

April 2019

HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



April's Healthcare Career Focus:

Radiologic Technologist (or Technician)

Radiologic technologists help to diagnose health conditions by performing diagnostic imaging, such as X-ray examinations, MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans, and what we call CAT (computerized axial tomography) scans. Some radiologic techs specialize in specific techniques such as cardiovascular (heart) radiography, or sonography (imagery taken with sound waves).

What might I do as an Radiological Technologist?

- Learn how to prepare, operate, and maintain equipment/machinery used for imaging
- Interact with patients, preparing them for imaging procedure and making them feel comfortable
- Work with patients of all ages to help diagnose an injury, such as a fracture caused by osteoporosis
- Follow directions to correctly obtain a quality image of focus area and protect patients from harmful radiation
- Collaborate with physicians to analyze and interpret images
- Deliver radiation therapy to cancer patients, providing them with a comfortable environment
- Learn new methods and master best practices for producing high quality imagery
- Work full or part-time in a hospital, physician's office, medical or diagnostic lab, outpatient center, or government agency



How do I become a Radiologic Technologist?

- Apply for and attend an accredited undergraduate radiologic technology college program
 - 2 to 4 years for technologist
 - 2 years for technician
- Apply for certification, pass exam, and register with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
- Submit certification to NYS to obtain Radiologic Technology License
- Maintain and renew certification through continuing education

Average Salary:
\$50,000—\$60,000

Related careers in Radiology: Radiologist (Physician), Radiology Nurse, Radiology Technician, Radiology Assistant, Sonography, Mammography

What is it really like to be a Radiologic Technologist?

If you are a person who enjoys working with both people and machinery/technology, likes an active and dynamic work day, pays attention to detail, and cares about healing and healthcare, you may want to consider this growing field.

Current professionals recommend a shadowing experience or interview with someone in radiologic technology to determine whether it is the right career for you.

Find out more about the various pathways in radiology: <https://www.alliedhealthschools.com/medical-imaging/careers-in-radiologic-technology/>

Meet Angel in this Teens Health video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGkgYrwq-KA>

Check out this article about being a radiologic technologist: <https://www.owlguru.com/day-in-life-of-radiologic-technologists/>



“There’s so many different aspects of radiology in a hospital that it’s hard to get bored.”

“You have to have great interpersonal skills; you have to know how to communicate with people—your coworkers and the patients.”

“Even if you had one patient in the entire day who was happy and thankful for the work that you did... and the doctor’s going to get the right results, and the patient’s going to get what they need in the end, then you know it’s all worth it...”

Radiological Technologists interviewed by Loma Lindy University

Western New York

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Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYS AHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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