

What do Medical Imaging Technologists do?

Medical Imaging Technologists, (Cardiovascular Technologists, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Radiologic Technologists):

- Use technology to produce medical images for diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and diseases, and
- Take images of internal organs, bones or other structures using ultrasound, nuclear medicine, X-ray, computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Radiation Therapists are health care professionals who administer high doses of radiation to patients to treat cancer.

Where do Medical Imaging Technologists work?

Medical Imaging Technologists work in hospitals, imaging centers, clinics, doctors' offices, and for mobile imaging companies. Although hospitals remain the primary employer, a great number of new jobs can be found in physicians' offices and diagnostic imaging centers.

How can I get a job in medical imaging? After high school...

There are several pathways to becoming a Medical Imaging Technologist. Training is offered in hospitals, colleges and universities, vocational-technical institutes and the U.S. Armed Forces. Formal training programs in the specific fields of medical imaging range from two to four years and lead to a certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree. Two-year associate degree programs are most prevalent.

Certification is required for certain branches of medical imaging such as Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Sonographers, and Radiation Therapists. Certification

in other specialty areas of the radiologic sciences may be optional.

After initial training there is room to move up in the profession. Some one-year certificate programs are available for experienced medical imaging technologists or individuals from other health occupations, such as respiratory therapists and registered nurses, who want to change fields or specialize in certain branches of the radiologic sciences. A bachelor's or master's degree is desirable for supervisory, administrative or teaching positions.

Is this the career for me?

In the profession of medical imaging, mechanical and technological aptitude is important, as is the desire to help people by providing competent, respectful, compassionate and confidential patient care. Medical Imaging Technologists play a vital role as part of a dynamic medical team and must interact with a variety of other medical professionals.

Because technologists are on their feet for long periods and may help lift or turn patients with disabilities, physical stamina is important. Special portable equipment allows diagnostic examinations to be performed at various locations throughout the hospital, including the Operating Room, Emergency Room and at the bedside of patients who are critically ill.

Although radiation hazards may exist in areas of this field, they are minimized by the use of lead aprons, gloves and other shielding devices, as well as by instruments that monitor radiation exposure. Radiologic Technologists take great care to protect their patients, themselves and their coworkers from unnecessary radiation exposure.

Recommended high school courses include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

How much money do medical imaging technologists make?

	Average Annual Salary
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	\$40,190
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$50,650
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	\$55,230
Radiation Therapists	\$62,950
Radiologic Technologists	\$43,960

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

Annually, there are an average of 346 medical imaging job openings in Pennsylvania.

Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

**901 North Seventh Street
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