

# YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO A CAREER AS A RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

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# When You Care for People in a High-Tech World, Radiologic Technology is for You

What are your options for a healthcare-focused career...and you're not interested in the time it takes to be a doctor or nurse?

One option is to become a radiologic technologist. It's a career field that's in demand, delivers a sense of fulfillment, and offers long-term security. How do you know you're right for this type of career?

- You love the people aspect of a job and you're willing to take on new ways of doing things.
- You know how fast healthcare is expanding...and that technology and patient care are combining in innovative ways.
- You don't let obstacles stand in your way, because you are adaptable to changes and understand the need to be flexible in your approach to getting results.
- You recognize the need for a college degree, but question why it should take four years to complete.

These are attributes common to those who could do well in a career as a radiologic technologist – the diagnostic imaging professional on a physician's team whose expertise contributes extensively to accurate diagnosis and treatment, cost-efficient care, and patient satisfaction.

This guide provides the information and resources needed to begin your journey toward becoming a radiologic technologist. In the right degree program, you can join this ever-evolving profession within two years, not four.





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# SECTION I: THE PROFESSION

# What is the Radiologic Technology Life...and Why is This Job So Important?

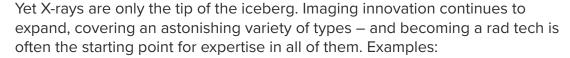
A registered radiologic technologist (rad tech) is a medical professional who is certified and registered to perform diagnostic imaging examinations. A two-year radiologic technologist degree program is a superb fit for someone who:

- Enjoys working one-on-one with people
- Appreciates innovation and is comfortable using technology such as using a smartphone or learning to operate a camera
- Wants to enter an in-demand career in less than two years.

# Medical Imaging is Ideal for Today's Diagnostics

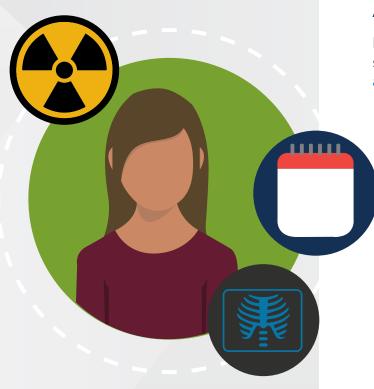
If you're not familiar with being a rad tech, you may not realize how widely imaging is used today. Earlier, more accurate diagnoses help reduce healthcare costs. The most common of all imaging choices is the X-ray, and it is critical in the evaluation of various body areas:





- CT scan (computed tomography)
- MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)
- Ultrasound
- Sonography





# The Difference: Radiologic Technologist or Technician

The role of a radiologic technologist is much wider than a radiologic technician or X-ray technician, so don't confuse the terms. Radiologic technologists undertake a formal educational program that provides deep knowledge in understanding the principles, theories, and applications of medical imaging, preparing patients for procedures, and ensuring images taken meet physician objectives.

The role of a technician is limited to practical knowledge obtained in informal programs. Technicians receive training on certain imaging equipment and technologies.

Many employers today anticipate radiologic technologists will be certified and registered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). In most states, you are required to have a state license before you can work as a radiologic technologist.

# Advantages of a Rad Tech Career

Few fields provide a better combination of career potential, personal satisfaction, teamwork, and salary than a radiologic technologist. The **annual survey by** *US News* places radiologic technologist in the top 25 of healthcare support jobs.

Here are some of the reasons why:

### You control your career

Become a radiologic technologist and the field opens up to additional specializations: MRI technologist, computed tomography (CT), radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, mammography, sonography, and many more.

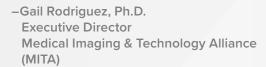
# Contributing to better healthcare

You'll be a member of the physician's team. The imaging work you do is vital to diagnosing disease or trauma by providing an inside view of the human body.

### No two days are the same

You can expect to do everything from prepping equipment to comforting someone with the imaging process to assisting the team in evaluating the results.

Over the past two decades, innovations in diagnostic imaging have contributed to extraordinary advances in healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. In less than a generation, imaging manufacturers have advanced the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of myriad diseases.



### · Be at the center of innovation

Imaging technology is advancing fast, which puts radiologic technologists at the front and center of innovation. New procedures and methods include 3D ultrasonic holography, hyperspectral imaging, and Polarized Nuclear Imaging (PNI).

### Portable career

A radiologic technologist degree program prepares you for certification and registration by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

Being ARRT certified and meeting any state licensure requirements announces your qualification for rad tech jobs anywhere in the U.S. Rather than being tied to a single company, your career as a rad tech is tied to your skills and can move with you across the country.

### Attractive salary

The salary range is \$58,701 to \$71,101 per year, according to Salary.com. This means experienced professionals often earn more, while new professionals may earn less. Salary potential increases with time in the field and by earning additional certifications.

# Long-term career

Some careers look promising but fade as new findings overtake them. That's not true when you become a radiologic technologist.

The overall **demand for Radiologic Technologists** will increase at least 6% through 2031, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



# Imaging Innovation: A World of Hope and Opportunities

The risks associated with invasive procedures have never been more evident.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 648,000 people in the U.S. develop infections during a hospital stay. More than 10% of those infections result in prolonged hospital stays or deaths. It's no wonder people of all ages – especially senior adults with the highest risk of complications – are increasingly concerned about needing surgery and undergoing invasive diagnostic procedures.

