

IMAGING SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**Nuclear Medicine****Nuclear Medicine Education Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is nuclear medicine?
 - Nuclear medicine is a specialty medical imaging service which utilizes small amounts of radioactive materials (radiopharmaceuticals) to diagnose and/or treat diseases.
2. Who is qualified to apply to the program?
 - MUST be a graduate or pending graduate of a JRCERT accredited radiography program (x-ray)
 - MUST be an ARRT registered radiologic technologist, RT(R), by July 1 of admission year
 - MUST have completed college-level courses in chemistry with lab and mathematics
 - MUST have an Associate's degree (or pending upon radiography school graduation) or higher from an accredited post-secondary institution before entering the program.
3. International candidates:
 - The program is NOT approved by the Department of Homeland Security to issue Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status". Therefore, we are unable to provide the documentation necessary for international students to obtain an F or M educational visa.
 - Admission requirements are applied equally to all candidates and NO exceptions or waivers are made for international candidates.
 - Any secondary and/or post-secondary education outside of the United States must be converted to U.S. equivalents by the World Education Services (WES).
4. When does the program start?
 - July 1 of each year (orientation is typically during the last week of June)
5. How long does the program last?
 - The program length is 12 months. Graduation is in early-mid June.
 - This is a fast-paced program thus requiring someone fully dedicated to the education process.
6. What type of degree is conferred?
 - This is a certificate-granting program.
 - The certificate is not associated with any University or Community and Technical College.
 - You may use the hours completed in the Nuclear Medicine program towards your Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) degree at any participating College/University.
7. Is the Nuclear Medicine program affiliated with West Virginia University?
 - No. The Nuclear Medicine program is not affiliated with WVU.
 - It is sponsored by J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital, which is part of the WVUMedicine system.
8. Can I take the courses online?
 - No, there are no online courses available in this program.
 - You must be on-site at JW Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV, Monday-Friday, day-shift (hours vary), from start to finish of the program.
9. Can I attend clinical rotations at my local hospital?
 - No. To ensure all students are exposed to the same type of exams and quality education, all clinical rotations must be completed at JW Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV.

10. Can I transfer into this program from another nuclear medicine program?
 - No, we do not accept transfer students.
11. Is the program accredited?
 - Yes, the program is fully accredited by the JRCNMT (Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology) www.jrcnmt.org
12. What is the cost of the program?
 - Tuition is \$1,500.00 per semester (paid in July and January) for a grand total of \$3,000.00 for the entire program (1 year)
 - Total cost for all required textbooks is typically around \$500-\$600 (cheaper if you can find them used)
 - Required uniforms (cost will vary depending on number of scrub sets ordered, where they are purchased, and brand). Information about uniforms will be provided upon program acceptance.
 - Admission fee \$50 (non-refundable), paid upon acceptance into the program
 - Trajecsys online recordkeeping system costs \$100 for the entire year, must be paid before July 1
 - Graduation fee \$25, paid in conjunction with semester II tuition in January
13. Can I apply for financial aid?
 - No. Our program accreditor (JRCNMT) does not maintain Title IV (Federal Student Aid) eligibility.
14. Are there any loan options available for which I can apply?
 - There is a Career Training Smart Option Student Loan available through Sallie Mae
 - For more information, please visit www.salliemae.com
15. Is housing available?
 - The Nuclear Medicine program does not provide housing for students.
 - Most students seek an apartment near the hospital, which will best fit within their budget.
16. Where are clinical rotations completed?
 - All clinical rotations are completed on-site at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV (except for a 1 week radiopharmacy rotation)
 - The radiopharmacy rotation is completed at PharmaLogic, Inc. in Bridgeport, WV, approximately 45 minutes south of Morgantown. This is a 1-week midnight shift rotation in the spring semester.
17. What are the hours of the program?
 - Hours vary depending on rotation but all are within the hours of 6:30am-3:30pm (except radiopharmacy rotation)
 - Radiopharmacy rotation hours are 1:00am-09:30am (midnight shift)
 - All clinical rotations and didactic courses are Monday-Friday.
 - No weekends, evenings, holidays, or on-call. (just the 1 week midnight shift rotation at radiopharmacy)
18. Is there any built in vacation/personal time off?
 - Students get 2 weeks off for winter break (end December-beginning January)
 - Students get 1 week off for spring break (around Easter)
 - Students get 6 PTO days (8 hours each=total 48 hours) that can be used for illness/appointments/personal reasons

19. How many students are admitted into the program?
- 4 students are selected and admitted each year; based on academic grades and in-person interview if qualified.
20. How are didactic/clinical hours split?
- There are designated didactic hours Monday-Friday which vary by day; approximately 8-10 didactic hours a week per semester
 - Clinical hours fill the remaining 30-32 hours a week
 - This program operates 40 hours/week, Monday-Friday between the hours of 6:30am-3:30pm.
 - Both clinical and didactic courses are completed throughout the duration of the program.
21. What certification will I have once I graduate?
- A successful graduate is eligible to sit for two national board examinations, ARRT (RT(N) credential, Nuclear Medicine) and NMTCB (CNMT credential, Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist)
 - Cost of board examinations:
 - ARRT RT(N) = \$200 application fee paid to the ARRT (March)
 - NMTCB (CNMT) = \$175 application fee paid to the NMTCB (March)
22. If accepted, can I work while I'm in school?
- Yes, most nuclear medicine students work casual or part-time as a radiologic technologist on evening and/or weekend shifts.
 - It is recommended that you do NOT work full-time as this in addition to the 40 hours of school each week is a lot to handle, especially with the amount of studying required for the program.
23. Am I guaranteed a job once I graduate?
- We do NOT guarantee a job at JW Ruby Memorial Hospital upon graduation but we do provide information to students/graduates about current job openings within the WVUMedicine system.
 - We will also provide students/graduates with necessary resources to find a job in the field.
24. How does this type of education differ from other post-secondary education programs?
- Students enrolled in the Nuclear Medicine program are expected to be mature, responsible adults that are willing to make a commitment to the Institution and the profession. This commitment is demonstrated by demanding high quality academic work, exceptional patient care /clinical skills, and good attendance. During the program's initial months, students may find it challenging to balance their time as they will need to devote a lot of time to the course. The workload can feel like holding down a job while attending school, as students must be in class or clinic for up to eight hours on some days, in addition to completing assignments and studying for exams. It is important to note that students are responsible for both the theoretical and practical aspects of the program, so they will need to put in a lot of effort to succeed. The clinical component is a crucial part of a student's education. Clinical rotations are assigned early in the program, exposing students to various aspects of healthcare that may be unpleasant for the untrained. They should expect to encounter adult and pediatric patients with a range of conditions, including fractures, severe deformities, malignancies, bleeding, and contagious diseases. Regardless of the patient's sex, race, socioeconomic status, or physical condition, students are required to provide care. It is essential for students to remain professional and reassuring while maintaining strict confidentiality about the patient and their condition.

25. Whom should I contact if I have further questions?

- Tiffany Davis, Program Director
- 304-598-4000, ext. 173179
- Tiffany.davis2@wvumedicine.org (preferred method)
- Visit our website anytime at www.wvumedicine.org/radtech/nuclear-medicine/ *Please be sure to click on the document links on the right-hand side of the page for more information, such as full admission requirements, accreditation information, student handbook (policies), mission and goals, application, and more.