I want to start my career as a...

**Diagnostic Medical Sonographer**

**What will I do?**
Sonography Technicians are responsible for performing diagnostic screens through Ultrasound. The population of patients varies depending on the reason for visit. For example, Sonographers can work with pregnant women or with patients experiencing internal organ issues.

**What are important facts?**

**Job Growth**
Sonographers will always be in need due to pregnant women needing Ultrasounds and patients needing internal organ screenings.

In California, Sonographers are projected to have 250 new job openings between 2014 and 2024. This means there is a 29% employment increase in the state—this level of employment increase means there will be plenty of new job openings in the field. 250 new job openings might not seem like a lot, but because Sonography is so specialized this is a large number of new jobs.

**Wage/Salary**
Average hourly wage in San Jose begins at $55.00 with an annual salary of $114,770. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

**Required Training**
Medical Sonographers are expected to have 2-3 years of training at a community College.

If individuals are interested in being a Sonographer, they can go to Foothill College in Santa Clara County.

**What would make this career a great fit for me?**
• Have a passion for working with pregnant women.
• Have strong detail and organizational skills when charting patient’s records.
• Able to handle high stress situations.
• Have a passion for helping people and their families.
• Enjoy working in a hospital setting.

**Where can I get the training I need?**
• Foothill College

O*Net. (2016) Summary Report for Medical Diagnostic Sonographers. [http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2032.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2032.00)


Google Images: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/codnewsroom/14965618093](https://www.flickr.com/photos/codnewsroom/14965618093)

I want to start my career as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Step 1
Learning the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

Education & Training: Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Community College
Individuals can receive training through Foothill College. The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is a 2-year program, meaning it is full-time Monday-Friday. The program includes classroom and clinical hours.

- Foothill College

Step 2
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

Career Pathways for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers can begin working in the hospitals once they complete their 18-month training program and pass the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) exam. In order to be eligible for the exam, students must also finish their Associates Degree on top of the 18-month Sonography Program.

Before applying to the program, there are pre-requisite classes that are required. Examples of these classes are Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Medical Terminology and Chemistry. In these classes, individuals need at least a C grade, BUT this is a highly competitive field—higher the grades, the higher chances of being accepted.

Employers:
- Stanford Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- Santa Clara Medical Center

Labor Market Information:
- Average hourly wage in San Jose begins at $55.00 with an annual salary of $114,770
What are the Skills Employers look for in a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer?

Employers are looking for someone who:

• Has their Associates Degree in Medical Sonography and passed the Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Exam.
• Has a strong understanding of the human anatomy.
• Is capable of using computer software that is specific to Sonography.
• Is able to stay organized with patient paperwork and proper labeling of images.
• Has the ability to recognize body parts through imaging on the computer screen and identify any parts of the body that could have potential issues.
• Is able to express sensitivity toward patients and help comfort them while they are receiving their medical ultrasound.
• Has strong oral and written communication skills.
• Can make sure the equipment being used is clean and properly taken care of.
• Is able to keep patient information private from the public.
• Is capable of standing for long periods of time. Sonographers are on their feet most of the day and in some cases shifts can last up to 12 hours.
• Can operate complex machinery and computer systems.
• Has a passion for wanting to help people.

Employers may also refer to me as:

• Ultrasound Technologist
• Sonographer
• Registered Sonographer