At the same time, healthcare is changing rapidly, and one of those changes is the growing importance of professionals in critical healthcare support roles. Those who look at where healthcare is going put radiologic technologists at the center of this growth.

- Thanks to medical imaging, "exploratory surgery," with all its risks and complications, is rarely a first choice. Most experts believe next-generation imaging will eliminate the need for biopsies.
- Harvard Medical School research shows every \$385 spent on imaging reduces a hospital stay by one day.
- Protocols for radiation safety now specify the lowest dose possible per procedure. Modern technologies and policies have reduced radiation concerns by 75%.

Total Medical Imaging Volume in the U.S., 2018 (M=Million):

159.7 MRI Scans
37.8 MRI Scans

Nuclear Medicine Scans

14.5 M

Radiation Therapy Treatments

1 2 1 1



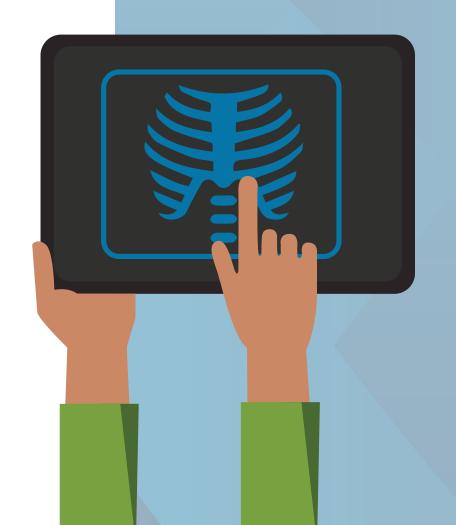
# Where Radiologic Technologists Work

Imaging centers in hospitals are some of the biggest employers, but so are micro-hospitals that connect with large healthcare systems, emergency clinics, outpatient centers, industrial health clinics, integrated physician offices, mobile imaging services, and federal and state agencies with "good health" initiatives.

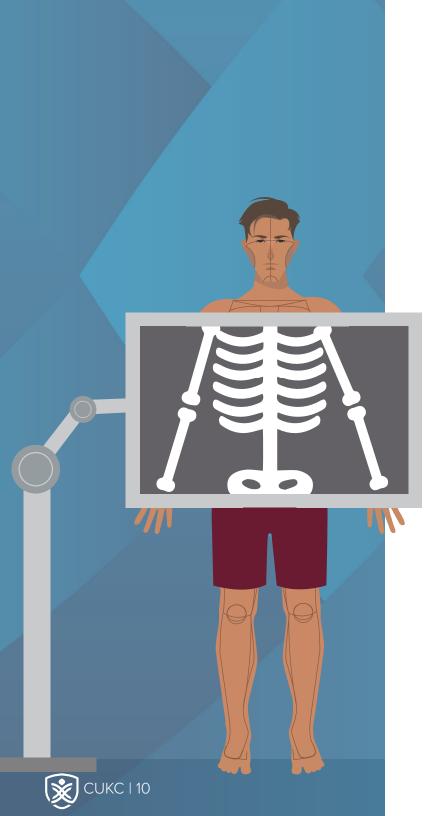
# A Work Week You'll Like

Best of all, you're not stuck in an ordinary routine. You're on the move with a wide variety of tasks. In an average week, a rad tech might do the following:

- · Set up equipment to acquire images requested
- Discuss with a physician how the images taken met the diagnostic goals
- Show compassion for a patient returning for another round of imaging
- Explain to patients how the imaging equipment will be positioned and what it will accomplish
- Answer questions from patients who may have never been examined with this kind of technology before.







# A Radiologic Technology Career Puts You at the Center of Patient Care

As a rad tech, you'll find yourself instructing the patient in the goals of imaging procedures, showing them how to position themselves (and occasionally, physically moving them into a position), and comforting them because of "technology anxiety" or their concern for radiation safety and health outcomes.

That's why the "soft skills" that may not be so important in other medical positions are important as a radiologic technologist. You'll find yourself

- Developing a rapport with people of all ages and cultures
- Establishing trust so the patient is confident in what you're asking them to do
- Showing patience and compassion while meeting physician expectations
- Motivating patients whose pain or condition may interfere with their cooperation.

Think of it this way: you're the human connection leading to someone's better health. It's estimated that three of every 100 people won't make a medical appointment due to fear of doctors or medical procedures. That delay between early detection and effective treatment can be very costly.

As a rad tech, your ability to establish relationships paves to an improved future.

# SECTION II: RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS



# How to Choose the Right Radiologic Technology Program

The demand for radiologic technologists is making radiologic technology programs extremely popular.

Radiologic technology education can be offered in a number of ways, and you do need to investigate the rad tech program you're interested in.

By thinking through costs vs. benefits and asking tough questions up front, you'll know the education program you choose will deliver the career outcome you want.

You should have a full understanding of these aspects of a radiologic technology program:

- Degree formats
- Certification and state licensing requirements
- Hands-on training opportunities
- Difference makers in superior programs
- Opportunities for clinical assignments while in school.

