What is a Radiologic Technologist?

A radiologic technologist performs diagnostic imaging examinations using x-ray or more advanced techniques, such as MRI, CT, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine. The RT provides direct patient care and is responsible for accurately positioning patients and ensuring that a quality diagnostic image is produced. An RT may work in the hospital, in a doctor’s office or clinic, and may specialize in dozens of clinical areas. Starting salaries are $19-20 per hour. Learn more about the career at www.asrt.org.

Length of Program

5 Semesters (Not inclusive of prerequisite courses)

Semester Program Begins

Fall Semester; Full time; Day classes only

General Admission Application Process

1. Apply to Gwinnett Technical College at www.gwinnetttech.edu, submit all transcripts from high school and previous college work, and take the ACCUPLACER test if required (You must be accepted into Gwinnett Tech prior to applying to a program of study.)
2. Applicants are initially accepted into the Healthcare Science Certificate program.

Program Application Process

1. All applicants are required to submit a Health Essay with their Healthcare Radiologic Technology program packet. The Health Essay and program packets forms are available online at http://www.gwinnetttech.edu/enrollment/forms-documents/.
2. For Fall program admissions the program application, health essay and all prerequisites must be completed by May 20th.

Prerequisite Courses

All of the following:
- Composition and Rhetoric-ENGL 1101,
- College Algebra-MATH 1111
- Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab-BIOL 2113 and BIOL 2113L*,
- Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab-BIOL 2114 and BIOL 2114L*

Additional Required Courses

One of the following:
- Introduction to Humanities-HUMN 1101,
- Art Appreciation-ARTS 1101, Music Appreciation-MUSC 1101 or American Literature-ENGL 2130
- Public Speaking-SPCH 1101
- Medical Terminology-ALHS 1090
- Introduction to Psychology-PSYC 1101

First Year Experience Seminar-FYES 1000 preferred that it is taken prior to program start date but can be taken during the first semester in the program. Transfer students with 30 or more transferrable credit hours will be exempt from taking FYES 1000

Competitive Admissions

*Courses may not be more than 5 years old at time of program application
**Courses may not be more than 10 years old at time of program application

Candidates are scored and ranked based on: overall GPA, prerequisite courses GPA on all attempts, Teas exam and evaluation of the Health Essay.

Program Costs & Requirements

Uniform scrubs, shoes, books; liability insurance; criminal background checks; drug screening; immunizations for hospital clinicals; $200 ARRT testing fee. All costs are approximated and are subject to change.

For more information, contact:

Tavia Thurmond, Program Support Specialist for Health Information Systems
thurmond@gwinnetttech.edu 678-226-6404 Building 200, Office Room 213

Everyone is welcome to attend our Information Session held on the 1st Saturday of each month* at 9 a.m. in Building 200, Room 104
*There will NOT be an Information Session in January

https://www.facebook.com/GTCRadTech
Radiologic Technology

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<th>Quick Facts</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2015 Median Pay</strong></td>
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<td>$58,960 per year / $28.35 per hour</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Entry level education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of jobs, 2014</strong></td>
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<td>230,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Job Growth 2014-24</strong></td>
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<td>20,700</td>
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Nature of the Work

Radiologic technologists produce x-ray images (radiographs) of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. They prepare patients for radiologic examinations by explaining the procedure, removing jewelry and other articles through which x-rays cannot pass, and positioning patients so that the parts of the body can be appropriately radiographed. To prevent unnecessary exposure to radiation, these workers surround the exposed area with radiation protection devices, such as lead shields, or limit the size of the x-ray beam. Radiologic technologists position radiographic equipment at the correct angle and height over the appropriate area of a patient's body. Using instruments similar to a measuring tape, they may measure the thickness of the section to be radiographed and set controls on the x-ray machine to produce radiographs of the appropriate density, detail, and contrast.

They must follow physicians’ orders precisely and conform to regulations concerning the use of radiation to protect themselves, their patients, and their coworkers from unnecessary exposure. In addition to preparing patients and operating equipment, radiologic technologists keep patient records and adjust and maintain equipment. They also may prepare work schedules, evaluate purchases of equipment, or manage a radiology department.

Work Environment

Physical stamina is important in this occupation because radiologic technologists are on their feet for long periods and may lift or turn disabled patients. They work at diagnostic machines but also may perform some procedures at patients’ bedsides. Some travel to patients in large vans equipped with sophisticated diagnostic equipment. Although radiation hazards exist in this occupation, they are minimized by the use of lead aprons, gloves, and other shielding devices, and by instruments monitoring exposure to radiation. Technologists wear badges measuring radiation levels in the radiation area, and detailed records are kept on their cumulative lifetime dose. Most full-time radiologic technologists work about 40 hours a week. They may, however, have evening, weekend, or on-call hours. Some work part-time for more than one employer; for those, travel to and from facilities must be considered.

Employment

Radiologic technologists held about 222,900 jobs nationally in 2014. About 61 percent of all jobs were in hospitals. Most other jobs were in offices of physicians; medical and diagnostic laboratories, including diagnostic imaging centers; and outpatient care centers. Employment of radiologic technologists is expected to increase by about 9% percent from 2014 to 2024.

Earnings

The median annual wage nationally of radiologic technologists was $57,450 in May 2016. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $38,110 and the highest 10 percent earned more than $81,660.

Research the Career
