

## Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS)

### WHAT IS A REGISTERED DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER (RDMS)?

A Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) is a medical professional who specializes in performing diagnostic sonography, also known as ultrasound, to visualize and image the structure of internal organs. RDMSs serve a vital role in several healthcare specialties by providing prompt, high definition imaging to physicians and advanced practice providers, allowing them to diagnose and treat a variety of medical conditions. Many Medical Sonographers chose to receive additional training / certification to specialize in particular fields like cardiac and obstetrical ultrasound. Becoming a RDMS is ideal for those who love anatomy, have great interpersonal skills, and have a keen eye for noticing subtle details and changes.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- High School Diploma
- Higher Education:
  - **Option A.)** Certification Program
    - **12-18 months** in length
    - Hold Associate or Bachelor's degree in health related field.
    - Completion of prerequisite coursework (ex. Anatomy/Physiology, Medical Terminology, College Algebra, etc.)
  - **Option B.)** Associate Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
    - **~2 years** in length
    - May require college level prerequisites (ex. Anatomy/Physiology, Medical Terminology, College Algebra, etc.)
    - Not offered at all programs
  - **Option C.)** Bachelor's Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
    - **4 years** in length
    - GPA and experience level will vary
    - Not offered at all programs.

### LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS:

- Upon completion of CAAHEP-Accredited RSMS program, you must:
  - **Pass** the ARDMS' **Sonography Principles and Instrumentation Examination**
  - **Pass** at least one of the ARDMS specialty examinations (Abdomen, Breast, Fetal Echocardiography, Pediatric Echocardiography, Adult Echocardiography, OB/GYN, pediatrics, vascular technology, or musculoskeletal).
- ARDMS certification is nationally recognized, however, each state may have it's own requirements for licensure.

### RDMS FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Abdominal
- Breast
- Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)
- Adult Echocardiography
- Fetal/Pediatric Echocardiography
- Vascular
- Musculoskeletal

### SALARY & JOB OUTLOOK

- Average annual salary for a RDMS is between **\$70,651 - \$106,185** with a median salary of **\$88,800**.
- RDMSs are in high demand and the job market expected to **grow 15%** between 2021-2031.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <https://aimseducation.edu/blog/different-types-of-sonographers>
- <https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/diagnostic-medical-sonographer/>
- <https://www.ardms.org/how-to-become-a-sonographer/>
- <https://www.ardms.org/get-certified/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f0nmYp8Rww>