# **Degree Formats**

Because there are two-year, four-year, and certificate programs in radiologic technology, it's essential to research your options. Look at the time needed for graduation and determine if your choice meets current and future accreditation standards for the profession.





# Here's a Quick Review of Program Options:

### Associate Degree

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) is considered a smart path to a radiologic technology career because it packs all the necessary education and training into a concentrated format. It's a two-year, approximately 75 credit-hour degree with 24 hours of general education courses woven into required professional radiologic coursework. Graduates are eligible to apply for certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in radiography, and apply for state licensure.

## Bachelor's Degree

Traditional educational institutions present another option: a four-year, approximately 120 credit-hour degree that has nearly double the amount of general education coursework in addition to the radiologic coursework.

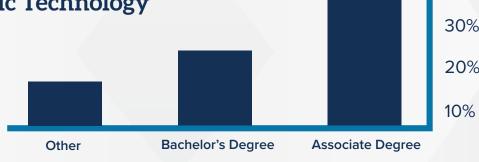
### Non-Degree Certificate Programs

Radiologic technology certification programs in radiologic technology (or radiography) do not meet the ARRT educational degree requirements. To achieve this, the certificate holder would also need to have at least an associate degree from a degree-granting college or university. The student could earn the associate degree before or after completing the certificate program.

In its most efficient format, the two-year, Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree is significant because this type of degree is known as the "hands-on" degree. It's proof to employers that you're a fully prepared professional, and have the technical skills and knowledge to be a valuable contributor in situations involving problem-solving, critical thinking, and positive patient interaction, problem-solving, critical thinking, and positive patient interaction.

# Choosing a Degree in Radiologic Technology

2021 Enrollment Snapshot, American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)





Associate: 60% Bachelor: 22%

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

**Other: 17**%

# **ARRT Certification**

There's no better barometer of program quality than how close the rad tech curriculum aligns with the expectations of the American Registry of Radiologic Technicians (ARRT) certification exam. This ARRT test covers the entire body of knowledge learned in a rad tech program:

- · Navigating various imaging situations
- · Patient interaction skills
- Monitoring radiation safety and following safety procedures
- Radiologic technology courses such as Radiologic Pathology & Trauma
- Operating diagnostic equipment.

Pass this test and meet all ARRT criteria, and you're a registered and certified radiologic technologist – credentials that employers expect throughout the country. In most states, you will need to be nationally certified by the ARRT and then receive your state license before you can work as a radiologic technologist.

Certified and registered radiologic technologists need to renew their certification and registration yearly, and must meet continuing education requirements.

### **JRCERT Accreditation**

Another sign of high quality is program accreditation by the Joint Review Committee for Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). JRCERT ensures radiologic technology programs provide appropriate knowledge and skills and adhere to the professional values required by today's radiologic technologists.

Employers prefer graduates from accredited programs because it assures them that the candidate has received education that meets national standards. This preference can lead to better job opportunities and potentially higher starting salaries.





- "Radiologic & MRI Technologist" www.healthcaredegree.com November 2023

# One of the best parts of being a rad tech is how integral you are to the patient's treatment plan. Rad techs take pictures of the problem, and the doctor can assess from there. You get to work alongside the doctor and, at the same time, provide comfort for the patient.

-Alayna C. 2022 Radiologic Technology graduate (A.A.S. degree)

# Difference Makers in a Radiologic Technology Program

You know you want a career that offers work/life balance, gives you plenty of ways to apply your talents, and delivers good pay compared to training time. Becoming a radiologic technologist will do that. Still, how do you identify a high-quality program? Here are four difference makers to look for.

## · Communication and empathy skills training

In today's healthcare world, "patient care interaction skills" are essential because patient satisfaction reports are a major influence on compensation for some healthcare facilities. Many patients have never undergone medical imaging before, they will range from the very young to senior adults and come from various cultures and socio-economic backgrounds.

### Comprehensive coursework

Look for robust coursework in:

- Healthcare terminology
- · Techniques for accurate radiographic exposure
- Effective patient positioning (including those with disabilities)
- Evaluating medical images
- Radiation safety and protection
- Best practices in working with radiologists and other physicians.

### • Entry into clinical experiences

Many radiologic technologist degree options put experience with patients at the end of the program. Rad tech programs developed by those with actual working experience will put patient care into the curriculum as early as the second semester.

### Program strength

Universities with well-funded programs make sure classroom and laboratory resources are fully maximized for degrees such as radiologic technology. It's especially important in allied health care professions, as discoveries, techniques, and best practices are occurring at an ever-increasing pace.



# **Key Questions for Your Program Choice**

In digging into the options for an in-demand healthcare career with a solid income, just about any search will point to the field of radiologic technology. It'll be up to you to make a wise choice from the many places offering diverse types of radiologic technologist programs.

Before deciding on a radiologic technologist program, ask these five questions:

### Is the program from a degree-granting institution?

The minimum requirement to be a radiologic technologist is an associate degree, which can only come from a degree-granting college or university that's accredited through an agency authorized by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Some radiologic technologist programs are not an approved ARRT program.

Other programs may not offer the prerequisite coursework needed for the associate degree or have full-time academic and clinical coordinators. Instead, they may leave it to you to find this coursework on your own and coordinate it with other educational requirements.

A university or college offering a radiologic technology program will have staff personnel who will assist you in achieving consistent progress toward graduation.

