

West Virginia University Hospitals
Radiologic Technology Education Programs
FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)
for the Radiation Therapy program

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- 13. Do I still have to take the ACT or SAT exam if I have already completed x-ray school or college courses or have an associate's degree?**

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

- 1. When does the Radiation Therapy program start?**

The Program begins on or near July 1st of each year. Applications are accepted until February 1st of each year. Applications that are not received or are not complete (this includes receipt of all required transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, etc.) by the February 1st deadline **will not be considered** for the enrollment year.

- 2. How many students apply and how many are accepted into the program each year?**

The number of applications submitted varies from year to year but generally ranges between 10 to 20 each for enrollment year. Each year, the top academic candidates are granted an interview and 4 of those are offered positions. Up to four (4) additional students may be waitlisted in the event that any of the selected students decline the position.

- 3. When are students notified of their application status?**

Candidates are notified in late February regarding whether or not they are granted an interview. Interviews are scheduled throughout the months of February and March and candidates are notified whether or not they have been accepted by early April.

- 4. If I'm not accepted this year, do I have to reapply next year?**

Yes, you must resubmit a new application and three new reference forms if you wish to reapply for the next year. Application files are kept for one (1) year, so if you reapply within

1 year, you will not need to resubmit your ACT/SAT scores or your academic transcripts unless you have completed additional course work or retaken the ACT/SAT exam(s) during that time frame. If an applicant does not apply in consecutive years, their complete file will be discarded.

5. If not selected this year, what can I do to improve my chances of admission if I re-apply next year?

Enrollment into the program is very competitive and obviously, everyone cannot be selected. The following are recommendations that may improve your chances of admission:

- a. Complete college level course work in the following science related areas:
Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, & Physics.
- b. Complete college level course work in the following mathematics related areas:
College Algebra, Geometry, Computer Science, or any higher-level mathematics course.
- c. Retake and improve your composite score on the ACT or SAT exam
- d. Obtain experience in patient care if the opportunity presents itself, such as volunteer work.
- e. Thoroughly research the profession of Radiation Therapy. Know as much as you can about the profession and the specifics related to your chosen career. The ASRT website is a good resource (www.asrt.org).

6. Pursuing a Bachelor degree while enrolled in or after graduation from the Radiation Therapy program at WVU and Degree Requirements

The following mechanism is available for students who wish to pursue a Baccalaureate degree in addition to their Radiation Therapy Technology education:

Baccalaureate Degree - In the State of West Virginia, the WV Board of Regents Bachelor of Arts program is available through State operated colleges and universities. This program will credit most radiography graduates with 55 lower division, college credit hours toward this 4-year degree once the graduate successfully passes their national certification exam through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Additional college credit of up to 35 credit hours can be awarded for the completion of the graduate programs in Nuclear Medicine, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, or Radiation Therapy.

To be eligible to sit for the certification exam in Radiation Therapy administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, all students must document the completion of an Associate's degree or higher from an accredited college or university. Therefore, candidates accepted for admission must document prior completion of an Associate's degree or higher from an accredited college or university upon admission. The degree requirement is non-specific and can be in any field or discipline. If a candidate has already completed a college degree in any field, they have met the requirement.

7. What are the costs associated with attending the program?

Tuition – The program tuition is \$1500.00 dollars per semester (\$3000.00 per year for the full 12-month program). Students are assessed a \$50.00 **nonrefundable** admission fee upon acceptance into the program.

Books & Supplies – The cost of textbooks is estimated at approximately \$700.00 for the 12 month Program. This is an estimated value and may be subject to change depending on instructor preference and market prices.

Uniforms – Upon acceptance to the program, students are provided with information on purchasing their uniforms. Students should expect to spend approximately \$200.00-300.00 on uniforms for the program.

Graduation fees – Students are assessed a \$25.00 graduation fee payable two weeks prior to graduation.

A.R.R.T Exam Fees – During their final semester, student must make application to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists to take the certifying exam in Radiation Therapy upon completion of the program. The current fee assessed by the A.R.R.T is \$200.

8. Is student housing available?

WVUH does not own or operate a student housing facility; therefore, it is the student's responsibility to obtain and finance housing if they choose to live in the Morgantown area.

9. What types of financial aid are available?

Students enrolled in the Radiography Radiation Therapy, and MRI programs are eligible for Federal financial aid to include Pell Grants and Direct loans. Prospective students may include WVUH on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by listing our school's code (012573) when completing Step Six of the FAFSA; however, financial aid eligibility will not be calculated until the student gains admission to the program.

10. What are the required hours of attendance and the allotted time off?

The normal hours of attendance are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM with the exception of approximately 1 week per month of an early clinical rotation in the 2nd semester. These weeks per semester of early clinical assignments (7:00am-3:30 pm) are to familiarize the student with machine warm-up and quality assurance procedures. Students do not participate in weekend or holiday clinical rotations.

Consistent with the desired qualities of a medical professional, student are required to be on time for their scheduled clinical rotations and miss as little as time as possible over the one-year program. Attendance is monitored closely and students may be dismissed for violation of the attendance policy. Students are allotted 6 personal leave days over the one-year period and are scheduled off on all of the Hospital recognized holidays. In addition, students are granted three weeks of scheduled vacation each year (1 week in March or April & 2 weeks in December/January).

11. How does this type of education differ from other post-secondary education programs?

Students enrolled in the Radiologic Technology Education programs are expected to be mature, responsible adults that are willing to make a commitment to the Institution and the profession. This commitment is evidenced by demanding high quality academic work, exceptional patient care /clinical skills, and good attendance. The first few months may seem difficult as the program does require a lot of the student's time and because all of the information and experiences are new. It may seem like working and going to school because you are required to be in attendance for 8 hours each day and then you will find it necessary to spend additional time completing homework assignments and/or preparing for examinations. Students are responsible for simultaneously completing the didactic (classroom) and clinical components of the program. Therefore, each student will have to dedicate a lot of time to his or her education. A critical aspect of the student's education is the clinical component. Students are assigned to a clinical rotation the first week of their program; therefore, they will be immediately exposed to certain aspects of health care that may be unpleasant to the untrained individual. Students should expect to experience adult & pediatric patients with a variety of conditions such as broken bones, severe deformities, malignancies, bleeding, and contagious diseases. In addition,

students will be required to provide care regardless of the patient's sex, race, socioeconomic status, and/or physical condition. It is imperative that the student respond in a mature, reassuring, and professional manner when providing healthcare to the patient population while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding the patient and their condition.

12. Do I have to be a graduate of an accredited radiography (x-ray) program in order to apply?

Yes. All Applicants must have graduated (or have pending graduate status) from a JRCERT accredited program in Radiologic Technology.

13. Do I still have to take the ACT or SAT exam if I have already completed x-ray school or college courses or have an associate's degree?

Yes. Official ACT or SAT exams scores are required. Only students with a baccalaureate degree or higher may be exempted from this rule.

14. What are the requirements for candidates that are selected for the program?

The 4 selected applicants will be given approximately 10-15 business days to respond to the offer of admission by completing the following prior to the established deadline:

- Read the Student Handbook (Volume I and Volume II)
- Sign and return a "Statement of Intent to Enroll" form, which acknowledges acceptance of the specified terms.
- Submit the \$50.00 non-refundable admissions fee.

Prior to the July start date; each accepted student will be required to:

- Complete a health assessment and a vaccination record review conducted by the Employee Health department.
- Complete the criminal background investigation process.
- Complete the drug screening / testing process.
- Complete all other WVUH mandatory orientation procedures.

Additional questions may be directed to paughc@wvumedicine.com or by phoning the following
(304) 598-4715