The Profession

The diagnostic medical sonographer provides patient services using medical ultrasound (high-frequency sound waves that produce images of internal structures). Working under the supervision of a physician responsible for the use and interpretation of ultrasound procedures, the sonographer helps gather sonographic data to diagnose a variety of conditions and diseases, as well as monitor fetal development. Sonographers review the patient history and clinical data, perform procedures, and provide an oral or written summary of findings to the physicians.

Diagnostic medical sonographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, private offices, and industry. Most full-time sonographers work about 40 hours a week and may have evening and weekend hours, and times when they are on call and must be ready to report to work on short notice. The demand for sonographers continues to exceed the supply with faster than average job growth anticipated. The supply and demand ratio affects salaries, depending on experience and responsibilities. On average, diagnostic medical sonographers earn an annual salary of $70,865. [2011 data from www.iSEEK.org]

Applying to the BSHP

Applications for the BSHP must be submitted online by February 1. The application is available at www.r.umn.edu/apply.

Applicants must also submit:
• Official transcripts from all colleges attended
  If an AA or AS degree has not been awarded, an official high school transcript is required.
• Application essay

Selected applicants will be invited to Rochester to interview at Mayo School of Health Sciences in March. Notification of admission decisions will be made by UMR mid to late April. Classes begin August 1.

Contact Information, Contact

For additional information about the BSHP degree, contact:
Admissions Office
University of Minnesota Rochester
E-mail: ApplyUMR@umn.edu
Telephone: 1-877-280-4699 | Website: www.r.umn.edu/bshp

For additional information about Sonography, contact:
Diane Youngs, Program Director
Sonography
Mayo School of Health Sciences
E-mail: youngs.diane@mayo.edu
Telephone: 507-284-0208 | Website: www.mayo.edu/mshs
About the Sonography Track

The Bachelor of Science in Health Professions (BSHP) is an educational collaboration between the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) and Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS).

The BSHP Sonography Track delivers upper-division curriculum designed to prepare students to become competent, entry-level sonographers in an environment based on teamwork and mutual respect. Students will have the opportunity to train in the following specialties: abdomen, obstetrics, gynecology, and peripheral vascular. The program offers an exceptional educational experience by providing high quality didactic and clinical experiences that prepare students to:

- Perform patient assessments
- Acquire and analyze data obtained using ultrasound and related diagnostic technologies
- Provide a summary of findings to the physician to aid in patient diagnosis and management
- Use independent judgment and systematic problem-solving methods to produce high quality diagnostic information and optimize patient care

Upon successful completion of the coursework, students will receive a Bachelor of Science in Health Professions degree from the University of Minnesota and a certificate in Sonography from Mayo School of Health Sciences and be eligible to take the appropriate professional certification examinations.

All courses originate in Rochester. Academic coursework is offered at UMR or MSHS and is coordinated with clinical rotations at Mayo Clinic to optimize the learning experience.

Faculty

Mayo School of Health Sciences draws its faculty from Mayo Clinic's clinical, scientific, and technical staffs. They are chosen for their commitment to teaching as well as clinical practice and/or research. Many have published and lectured extensively and are highly regarded in their field. Students will have direct access to these individuals throughout their training, allowing them the opportunity to learn directly from some of today's best practitioners.

University of Minnesota Rochester faculty are committed to the development of integrated curricula and working closely with colleagues from Mayo School of Health Sciences to design technology-enhanced courses that address current issues and trends relevant to the health care industry.

Prerequisite Coursework

Students complete lower-division (freshman-sophomore) courses at the University of Minnesota Rochester or at regionally accredited colleges and universities. Students must also complete all University of Minnesota liberal education and theme requirements prior to admission to the BSHP. The following list of prerequisites must be completed or in progress before application to the program:

- English Composition
- College Algebra (or higher level math course)
- Statistics
- General Psychology
- Ethics
- Public Speaking
- Medical Terminology
- General Chemistry
- [Human] Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I with lab
- [Human] Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II
- Microbiology with lab
- Physics with lab

All prerequisite courses and liberal education requirements are outlined on the BSHP Prerequisite Course and Liberal Education Planning Chart available online at www.r.umn.edu/bshp.

Accreditation

The University of Minnesota and Mayo School of Health Sciences hold regional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Sonography Track is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP).

Patient Care Experience

The Sonography Track requires Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) training and licensure. The C.N.A. license is earned after taking a national certification exam. The license does not need to be current. Other certified/licensed/registered medical professionals may also meet this requirement. Direct patient care experience (Patient Care Assistant or P.C.A.) is recommended and can strengthen an application.

Upper-Division Curriculum

Total of 65 credits

The challenging, high quality curriculum for the program is designed with courses in a specific sequence, progressively building on expertise while advancing through the program. Some coursework is delivered in a blended electronic and classroom format. Academic course work is coordinated with clinical rotations to optimize the learning experience.

Fall Semester of Junior Year - 13 credits

- SONO 3011 Foundations of Sonography (3 cr)
- SONO 3111 Abdomen I Sonography (2 cr)
- SONO 3201 Gynecologic Sonography (2 cr)
- SONO 3121 Cross-Sectional Abdominal Anatomy (1 cr)
- SONO 3311 Vascular Technology (2 cr)
- SONO 3301 Clinical Practicum I (3 cr)

Spring Semester of Junior Year - 13 credits

- SONO 3112 Abdomen II Sonography (3 cr)
- SONO 3401 OB Sonography (2 cr)
- SONO 3312 Vascular Technology II (3 cr)
- SONO 3302 Clinical Practicum II (5 cr)

Summer Semester between Junior and Senior Year - 13 credits

- SONO 3503 Superficial Sonography (2 cr)
- SONO 3113 Abdomen III Sonography (2 cr)
- SONO 3313 Vascular Technology III (1 cr)
- SONO 3403 Concepts Review and Case Studies (2 cr)
- SONO 4303 Clinical Practicum III (6 cr)

Fall Semester of Senior Year - 13 credits

- SONO 4111 Ultrasound Physics I (2 cr)
- SONO 4201 Pediatric Sonography (1 cr)
- SONO 4301 Fetal Anomalies (2 cr)
- SONO 4401 Clinical Practicum IV (7 cr)
- SONO 4501 Research Project and Publication (1 cr)

Spring Semester of Senior Year - 13 credits

- SONO 4112 Ultrasound Physics II (2 cr)
- SONO 4802 Mock Exams (1 cr)
- SONO 4602 Professional Growth and Development (1 cr)
- SONO 4402 Clinical Practicum V (8 cr)
- SONO 4502 Research Project and Publication II (1 cr)

Students majoring in the BSHP must complete at least 120 credits which may be transfer credits or credits from the University of Minnesota. A minimum of 65 credits must be completed in the Sonography Track. Courses are subject to change.