### How long will it take to complete the program?

In its most efficient format, a radiologic technology degree takes no more than 75 credit hours – two years of coursework – resulting in an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree.











# Are prerequisite courses available?

Prerequisite courses that are part of a radiologic technology degree are often available in online or hybrid online/class formats. If possible, take your prerequisite courses at the same school that you will enroll in for your professional coursework. This option can lead to guaranteed program admission.

### Does the program deliver essential workplace skills?

You'll want to know a radiologic technology program emphasizes in-person instruction, has multiple on-site equipment rooms, and enhances practice time using human body mannequins that imitate the body's bones, muscles, tissues, and organs. It should also feature the same technology expected in a real-world setting.

### Will I receive help with job placement?

Recommendations are important in any job situation, so ask about the school's established relationships with area employers. That makes it easy for instructors to recommend you.

The size of the clinic network available within driving distance of your program increases your chances, too, because you'll have more opportunities for various types of clinical experiences. Potential employers love to see good reviews with patients in actual clinic settings.

# SECTION III: EVALUATING EDUCATION OPTIONS



# How to Choose the Right Radiologic Technology School

In many ways, the university or college that develops a radiologic technology program is of greater concern to potential students than the rad tech program itself. The demand for rad techs is obvious and documented; discerning differences among the universities supporting these programs takes more time and thought.

Here are eight areas to consider when exploring your options:

- Reputation
- Resources
- Academic Experience
- Faculty/Staff Support
- Student Life
- Location
- Financial Considerations
- Preparation for On-the-job Experiences





# Reputation

Financial stability, commitment to student success, a defined educational focus, and well-funded resources are all good indicators of a strong academic reputation.

Here are some questions you can ask to help you feel confident about the school delivering the career program you've chosen.

- Has the school shown a time-tested capacity for developing new educational programs that match industry needs and stays true to the school's educational mission?
- Is the school public or private? If public, is funding dependent on state funding allocations?
- Does the school have an ongoing effort to improve and expand its network of potential employers for students?
- Does the school have strong rates for student retention and graduation?
- Does the school have a full-time financial aid staff?
- Does the community support the institution, and does the school or college involve itself in community organizations such as a chamber of commerce?
- Does the school regularly bring speakers on campus to discuss intriguing, relevant topics?

# How reputation is measured



Years of experience



Commitment to student success



Financial stability



Institutional and program accreditation



Graduation rates



Preparation to pass the ARRT certification exam



Investment in new technology

# Resources

Each school will have a unique set of resources that are worth exploring. Depending on your individual needs and interests, some resources will appeal to you more than others. Comparing diverse program and school resources is easier when you group them into consideration categories.

# Radiologic technology educational resources include:



Where your classes and education take place is a big part of your learning experience. Find out what facilities are on the campuses you're exploring, but don't stop there. Inquire about facilities specifically available to the students in the radiologic technology program and if those facilities are new.

It's not enough for the school to offer the resources; you need to be able to access them, too. For example, if the college offers robust online library tools, can you log in to use those tools outside of regular library hours? These types of questions are worth asking as you narrow your selection.

The funding available from the school for your radiologic technologist education will influence the styles, quantities, and condition of the equipment used for learning. Find out what recent additions and upgrades the program has received. Inquire about the school's ongoing plan to replace outdated technology and its schedule for future additions and enhancements.

# **Academic Experience**

Knowledgeable and approachable faculty help you achieve your best, so of course, you should take the opportunity to meet with instructors before you select a program.

Knowing first-hand how faculty members relate to students is a good indication of a "student-first" point of view. Look for an accepting attitude toward questions and office hours that are not overly restrictive.

While faculty offer a wealth of knowledge and instruction, they are not the only people who provide academic support. Academic services must also be part of the mix and can take the form of providing test-taking strategies, study habit seminars, and tutoring services.



# **Smaller Classes, Better Learning**

Time spent in class and labs connecting with students and your instructors encompasses a vast amount of your learning experience as a rad tech student.

The harder the coursework, the more important it is to be in smaller classes. The pace of learning in a professional training education will likely be faster than you've experienced so far and the amount of material covered also will be greater.

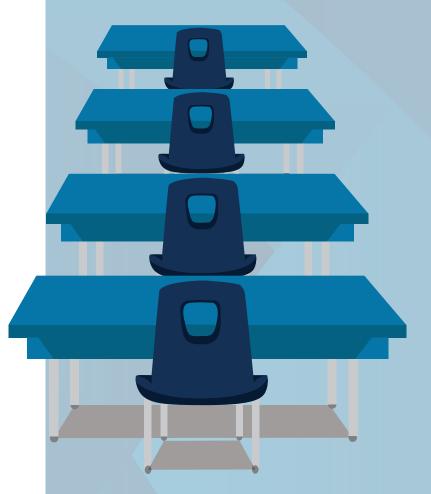
Large, auditorium-style classes may seem exciting, but it's easy to lose focus in such environments. Constructive, on-topic discussions also occur less frequently in large classes.

The value of smaller class sizes is especially true in lab and other "hands-on" environments because you can observe more closely, hear instructions more clearly, and get one-on-one help when you need it.

Only you can make that decision, but as a guide, expect a class to be no larger than 20 students.

