Many people experience diagnostic imaging at some point in their lives; an x-ray to confirm a broken limb, for instance, is a type of diagnostic imaging. The aim of diagnostic imaging is to collect more information about the particulars of the patient's condition, hopefully reaching a conclusion about what condition the patient has, and how it may be treated.

A wide assortment of medical fields depend on diagnostic imaging to get a picture of the inside of the body without opening the body up. Imaging studies can show things like circulatory problems, tumors and broken bones, allowing doctors to use this information in the development of a treatment plan.
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER
As a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, you'll use high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to produce dynamic visual images of organs, tissues or blood flow inside the body. This type of procedure is often referred to as sonography, a sonogram, or an ultrasound scan. You will produce quality medical images of the human body to aid the physician in diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST
As a Radiologic Technologist, you'll produce x-ray images (radiographs) of parts of the human body to aid a physician in diagnosing medical problems. You’ll also use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) which uses giant magnets and radio waves, rather than radiation to create an image, as well as CT (computerized tomography) scans where cross-sectional views are taken of the inside of the body. The field of radiology is constantly changing as new technological advances make diagnostic imaging faster, clearer and more informative.

GETTING INVOLVED
The Diagnostic Imaging Student Association is an active student organization which volunteers in the community and provides support for students to pursue educational and professional development, such as attending professional workshops and conferences.

WHERE YOU CAN WORK
Hospitals
Outpatient Clinics
Physician Offices

JOB OUTLOOK
In Wisconsin, growth in the number of Radiologic Technologists through 2018 is estimated to be 12.9% and 13.6% for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

2014 National wage levels for Radiologic Technologists were reported to be: $37,610 (entry level), $55,870 (median) and $80,080 (experienced).

2014 wage levels in Wisconsin for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers were reported to be: $59,080 (entry level), $78,610 (median) and $89,250 (experienced). [Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov]

YEARS OF COLLEGE REQUIRED
4-5 years depending upon incoming proficiency in math and chemistry; Sonography students are also typically required to have training as a Certified Nursing Assistant prior to application to clinical study.

YOU SHOULD ENJOY...
Radiation Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, Chemistry, Genetics, Human Growth and Development, Pathophysiology