

## NATIONWIDE CAREER & SALARY GUIDE

# Your Path to a High-Demand Healthcare Imaging Career Starts Here.

2026 U.S. Salary & Career Outlook for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) professionals.

Associate of Applied Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology

Salary pathways from **\$52K–\$165K+**

**\$88K**

U.S. median pay, MRI Technologists (BLS, May 2024)

**\$121K+**

Top 10% MRI Technologist earnings (BLS)

**8%**

Projected MRI tech job growth, 2023–33 — faster than average

## Medical imaging is one of the highest-paid allied-health careers you can start without a four-year degree.

An aging population, the rising prevalence of chronic disease, and the rapid expansion of outpatient imaging centers are driving sustained demand for skilled MRI technologists across all 50 states. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects **8% employment growth for MRI technologists from 2023 to 2033** — faster than the average for all occupations — with roughly **16,000 openings each year** across the radiologic and MRI technologist field.

MRI technology rewards hands-on, credentialed skill rather than years in a classroom. A DSDT graduate can enter the workforce with an associate degree, an **ARRT®-eligible credential**, and supervised clinical experience — the exact combination hospitals and imaging centers screen for. This guide is for prospective students, parents, career changers, and employers who want a clear, factual picture of what these careers pay in today's U.S. labor market.

*“A DSDT education isn't about a piece of paper. It's about walking into a hospital or imaging center — anywhere in the country — with the certification eligibility, clinical hours, and patient-care skills the employer is asking for, and walking out with the job.”*

## How to Read This Guide

Each salary table reports three U.S. national figures for the careers DSDT MRI graduates target:

### Entry (0–2 yrs)

What newly credentialed, early-career technologists typically earn in their first roles.

### U.S. Median

The midpoint for the role across the national labor market — half earn more, half earn less.

### Senior (5+ yrs)

What experienced technologists, leads, and specialists commonly reach.

**Sources.** Figures are drawn from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (May 2024 OEWS — most recent BLS release), Salary.com, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, Indeed, ERI, and Monster. Where multiple credible sources reported a role, DSDT used the median and rounded. Actual offers vary by experience, employer, region, shift, and certifications held.

# Associate of Applied Science in MRI Technology

## Program snapshot

The AAS in MRI Technology is a **76-credit, 18-month (5-semester)** degree that prepares students for entry-level careers in diagnostic imaging. It is an **ARRT® MRI Primary Pathway–approved program**, and DSDT College is nationally accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Didactic coursework is delivered online; clinical training is completed in person at affiliated hospitals and imaging centers.

### Didactic Phase — Semesters 1–2

- MRI Safety & Patient Screening
- Patient Care & Infection Control
- MRI Instrumentation & Physics
- Anatomy, Physiology & Sectional Anatomy
- Pulse Sequence Design & Parameters
- Medical Ethics, Law & Cultural Diversity

### Clinical Phase — Semesters 3–5

- Three supervised clinical externships
- **~900 total clinical hours** with licensed MRI technologists
- ScanLab virtual scanner simulation
- MRI Procedures I & II and protocols
- Image acquisition & equipment operation
- Artifact identification & troubleshooting

## What you train for



## Built-in clinical partners

DSDT places students for hands-on clinical training with a national network of hospitals and imaging centers, including:

Advantage Diagnostics & MRI • Adventist Health • All County Radiology • Apollo Imaging • BronxCare Health System • Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center • Munson Healthcare •

NewYork-Presbyterian • Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County • Rad X • Regional Medical Imaging • Sinai-Grace Hospital • St. Joseph's/Candler

**Enrollment:** \$25 application fee • No SAT/ACT • No essay required • Transfer credits accepted from 5,000+ accredited institutions.

## Careers DSDT MRI graduates target

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
MRI Technologist	\$65,000	\$88,180	\$115,000
Radiologic Technologist (X-ray)	\$52,000	\$77,660	\$107,000
CT Technologist (cross-trained)	\$62,000	\$89,000	\$118,000
Lead MRI Technologist / MRI Supervisor	\$80,000	\$98,000	\$138,000
MRI Clinical Specialist	\$80,000	\$110,000	\$160,000
MRI Applications Specialist	\$82,000	\$113,500	\$165,000
Travel MRI Technologist (contract)	\$95,000 – \$135,000+ (varies by contract & location)		

**BLS benchmark (May 2024 OEWS).** Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists — median **\$88,180**, lowest 10% under \$64,910, top 10% above **\$121,420**. Radiologic Technologists & Technicians — median \$77,660. **Job outlook:** MRI technologists are projected to grow **8% (2023–2033)**, faster than the 4% average for all occupations.