# Factors that can influence your academic progress:

- Class size
- Student/teacher ratio
- Faculty/staff relationships
- Teaching methods
- Learning and practice opportunities.





# Faculty/Staff Support

Quality of instruction is another crucial measurement. You should expect all coursework to be taught by instructors with experience as a radiologic technologist.

Assessing the relationships faculty and staff have with students is also important. One way to gauge this is by asking about services and programs that contribute to student success beyond the classroom. You will spend a great amount of time in class, preparing for labs and mastering technology.

Your best indication of a caring university is a department or division set up to provide an array of student services – not just those needed now, but in anticipation of future demand.

In your evaluation of schools offering a radiologic technologist program, ask the following questions:

- How many student clubs and organizations are available? Is participation in them encouraged?
- What food service options, eateries, and restaurants are nearby?
- What programs are there for students encountering stress, anxiety, or other emotional issues?
- Is there a fitness center with up-to-date equipment?
- If you're struggling with a course, will tutors be available?
- Is there financial aid assistance?
- Are there programs to enhance study skills and improve testtaking results?
- As graduation time gets closer, what connections to employers does the program have? Do instructors know you well enough to recommend you for a job?

The most important responsibility of individual faculty members is to enhance the student learning experience.

-Education Advisory Board
The Evolving Role of Faculty in Student Success,





# **Student Life**

No matter how strong your drive for success is, you'll benefit from a school choice that has a supportive community environment.

You'll want to get an overall view of student life and student options. Common ways to measure this "sense of community" will be the perspectives of students already there, the availability of student clubs and activities, the school's support for housing options, the number and range of student services, and recognition of student achievement on the way to graduation.

For clubs and activities, you'll want to see if there are ones that not only fit you now but can help you be a better person. Find out if new clubs or organizations are encouraged, how easy they are to start, and how much support comes from administrators and faculty.

Check on the diversity of options and how much of the student population gets involved. Schools that believe in community will:

- Bring speakers to campus
- Provide on-campus common areas that encourage students to have fun or study together
- Host on-campus events
- Have campus traditions to mark special occasions and student milestones.



# Location

Where your school is located isn't always top of mind when beginning the evaluation phase, but location can be a fantastic benefit or burden.

An urban location may not require a car or other private transportation, but it may come with a high cost of living and concerns about safety. A suburban location may offer relative safety but not have solid access to major road routes or public transportation.

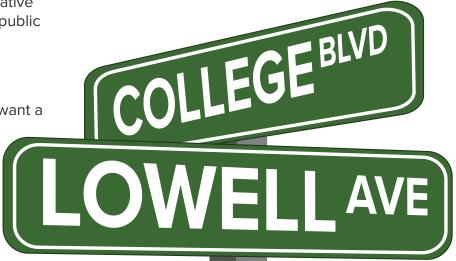
With that in mind, look for a school with a radiologic technology program that has the best of both worlds: a suburban area that is part of a close-by metro area. You want a place featuring:

- · Access routes to and from all directions
- · A mix of residential and business areas
- · Shopping and recreational options
- A network of healthcare facilities
- · Solid infrastructure and upkeep.

The best way to judge these factors is to make a personal visit. Expect that the school you're considering will feel as good a fit to your needs as the academic quality is to career expectations. If you don't get an invitation to visit or a school wants you to enroll sight unseen, there just might be a reason why.

Another contributor to the enjoyment of campus life is to have plentiful housing options. Ideally, the school itself is in a safe area that has a pleasant mix of green space and amenities.

Housing possibilities can range from newer apartments of assorted sizes to rental homes, and there is good access to places for entertainment, recreation, public transportation, and ride-sharing services.





# **Financial Considerations**

The journey toward an A.A.S. degree in radiologic technology is a big decision, even considering the payoff of a good salary and a bright career future. Financial costs should be addressed before you start.

The good news is how much financial aid is available for qualifying students. More than \$120 billion in educational aid is available each year according to the office of **Federal Student Aid**. Best of all, you don't have figure out by yourself. Expect the school you choose to have people and programs to guide you.

Financial aid often is a mix of programs for you to explore with the financial aid team:

- Federal direct loans and private loans
- Scholarships (from outside organizations and through the university)
- Grants
- Federal Work-Study Program
- Part-time employment
- Veteran's Benefits (Various programs through GI Bill®)
- Tutoring positions within your school
- · Personal/family resources.

First-hand, direct-from-the source **financial aid information** is always best. Get excited about your career and know there's no better investment than a high-quality education leading to an in-demand job.

After you've narrowed your choice of rad tech programs, dive into their school's financial aid knowledge. You'll want full-time advisors and staff who will provide detailed guidance, throughout your time in school, not only when entering the rad tech program.

The more knowledgeable the department and its staff are, the more informed you'll be about the financial aid process and choices that fit your specific situation.



# I have a passion for helping people and I find the combination of patient care and technology appealing. I get to take the X-rays that help diagnose an ill or injured patient which then gets them the proper help they need to get better. I am making a difference in people's lives.

–Abby L.2019 Radiologic Technology graduate (A.A.S. degree)

# Preparation for On-the-job Experiences

No education is complete without guidance in applying the knowledge gained. With that in mind, seek out a program that will help you get the most experience you can as soon as you're qualified. You don't want to be doing this on your own, and you don't want to be without workplace experience, either.

