

Radiologic Technology*

Associate in Applied Science Degree Limited Enrollment

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Career Definition

Radiologic technologists perform radiographic procedures under the auspices of a radiologist or a medical specialist and produce radiographic images of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical abnormalities. They work in hospitals, clinics, private industry, and physician offices, as well as staffing mobile X-ray units.

Program Overview

The program is a full-time, two-year program which includes joint clinical and didactic training. The program provides both classroom and clinical instruction in anatomy and physiology, patient care procedures, radiation physics, radiation protection, principles of imaging, medical terminology, positioning of patients, medical ethics, radiobiology and pathology.

Upon completion of the 24-month competency based program, the students will be eligible to take the A. R. R. T. (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) exam to become a registered radiologic technologist. The graduate technologist can also apply for Illinois licensure with the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) as a requirement for employment in the state of Illinois.

Mission Statement

The Harper College Radiologic Technology Program will provide quality radiologic technology education in an effort to prepare competent entry-level radiologic technologists who will perform effectively within the health care setting.

Program Goals

1. Students who successfully complete this program will develop clinical competence as entry-level radiologic technologists.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

- demonstrate radiation safety practices.
- critique radiographs.
- position the patient correctly.

2. Students who successfully complete this program will apply critical thinking skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

- perform non-routine radiographic procedures.
- develop a mock quality assurance program for a radiology department.
- alter technical factors needed to accommodate patient pathological conditions.

3. Students who successfully complete this program will display proper communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

- communicate with patients.
- document accurate patient histories.
- communicate with a diverse population.

4. Students who successfully complete this program will demonstrate professionalism.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

- demonstrate professional behaviors.
- comply with professional ethics.

Program Effectiveness Measures**

The program will effectively meet the needs of the students and the community it serves.

The student will:

- pass the ARRT exam.
- complete the program.
- be employed in radiologic technology.
- be satisfied with the program.
- Employers will exhibit a high degree of satisfaction.

**For additional information regarding credentialing, exam pass rate, job placement rate and program completion rate, contact the JRCERT at www.jrcert.org

Opportunities for Employment

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of radiologic technologists is expected to grow faster than average through 2018, as the population grows and ages, increasing the demand for diagnostic imaging. Opportunities are expected to be favorable.

Opportunities for Advancement

Radiologic technologists with additional training can enter ultrasonography, mammography, angiography, interventional radiography, computerized tomography (CT), bone densitometry and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Experienced technologists may also be promoted to administrative positions within the radiology department. Advancements in administration, education and sales typically require technologists to obtain a bachelor's degree and/or a master's degree in radiologic technology, business, education, or health administration.

Helpful Academic Skills or Experiences

- Courses in high school biology, chemistry, algebra, physics and first-aid
- College courses in anatomy, physiology, English, algebra, communications and introduction to health careers
- Employment and volunteer experience in a health care setting and American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR certification

Professional Organization Websites

- Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists:
www.issrt.org
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists:
www.asrt.org
- International Society of Radiographers and Radiologic Technologists:
www.isrrt.org
- Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Science:
www.aeirs.org
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists:
www.arrt.org
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
www.JRCERT.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I get started?

A: This is a limited enrollment program and has special requirements. Attendance at a diagnostic medical imaging information session is mandatory prior to acceptance. At this meeting the following topics will be covered: career overview, curriculum plans, preparing for admission and admission policy. To receive an application for this program you must attend an information session. A schedule of upcoming information sessions is listed online at harpercollege.edu. Search for health care information sessions.

Meeting with an academic advisor is also strongly

recommended. New students should contact the Center for New Students and Orientation, 847.925.6208. Previously enrolled or current Harper College students should contact the Academic Advising and Counseling Center, 847.925.6393.

Q: How much does the program cost?

A: Specific tuition costs will be provided at the information meeting. Radiologic Technology coursework is double the standard tuition. **TUITION AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.** Financial aid is available through the Harper College Office of Student Financial Assistance and from area hospitals and agencies.

Q: What are the aptitudes, qualities and physical demands needed to be successful in the radiologic technology program?

A: The following are needed to be successful:

- Strong academic skills
- Aptitude for science
- Effective communication skills
- Musculoskeletal health—ability to lift and move freely
- Visual and auditory acuity within normal range
- High ethical standards
- Manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination
- Hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, neck and back health
- Ability to comfortably work with and show empathy toward patients

Q: How much do radiologic technologists earn?

A: According to the results of a 2010 survey conducted by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the annual full-time salary range is between \$52,813–\$82,753, with \$61,733 being the mean.

Q: Are there specific health requirements for this program?