## Michigan Spotlight

DSDT's home campus is in Detroit, and demand for imaging professionals across Michigan is strong. BLS reports a Michigan median MRI technologist wage of **\$81,790** (range \$64,580–\$95,960), and the Detroit metro area typically pays **above the statewide average**. Because clinical training is in person and didactic coursework is online, students can train locally while building toward a credential that travels nationwide.

**Why MRI pays a premium.** MRI is a specialized modality. Technologists who add certifications (CT, mammography, vascular) or move into lead, supervisor, applications, or travel roles consistently reach the upper end of the ranges above — often \$115K–\$165K+.

# The DSDT MRI Career Ladder

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An MRI career builds on itself. Graduates enter as staff technologists, gain experience and added certifications, and climb into lead, specialist, and vendor roles — raising earnings at every stage.

Stage	Credential / Experience	Typical Role	U.S. Salary
Stage 1	AAS in MRI + ARRT®(MRI) eligibility	Staff MRI Technologist	\$65K – \$88K
Stage 2	Experienced & cross-trained (e.g. CT)	Senior MRI / CT Technologist	\$88K – \$118K
Stage 3	Team leadership & QA responsibility	Lead MRI Tech / MRI Supervisor	\$98K – \$138K
Stage 4	Vendor / OEM & advanced clinical	MRI Applications / Clinical Specialist	\$113K – \$165K+

Travel and contract MRI assignments offer an alternate high-earning path, frequently paying \$110K–\$135K+ annualized for technologists willing to relocate temporarily.

# Why Students Choose DSDT College

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## **ARRT®-aligned & accredited**

An MRI Primary Pathway program at a college nationally accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE) — built around the credential employers require.

## **Real clinical hours**

~900 supervised clinical hours at partner hospitals and imaging centers, plus ScanLab simulation — you graduate job-ready, not just exam-ready.

## **Online didactic, local clinical**

Complete coursework online on your schedule and train hands-on near you. Around-the-clock support resources, 5 days a week.

## **Built for working adults**

No SAT/ACT, no essay, \$25 application fee, transfer credits accepted, and financial aid for those who qualify. Career-services support included.

## **Military-friendly**

VA education benefits accepted, with a dedicated admissions track for active-duty, veteran, and military-family students.

## **A credential that travels**

ARRT®(MRI) eligibility is recognized nationwide — your skills and earning power aren't tied to where you live.

## **Ready to start your MRI career?**

Apply online today — \$25 application fee, no SAT, no essay.

Visit [www.dsdt.edu](http://www.dsdt.edu) | Call 888-688-4234 | Email [admissions@dsdt.edu](mailto:admissions@dsdt.edu)

# Sources & Methodology

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Salary figures in this guide are U.S. national estimates compiled in 2025–2026 from the following sources:

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (May 2024 OEWS — most recent release) and Occupational Outlook Handbook: Radiologic and MRI Technologists.
- Salary.com, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, Indeed, ERI Economic Research Institute, and Monster role-level salary reporting (2025–2026).

Where multiple credible sources reported figures for the same role, DSDT used the median of those sources and rounded. National median figures for MRI Technologists (\$88,180) and Radiologic Technologists (\$77,660) are taken directly from the BLS May 2024 OEWS release. Entry and Senior figures reflect the typical 0–2 year and 5+ year ranges reported across aggregator data and BLS 10th–90th percentile bands.

**Important.** Salaries are estimates and are **not a guarantee** of employment or earnings. Actual compensation depends on experience, certifications held, employer, region, shift differentials, and the broader labor market at the time of hire. Professional certification (e.g., ARRT®) may require successful completion of the program and passing the applicable registry examination. Program details are current as of June 2026 and subject to change.

**DSDT College • Online programs nationwide • Home campus: 1759 W. 20th Street, Detroit, MI 48216 • 888-688-4234 • [www.dsdt.edu](http://www.dsdt.edu)**

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