Ella M.

**Ultrasound Technician**

*Bay View Middle School*

Do you want to explore the medical field? Do you enjoy helping people? I know that is what interests me. My dream career is to be an ultrasound technician. A few skills ultrasound technicians need are to be good at monitoring the patient’s reports, to be an active listener, communicating clearly, and critical thinking. I believe I already have some of these skills and plan to continue working on improving them.

First, my education to become an ultrasound technician will require me to go to school for 6 years. This includes 4 years of regular college education and 2 years of sonography school. I think that 6 years is not bad compared to other medical careers where the programs require 8+ years of schooling. Now you may ask what type of school you’ll need to become an ultrasound technician? About 34% of people with their Bachelor’s degree and about 38% of people that have their Associate’s degree have received an ultrasound technician job. As an ultrasound technician, currently the highest dollar amount of money you can make in Wisconsin is $107,310 and the lowest dollar amount you can make is $68,380. Which is not a bad paying job.

Second, a goal I have during my career is to help my patients live their best lives. I would love to work with babies but I don’t want to be in the birth room or anything like that. Watching them develop in the mom's stomach would be just right for me! Did you know ultrasound technicians scan more than just babies? They also examine other body parts including the abdomen, reproductive systems, the heart and blood vessels. They often work together with other doctors in the medical field. For example, if someone has a clot in their blood vessels they would have to contact a hematologist.

Next, I want to share some interesting facts that made me choose this as my dream career. When the mom is pregnant for only 18 weeks the baby’s heart is a size of a dime, yet they still have to take 7 different images to gather information to detect any problems early on. Also another fact, when a patient is experiencing abdominal discomfort, the ultrasound technician can quickly scan the outside of the body to get a visual to find out what is happening inside.

In conclusion, if you enjoy working with people, wish to work in the medical field, have a good personality and strong communication skills then an ultrasound technician would be a great career for you! If you don’t feel an ultrasound technician is the career for you, the medical field has many different options. My dream is to become an ultrasound technician in the future!