

## Word on the Street: Medical trade school approved for ultrasound degree

By Tim  
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If you've had an urge to see what's going on with other people's innards, there's a program starting this summer in northeast Fresno that might be right in your wheelhouse.

[Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts](#) won approval last month to offer an [associate of science degree in ultrasound technology](#). The program was approved by the [Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools](#). The [Fresno site](#) is the second of Gurnick's four campuses in California to have the program, which starts July 7. The program includes a two-year schedule of classroom instruction and clinical training.

According to information provided by the school, students will receive training in using ultrasound scanners to produce images of abdominal organs, for obstetric and gynecological needs, and of hearts for doctors and specialists to examine.

The school says the degree will qualify students for entry-level work in hospitals, imaging centers and doctors' offices and clinics as diagnostic medical sonographers. The program also is intended to prepare students to pass certification exams needed to work in the industry.

Between tuition, books and various fees, the program costs about \$48,800. But after ponying up that much money (or taking out student loans to pay for the program), will there be work in the industry?

In a recent employment projection, the state [Employment Development Department estimates](#) that about 4,700 people work in California as diagnostic medical sonographers, and that number is expected to rise to 6,700 by 2022. The field is expected to grow from 90 in 2012 to 120 by 2022 in Fresno County, where the average hourly wage was estimated at \$42.59.

Details about the program are available on Gurnick's website at [www.gurnick.edu](http://www.gurnick.edu) or by calling the Fresno campus at (559) 222-1903.

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