

Radiologic Technology (Radiographer) Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a typical day in the life of a radiographer?

A: A radiologic technologist (radiographer) typically works an eight hour shift, and during that time completes a wide variety of radiographic procedures such as skeletal examinations, chest x-rays, studies involving contrast media (dye) such as stomach, colon, or urinary tract examinations, portable x-rays, etc. Radiographers are responsible for completing a pertinent patient history along with other required paperwork and documentation. The radiographer interacts with patients, physicians, and other health care professionals. The radiographer provides quality patient care. Radiographic cases can be added on to the schedule each day and radiographers may then be required to work additional hours.

Q: Where do radiographers work?

A: Radiographers are employed by hospitals, imaging centers, and private physician offices. New graduates will be employed primarily in the hospital setting.

Q: What are the duties of a radiographer?

A: A radiographer:

- Performs procedures to obtain diagnostic images to be read by a physician
- Obtains and records accurate patient history
- Analyzes technical information
- Provides quality patient care
- Works as part of the health care team

Q: Part of the radiographer's career includes being "on call." What does that mean?

A: Depending upon the facility, radiographers may be required to carry a beeper and be called back in to the department after hours, on weekends, and on holidays. For example if your shift is over at 4:30 pm, you may be called back to the hospital at 9 pm. You returned home to sleep and are called again at 3 am to return to the hospital and you are still required to be at work at 8 am. This is one reason for radiographer "burn out."

Q: What role do radiographers play in patient care?

A: Radiographers are patient caregivers who must take care of the patient while in the department. They provide services in the emergency room, intensive care units, and operating rooms in addition to the radiology department.

Q: I want a career that does not deal with needles, blood, and/or bodily fluids. Is radiography that career?

A: Exposure to blood and body fluids is common. The radiographer *does* deal with patient issues such as vomiting, bleeding, giving bedpans, urinals, etc. Performing injections and assisting with invasive techniques is within the scope of practice for radiographers.

Q: How competitive is the radiologic technology program?

A: Both programs are very competitive. Check out the [Profile of Admitted Students](#) (www.hacc.edu/healthcareers - select Admission Criteria).

Q: Can the radiologic technology program be completed part time?

A: The prerequisite work can be done part time, but the clinical phase requires a full-time, 36 - 40 hour per week, commitment for five semesters - spring, summer, fall, spring & summer.

Q: Is there a national or state certification or credentialing examination that is required after graduation in order to be employed?

A: Yes, most facilities will hire you with a stipulation that you are required to pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam in radiography. Most facilities allow up to one year to pass this exam. Currently the exam costs \$200 and is not included in the program.

Q: Is the radiologic technology program at HACC accredited?

A: HACC is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition both the college based and hospital based radiologic technology programs are accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (**JRCERT**), 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182. These accreditations are recognized by the ARRT so graduates of the radiologic technology programs are eligible to sit for the certification exam in radiography.

Q: What is the job market like?

A: Nationally there is a need for radiologic technologists. The current job market varies geographically. The job market has always been cyclical and the radiologic technology profession is not immune to current economic conditions.

Q: Where would I do my clinical rotations?

A: Hospital-based program - Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill
College-based program - Students are assigned to imaging facilities. For 2012 the sites include:

Lancaster Regional Medical Center / Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center / Imaging Center of Lancaster	Carlisle Regional Medical Center / Hanover Hospital
Brandywine Hospital / Jennersville Regional Hospital	Chambersburg Hospital / Summit Health Center
Ephrata Hospital / Lebanon VA Medical Center / Ephrata Diagnostic Center	PinnacleHealth (Community General Osteopathic Hospital, Harrisburg Hospital, Fredrickson Outpatient Center, Polyclinic Hospital)

Q: Is the job physically demanding?

A: Yes, you need to be able to help transfer patients from wheelchairs to stretchers, move the x-ray tube/machine, push portable equipment and lift ancillary equipment into place.

Q: What's the difference between the two radiographer programs HACC offers?

A: The College-based program is sponsored by HACC. The RADT courses are offered at the Lancaster campus and clinicals are arranged by HACC. The Hospital Based Program is sponsored by Holy Spirit Hospital. Holy Spirit Hospital has an articulation agreement with HACC to offer an associate degree to graduates of the Holy Spirit Hospital Certificate Program in Radiography. Both programs are accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182, (312) 704-5300. Graduates of either rad tech program are eligible to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (**ARRT**) certification examination in radiography. Prerequisite courses for either program can be taken at any HACC location.

Q: What do I need to do to get started?

A: **Apply to the college**, submit high school transcripts and any prior college transcripts. For additional information about the hospital-based program, contact Kevin Otto, Program Director School of Radiologic Technology Holy Spirit Hospital - (717) 763-2123 kotto@hsh.org.

Q: I have a criminal background. Will I be able to do your program and sit for the certification exam and be hired by a health care facility?

A: Maybe. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) offers an Ethics **Pre-Application Review** process for students who have reportable offenses. (www.arrt.org – click on Ethics – Pre-Application Process) There is a fee for the process which can take up to 12 weeks to complete. Students should complete the process and present resultant paperwork to the program director prior to applying for clinicals. Being hired by a facility is a matter between you and the facility.