
Clinical Education / Standards Policy

The Radiation Therapy Education Programs sponsored by West Virginia University Hospitals (WVUH) recognizes that the application of didactic material is an essential component of the education process and that the student's clinical performance is a valid indicator of professional progress and achievement. In accordance with our accreditation Standards, WVUH has developed a competency-based curriculum designed to document the student's clinical performance in the Clinical Experience course (Applied Therapeutic Procedures Courses RADTT 420 and RADTT 430). Clinical rotation schedules are designed so that the required 1:1 staff to student ratio is maintained and the equity in student placement is ensured. This policy serves to identify the structure and standards by which the clinical education process is administered.

I. Clinical Education Overview:

Clinical education is conducted exclusively at WVUH owned and operated facilities. All clinical sites are located within 25 miles of the main campus. Clinical rotations are only conducted at the WVUH main facility, Ruby Memorial Hospital, and at the satellite center, Fairmont Regional Cancer Center. Students are not required to complete any additional orientation procedures beyond those required for admission to participate in clinical rotations. Clinical rotations are primarily assigned between 8am and 4:30pm each weekday as assigned each semester. No clinical education is conducted on weekends, holidays or midnight shifts.

II. Clinical Education Process:

The following describes the progressive procedures employed in achieving and validating clinical competence:

a. Didactic Instruction

After matriculation into the program, students are progressively introduced to the various procedural and technical requirements for each clinical exam through didactic instruction and testing during the 12 month program.

b. Clinical Practice/Student Clinical Log Sheets

Concurrent with didactic instruction and under direct supervision, the student will position, plan and treat the patient, calculate and record doses, check the patient's treatment records, and observe the patient in a routine follow-up physician visits. These clinical activities are to be recorded daily by the student therapist in the Trajecsyst electronic clinical report system via an internet connection.

c. Clinical Competency Examination

After observing and assisting the radiation therapist with an appropriate number of radiation therapy set-ups (generally a minimum of 3 or more), a clinical competency exam will be administered for each procedure identified on the ARRT clinical checklist for Radiation Therapy Procedures. Competency categories include but are not limited to the procedures from the following sites: Brain, Head and Neck, Chest, Breast, Abdomen, Pelvis, Skeletal, electron fields, general patient care procedures, simulation procedures, Dosimetry, treatment accessory devices and participatory procedures. Successful completion of a competency **does not** qualify a student to perform that particular exam without direct supervision.

d. Comprehensive Competency Examination

After successful completion of a Clinical Competency examination in a specific category, the Program Director or Clinical supervisor may administer a comprehensive competency exam to ensure that proficiency and accuracy is being maintained. At midterm or semester end, each student will be required to complete a minimum of (2) comprehensive exams on radiation therapy procedures in which they have

previously demonstrated competence. A comprehensive competency exam will be administered at a time and on a patient designated by the Program Director or Clinical Supervisor.

Refer to the following for clarification of specifics depicted in the policy:

- a. Direct Supervision of Students
- b. Applied Therapeutic procedures I and II
- c. ARRT Clinical Competency Procedures Checklists
- d. Trajecsys Student clinical logs and competencies

III. Clinical Grade Calculation

The student's clinical grade consists of several components, each utilizing a different mechanism to assure a complete and comprehensive evaluation of clinical performance. The following components and weighted averages are utilized:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weighted Average</u>
Student Log Sheets	10%
Clinical Competency	40%
Monthly Evaluations	25%
Comprehensive Competency	15%
Program Director Evaluation	10%
	100%

Each clinical grading component is explained in both Applied Therapeutic Procedures Courses (RADTT 420 and RADTT 430).

IV. Clinical Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be utilized as an objective evaluation mechanism for representing the student's clinical grade and performance.

<u>Percentage Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	
100-93%	A	4.0
92% - 86%	B	3.0
85% - 78%	C	2.0
77% - 70%	D	1.0
< 70%	F	0.0

V. Clinical Grade Standard (minimum)

Each student is required to achieve a minimum overall weighted clinical average of **86% (B Letter Grade)** at the end of each semester in order to successfully complete the clinical education component of the program. Due to the progressive nature of the clinical education component, no provisions are provided for repeating a clinical level. Each clinical education level must be completed before advancing to the subsequent semester; therefore, students who fail to achieve an **86% (B Letter Grade)** weighted clinical average at the end of each semester will be dismissed from the program. Students are counseled by the Program Director regarding their clinical progress at mid-term, semester end, and/or as needed; however, it is the student's responsibility to maintain awareness of their clinical progress at all times.

Radiation Therapy Program Director/Education Coordinator