A: Yes. Once accepted into the program the coordinator will provide you with information about when to contact Health and Psychological Services (HPS) to complete specific health requirements. HPS is located in Building A, Room A362, 847.925.6849. The student will be required to undergo a criminal background check and random drug screening.

Q: Is the program accredited?

A: The program is accredited by the Joint Review Commission on Education in Radiologic Technology. Accreditation allows the graduates to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) Examination immediately upon graduation and apply for temporary licensure from the Illinois Emergency Management Association, Division of Nuclear Safety. Since 2008, all Harper College Radiologic Technology graduates have passed their registry examination with the ARRT on the first attempt, averaging a score of 87 percent.

Radiologic Technology*

Associate in Applied Science Degree

This 74 credit-hour full-time curriculum prepares radiographers to produce radiographic images of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. Additional duties may include processing and evaluating images, evaluating radiology equipment and providing relevant patient care and education. The program provides both classroom and clinical instruction in anatomy and physiology, radiobiology, pathology, medical imaging and processing, radiation physics, positioning of patients, patient care procedures, radiation protection and medical ethics.

Radiographers are employed in health care facilities including hospitals and clinics, specialized imaging centers, urgent care clinics, physician offices and government offices. Some radiographers are employed in educational institutions and in industry.

Because of the nature of clinical experiences and individualized instruction in this program, specialized technology and the equipment necessary to offer this program, a higher tuition rate is assessed for career specific courses. These include courses with the RAD prefix. Tuition for these courses in this program is 200 percent of the standard tuition rate.

Admission Requirements

* This is a limited enrollment program and has specific admission requirements. Please contact the Admissions Outreach Office, 847.925.6700, or consult the website, harpercollege.edu, for an overview of these requirements. Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are required to meet current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined **at the time of acceptance into the program**.

PREREQUISITES¹

First Semester

BIO	160 ²	Human Anatomy	4
BIO	161 ²	Human Physiology	4
ENG	101	Composition	<u>3</u>
			11

FIRST YEAR¹

First Semester

HSC	104	Health Care Technology and Informatics	2
HSC	107	Basic Health Care Skills.....	1
HSC	112	Medical Terminology	2
		Mathematics elective ³	3
RAD	101	Introduction to Radiologic Technology	2
RAD	102	Radiologic Procedures I.....	3
RAD	103	Radiologic Principles I.....	<u>3</u>
			16

Second Semester

HSC	165	Basic Pharmacology	1
HSC	213	Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care	2
RAD	105	Radiologic Procedures II.....	3
RAD	106	Radiologic Principles II.....	3
RAD	107	Radiologic Clinical Education I.....	2
SOC	101 ⁴	Introduction to Sociology.....	<u>3</u>
			14

Summer Semester

RAD	201	Radiologic Clinical Education II.....	2
RAD	202	Radiologic Procedures III.....	<u>1</u>
			3

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Associate in Applied Science Degree, continued . . .

SECOND YEAR¹

First Semester

RAD	222	Radiologic Procedures IV	3
RAD	223	Advanced Radiologic Principles.....	2
RAD	224	Radiobiology	2
RAD	225	Radiologic Clinical Education III.....	3
SPE	101	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	<u>3</u>
			13

Second Semester

RAD	228	Digital Imaging	1
RAD	236	Radiologic Pathology	3
RAD	237	Radiologic Quality Assurance	1
RAD	238	Sectional Anatomy for Imaging	2
RAD	239	Radiologic Special Procedures	3
RAD	240	Radiologic Clinical Education IV	<u>3</u>
			13

Summer Semester

RAD	251	Radiologic Clinical Education V	3
RAD	258	Radiologic Seminar.....	<u>1</u>
			4

¹ A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.

² Must be completed no earlier than five years prior to beginning the Radiologic Technology program.

³ MTH 101 or higher with a grade of C or better.

♦ This course meets the World Cultures and Diversity graduation requirement.

Radiologic Technology

Certificate

Mammography Certificate*

This four credit-hour certificate program will provide the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) registered radiologic technologist the opportunity to expand their skills into the study in the theory and practice of mammography. The mammogram is a non-invasive procedure that assists in the detection of breast cancer.

Individuals who successfully complete this program are eligible to take the ARRT Mammography registry exam.

Because of the nature of clinical experiences and individualized instruction in this certificate, and specialized technology and the equipment necessary to offer this certificate, a higher tuition rate is assessed for career-specific courses. These include courses with the RAD prefix. Tuition for these courses in this certificate is 200 percent of the standard tuition rate.

Required: ¹

RAD	215	Principles and Procedures in Mammography ..	3
RAD	216	Mammography Externship	1

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¹ A grade of C or better in all RAD courses is required for all students.