Look for radiologic technology programs that emphasize skills competencies before sending you into a work environment. Employers want you to contribute when you're part of their team, so you'll want to have completed more than 50% of a program's positioning classes before going to your first clinic setting.

Contributing as part of a team, demonstrating accountability, practicing patient interaction skills, and meeting deadlines offer great proof of competence. The closer these experiences are to matching situations encountered on the job, the better the prospect of employment.

Opportunities for those with radiologic technology degrees are another advantage of exploring this profession. Strong rad tech programs will provide different types of clinical setting experiences.

Rad techs find employment in

- Hospitals/Hospital Systems
- Offices of physicians
- Outpatient care centers
- Medical and diagnostic laboratories
- Federal government (Agencies/organizations.



# SECTION IV: THE PATH TO SUCCESS

# The CUKC Story

Cleveland University-Kansas City (CUKC) has the career answers you want.

When you have a sincere desire to master unique skills, help people live a healthy life, and continually challenge yourself in a job you can do well in each day, becoming a healthcare professional is a smart career choice. You can live that dream at CUKC.

Cleveland University-Kansas City is made up of people who all want the same thing – to make a real difference in healthcare and the lives of others. CUKC cultivates a community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who are tightly bonded by a shared passion for wellness and to help each other succeed.

Many people know the "Cleveland" name because of our success as a chiropractic college, which extends back to 1922. The College of Chiropractic continues its strong tradition today – more than one out of every 10 doctors of chiropractic is a CUKC graduate.

Just as CUKC foresaw how chiropractic care would become essential to today's emphasis on integrative healthcare, CUKC realized its focus on chiropractic and health sciences translated naturally into applied science degrees. This resulted in the addition the **Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Radiologic Technology**, along with bachelor's degrees in exercise science and human biology.

Recognizing quality and thoroughness were essential, CUKC decided to build its A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology program using feedback provided by practitioners in the field and benchmarks expected by those responsible for staffing these high-tech, high-touch positions.

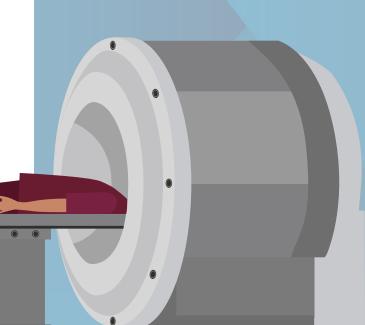


# **CUKC Radiologic Technology Program: Points of Distinction**

- The rad tech program has special classrooms and laboratories, plus library, cafeteria and dining hall, a fitness center, multiple student lounges, and computer stations throughout.
- CUKC faculty and program coordinators are practicing radiologic technologists.
- The instruction for imaging technology ensures our graduates can step in and use the equipment at imaging centers and clinics. This includes the ability to use and update electronic health records (EHRs).
- CUKC students are set for success in clinical situations.
   Students complete nearly 75% of their positioning classes

   the skills that determine accurate imaging the most –
   before beginning real-life patient interaction.
- CUKC continues to build its network of clinic and imaging center opportunities, which is enhanced by the Kansas City area's strong healthcare presence.
- A trauma preparation course is specifically included in the CUKC curriculum.
- Prerequisite courses (basic to most college degrees) are available in the fall, spring, and summer terms.
- Enrollment in radiologic technology courses begins in the spring and fall terms.





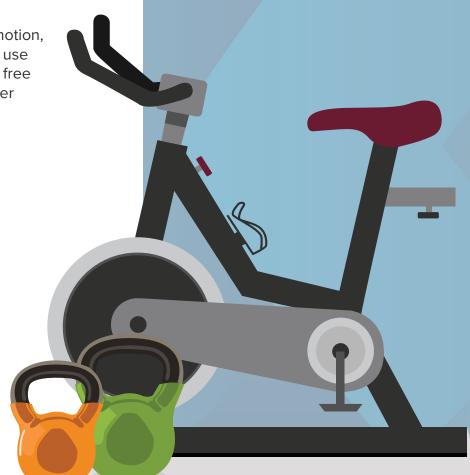
# Recognizing Student Needs

Cleveland University-Kansas City is a private, nonprofit, healthcare-focused university that works to integrate a healthy approach to all aspects of life. Yes, we'll challenge your mind and prepare you for the world, but we believe in giving you the tools to make it happen.

Student services at CUKC are fully developed and fully supported. From free tutoring to the finest lab facilities to a full-service café, we offer everything our students need to succeed.

# **Fitness Center**

In line with our commitment to wellness and health promotion, the on-campus Cleveland Fitness Center is available for use by students and employees. The fitness center includes free weights, weight machines, treadmills, ellipticals, and other cardio-related machines.





# **Award-winning Library**

The CUKC Ruth R. Cleveland Memorial Library houses research tools for conducting online literature searches and retrieving full-text articles. Library staff provides training on using PubMed and other databases and instructs users on conducting search strategies and evaluating search results.

Through the library's eBook collection, students have online access to textbooks, including some that are required for coursework. Ebooks are available to enrolled students for use on desktop computers and iPads.

The Library also provides access to required textbooks, which are on reserve behind the front desk and can be used inside the library. In some cases, an additional copy may be available for checkout or may be available in eBook form.

