



Lake Health

Ultrasound Technician: Christine Gruttadauria



Christine Gruttadauria, Ultrasound Technician

What does an ultrasound technician do?

Ultrasound technicians are medical professionals who administer ultrasounds to patients. Using high-frequency sound waves, ultrasound technicians create images of organs within the human body to help doctors detect or document illnesses, visualize blood flow, monitor the growth of a developing fetus or assess an injury. Tasks performed by an ultrasound technician include preparing patients for the ultrasound exam and explaining the procedure, gathering patient histories, using ultrasound equipment to scan the area of the body that is under examination, analyzing ultrasound data and archiving ultrasound images on a computer.

What kind of skills or traits does an ultrasound technician need?

- **Attention to detail** – An ultrasound technician must have strong attention to detail. Ultrasound technicians follow precise instructions to obtain the images doctors need to treat or diagnose a patient.
- **Hand-eye coordination** – An ultrasound technician must be able to move hand-held devices along a patient's body in ways that produce quality images, all while watching a video monitor of the patient's internal organs. This requires good hand-eye coordination and careful attention to the slightest movements of one's hand.
- **Interpersonal skills** – These professionals work closely with patients, often in sensitive medical situations. Patients can be in extreme pain or under mental or emotional duress. A patient must cooperate in order to get usable images for diagnosis. An ultrasound technician should have a friendly demeanor and remain calm and supportive under emotionally difficult situations.
- **Stamina** – Ultrasound technicians work on their feet, sometimes for long periods of time. They must be able to lift and move patients who need assistance getting on and off an exam table.

- **Technical skills** – Ultrasound technicians operate complex medical equipment and computerized instruments. They must possess the technical ability to understand how this equipment works and how to operate it efficiently.
- **Communication skills** – Good communication skills are needed to answer patient's questions in a clear and concise way. Ultrasound technicians should have empathy, compassion, patience and critical thinking skills.

What is the job outlook for an ultrasound technician?

Employment of ultrasound technicians is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As imaging technology evolves, medical facilities will continue to use ultrasound to replace more invasive, costly procedures.*

*Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Where does an ultrasound technician work?

Most ultrasound technicians are employed in hospitals, while others work in physician offices or medical and diagnostic laboratories.

What kind of education do you need to become an ultrasound technician?

Ultrasound technicians need a formal education, such as an associate's degree or a postsecondary certificate. Many employers also require professional certification.

What is the average salary of an ultrasound technician?

The median annual wage for ultrasound technicians was \$55,570 in 2015.*

*Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

I like working at Lake Health because of the other people who work here. My co-workers are wonderful! We work well together and we always try to do what is best for patients.

– Christine Gruttadauria