportunity institution
Part III
Careers in Sonography
Diagnostic Medical Sonography

SEEING WITH SOUND
Diagnostic Medical Imaging Services

- Ultrasound
- X Ray (Radiography)
- CT Scan
- MRI
- Nuclear Medicine

Transducer (probe) on the abdomen
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (SDMS)
Career Video - Sonography

http://www.sdms.org/career/video/
Clinical Specialties

- General Sonography
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Adult Cardiology
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Vascular Technology
Technology

- High speed digital image processing
- Sophisticated equipment
- Image production and exam quality very “operator dependent”
Who Are SONOGRAPHERS?

• Diagnostic Imaging Specialists

• Optimizing images using high frequency sound waves to create diagnostic images for various clinical applications.

• Health Care Professional with a high degree of technical skill and clinical competency

• Functions as integral member of the health care team
SONOGRAPHER SKILLS

• Must be able to **produce and evaluate** ultrasound images and related data to enable physicians to render a medical diagnosis
• Superior “eye-hand” coordination
• Adept at **spatial orientation and depth perception**
• Must be able to acquire and maintain specialized technical skills and medical knowledge to render quality patient care in a demanding clinical environment.
Characteristics of Successful Sonographers

- Good verbal communication skills
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Compassion and sensitivity toward patients
- Putting together the whole picture
- Stamina for focusing
- Ability to multitask and concentrate
- Organized, positive and energetic
- Problem solvers, critical thinkers…
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

• Obtain, review, and integrate pertinent patient history, physical exam, and supporting data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results.

• Produce, assess, and evaluate ultrasound images and related data in collaboration with other sonographers and interpreting physicians to render a medical diagnosis.
Physical Requirements Sonographers

- Stand/walk up to 8 hours for a shift
- Lift, Move and Transfer Patients
- Operate and manipulate ultrasound equipment, patient care equipment such as wheelchairs, stretchers and attachments
- Move loads up to 45 pounds several times an hour.
- Differentiate subtle image details, color, shades of grey and audio signals.
- Assist patients as needed in emergent and non emergent clinical situations.

4/10/2015
Physical Requirements-Sonographer

- Respond to audio, and colored, lighted signals and feedback
- Ascend and descend stairs in an emergency
- Reach, bend, push and pull equipment and patients as needed
- Comprehend, write and speak English clearly to coworkers, physicians and patients
- Provide resuscitation and emergency care to patients as needed.
- Please visit www.sdms.org and www.soundergonomics.com for work related injury data on Sonographers.

4/10/2015
WRMSI – Sonographers at Risk
Work Related Musculoskeletal Injuries

• Data shows that >50% of Sonographers are scanning in pain.

• Risk to develop repetitive motion injuries to neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist and hands is real.

• Static scanning positions, workload and pressure applied to body surfaces contribute to WRMSI.

Within 5 years of working, Sonographers experience pain while working

• 20-25% experience career ending injuries
• 55.5% increase in number of exams per year performed by Sonographers since 1992

• Related Musculoskeletal Disorders in Sonography, SDMS consensus, May 2003
Work Related Injuries - Common

- Neck
- Elbow
- Shoulder
- Wrist
- Lower Back
- [www.soundergonomics.com](http://www.soundergonomics.com) - survey
American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

National registry exams—credentials in clinical specialties

- Administered by ARDMS (www.ardms.org)
- Over 40,000 registered sonographers
- Overall Pass/Fail rate = 63%
- Bellevue College Pass rate class of 2009-2015 100%
- Cost is $200 per exam (2-3 exams)
• Average current base Seattle salary = $25+/hour (varied experience levels, Bellevue College does not guarantee job placement or salary range)

• Salaries vary according to geography, specialty area, and experience level [www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org), Salary Survey

• BC does not ensure or guarantee employment or salary upon graduation.
Employment Opportunities

• Hospitals / Medical Centers
• Outpatient clinics
• Doctor’s offices
• Mobile services
• Department Management
• Education / Training
• Equipment Manufacturers
  – Sales, Education, Clinical Applications, Product Development
• National, international opportunities
INTERNET RESOURCES

- www.sdms.org
- www.ardms.org
- www.aium.org
- www.obgyn.net
- www.ase.org
- www.soundergonomics.com
- www.arrt.org