The library received a 2021 Award for Outstanding Advances in Technology and Service from the Health Sciences Library Network of Kansas City (HSLNKC).

# **Full-time Security**

The CUKC campus and building spaces are monitored 24/7.

# Café Cleveland

During daytime hours, CUKC operates Café Cleveland, a combination full-service food operation and mini-market. The University's two-year program students often stop in for a meal or snack before or after evening classes and find the cashless payment kiosks convenient.

# **Programs for Healthy Living**

Since 2016, CUKC has participated in the region's Healthy KC Certified program, which recognizes companies with health and wellness initiatives for employees. Other examples are wellness recognition programs and C.R.E.W. (Clevelanders Reach for Exercise and Wellness) for fitness promotion and community service opportunities.

Other examples are various exercise stations set-up around the campus, wellness recognition programs and a CREW team (Clevelanders Reach for Exercise and Wellness) for fitness promotion.

# **Clinical Experience Opportunities**

CUKC's location within a major metro area also offers plentiful options for on-the-job experiences. After you show positioning competency (after 100% of your positioning classes), you'll find yourself treating patients in clinics, imaging centers, or hospitals in the Kansas City region.

The variety of rad tech experiences available to CUKC students builds competency in different imaging situations. Experience in large and small hospitals, outpatient clinics, and physician offices improves critical thinking skills, strengthens the ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions, increases confidence, and ensures our students are fully prepared when they graduate.





# High-quality Radiologic Technology Education

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Radiologic Technology program at Cleveland University-Kansas City has full accreditation by the Joint Review Committee for Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The program ensures its students are meeting the educational requirements necessary for certification and registration by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

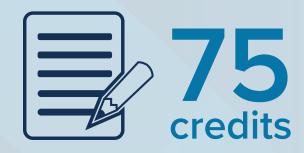
In the radiologic technology program at Cleveland University-Kansas City (CUKC), students receive their Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Radiologic Technology degree in as little as two years.

The **degree program** is 75 credit hours (four semesters), which includes:

- 24 credit hours of general education prerequisites (less than half needed for a bachelor's degree)
- 51 credit hours of professional radiologic technology courses as a full-time student.

Students have access to two full-functioning radiologic equipment rooms, the University's demonstration suites, and anatomically correct human mannequins. Clinical experience comes via partner healthcare facilities in Kansas City and surrounding communities.

Coursework is delivered in eight-week modules, and classes/labs are sequenced to ensure a maximized learning experience.







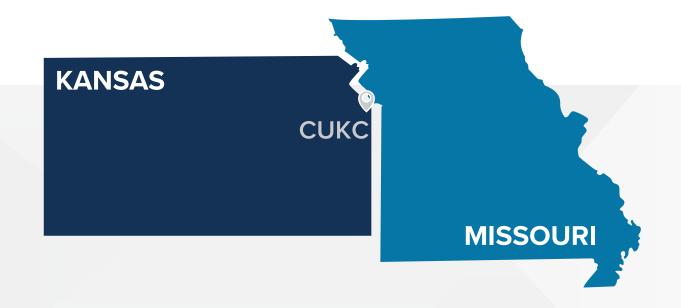


# A Location for Your Life and Work

A wise choice in where to go to school should also be a comfortable place to live. CUKC is in Overland Park, Kan., one of the best-recognized suburbs in the Kansas City metro area.

- The CUKC campus is in suburban Overland Park, Kansas, a city of 197,000 residents within a 20-minute drive from Kansas City's downtown and other high-activity areas.
- The campus is known for its contemporary facilities, abundant green space, free campus parking, safety, and convenient access to residential areas, eateries, restaurants, shopping, and interstate highways.
- Overland Park is a nationally recognized city. Recent achievements include:
  - Happiest Cities in America, WalletHub
  - Best Cities for Jobs, WalletHub
  - Safest Cities in America, SmartAsset

The 15-county Kansas City metropolitan area is not only home to nearly 2.3 million people, it's home to dozens of Fortune 500 employers and has a healthcare industry that includes regional and national hospital systems.





# SECTION V: YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE

# The Patient-first, High Impact World of a Radiologic Technologist

The following is an interview with Jason Elliott, an ARRT-certified radiologic technologist (radiographer) with 11 years of experience working in hospital-based imaging departments.

He's also certified in Computed Tomography (CT). Jason earned his A.A.S. and B.S. from Colorado Technical University and a Master's in Health Administration from Webster University. He is director of the A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology program at Cleveland University-Kansas City.

### Q. What's your goal for students in radiologic technology?

**A**. I want them to be seen by patients as caregivers who also happen to be a radiologic technologist. At CUKC, we teach our students to be as effective in caring for people as they are experts in imaging equipment and procedures.

### Q. How important is the role of a rad tech?

**A.** In a busy center, you might be the one who's helping choreograph imaging priorities for multiple trauma situations. Or if you're in a rural setting, you might be the only technologist in the Radiology Department and be counted on to do X-rays and CAT scans from 7 a.m. Saturday morning to 6 p.m. Sunday night.

Recently, there was a man in his mid-40s with a brain tumor and the attending physician wanted to see the progress of his treatment. Although my role was to obtain the scans as ordered by the physician, I could also tell he was in pain, and I suspected he had a lot of fear about his future.

Although I was the only radiologic technologist on staff, and it was a busy day of imaging, I made the time to engage with him on a personal level. I believe this helped him through the appointment and during the rest of his treatment.



Ours is a patient-first profession in a high tech world. The goal is to produce an image where the physician can see what they need to see for the best patient outcome.





# Q. Walk through a patient's case from the beginning. What is the interaction like among patient, medical staff, and you?

**A.** One Saturday I received an order for a two-view abdominal X-ray on a 76-year-old female with abdominal pain. In the X-ray suite I asked where her pain was coming from. She stated she had mid-back pain and that her family doctor told her it was a compression fracture that would heal on its own.

On the X-ray view of the abdomen, I noticed a hazy area on the lungs bases that made me suspicious of something else. Based on my knowledge and experience, I recommended an additional chest view.

### Q. You suggested additional imaging scans?

**A.** Yes, and I called the ER physician on-duty and recommended adding a chest X-ray to the imaging order. Because I had worked with him before and he trusted my expertise, he agreed. After obtaining the chest X-ray, the radiologic report indicated 70% of her right lung field was abnormal. After a discussion with the ER physician it was determined to add a CAT scan of the chest to determine the source of abnormality.

Being brought to the imaging department a second time obviously upset the patient as she saw it as an inconvenience. She did not understand why we were adding procedures, but of course, I can't give her details – only the doctors can do that. I explained how different scans provide additional information that can lead doctors to an accurate treatment. I did comfort the patient during this challenging time, showing as much empathy and compassion as I could.

# Q. So you established a relationship with the patient while also satisfying your medical responsibilities?

**A.** Yes. Very often the radiologic technologist is the one who serves as a connecting point between the radiologist and the patient.

Later, after I knew the doctor talked with her about the lung cancer diagnosis, I took time to come back to her room in the ER. I wanted to provide her with emotional support during in this time and to show her that I cared about her as a person. Clearly, the cancer discovery was devastating, but it did allow her the opportunity to receive proper — and possibly lifesaving — treatment at an oncology clinic.



# Ready When You Are

Selecting healthcare as your career path and the A.A.S. degree in Radiologic Technology as an expression of your passion for people and service to the community requires careful thought and consideration.

As you've seen, the rad tech career is full of personal and professional benefits but will also demand the very best of your talents and abilities.

We encourage you to check out the resources below that will give you confidence joining the world of radiologic technologists.

# **Discovery Day Open House**

Visit **cleveland.edu/openhouse** for dates, details, and to register for an upcoming open house or tour.

This is the perfect opportunity to explore a career as a rad tech at CUKC. Enjoy a tour of our facilities, check out the imaging equipment, learn about financial aid and scholarships, and visit with members of the CUKC community.

# **CUKC Campus Tours**

If you can't wait to attend an open house event, we understand. Please let us welcome you to a private **campus visit and tour**.

# Get Started on Your A.A.S. Degree in Radiologic Technology

No one can make a better decision on what's best for your career than you. The radiologic technologist profession may well be the right choice for you. If so, CUKC is the place to start, because Cleveland University-Kansas City is the place where you'll find the path to success.

**Connect with an Advisor** 



# Helpful Resources

### About the Profession

https://www.arrt.org/about-the-profession/learn-about-the-profession

### **ARRT Certification**

https://www.arrt.org/about-the-profession/arrt-certification-and-registration

# **ARRT Credential Requirements**

https://www.arrt.org/earn-arrt-credentials/requirements

# Benefits of Medical Imaging

http://www.medicalimaging.org/benefits-of-medical-imaging/

### Career Outlook

https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm#tab-6

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid

https://studentaid.gov/

## Information About Financial Aid

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/7-things-you-need-to-know-about-financial-aid

# Perspectives on Medical Imaging

http://www.medicalimaging.org/

### Radiologic Technology: A Day in the Life

https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=29203400

### Rad Techs: One of the top Healthcare Support Jobs

https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/best-health-care-support-jobs

### Rising Rate of Healthcare Costs

https://blogs.wsj.com/dailyshot/2017/04/04/wsjs-daily-shot-health-costs-soar-180-in-15-years/

### Salary Expectations

https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm#tab-5

# Helpful Resources

### Risks Involved in Surgery and Invasive Procedures

https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/health/hospital-acquired-infections/index.htm

# Scholarship Search Engines

www.fastweb.com

### Scholarship Resources

https://foundation.asrt.org/what-we-do/scholarships/additional-scholarship-resources

https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx

### Skills List for Rad Techs

https://www.thebalance.com/radiologic-technologist-skills-list-2062464

## **State Licensing Requirements**

https://www.arrt.org/about-the-profession/state-licensing

# The Promise of Medical Imaging

https://www.nih.gov/sites/default/files/about-nih/nih-director/articles/collins/revealing-bodys-deepest-secrets.pdf

## The World of Medical Imaging

http://www.medicalimaging.org/about-mita/medical-imaging-primer/

# Where Radiologic Technologists Work

https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm#tab-3

# Why the Healthcare Field is Expanding

https://money.usnews.com/careers/articles/2018-01-10/health-care-jobs-abound-heres-how-to-tap-into-the-hot-job-market?int=careers-rec