

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Applied Science Degree: Radiologic Technology

Certificate of Completion: Computed Tomography

Radiologic Technologists are an important part of the medical team. They produce medical images (radiographs), carry out diagnostic procedures, determine safe radiation exposure limits, and collect technical data necessary to assess client (patient) status. Job prospects in the Las Cruces/El Paso area are occasionally limited, but nationwide there is faster-than-average job growth with many opportunities for persons seeking entry-level positions.

Students in the Radiologic Technology program receive training both in the classroom and in clinical settings, where they work alongside nurses, physicians, and other health-care professionals. In the classroom, students learn about the anatomy and function of the human body, radiographic physics and equipment, and radiographic procedures. Students acquire skills in radiation protection for the patient and for the health professional. Laboratory activities teach the proper positioning of an injured or ill patient. Clinical work offers students training in diagnostic radiology and introduces the student to various other imaging modalities. The clinical work is offered in Las Cruces, T or C, Alamogordo, Artesia, Carlsbad, Deming, Ruidoso, Silver City, and El Paso.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take (and must pass) the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification exam in order to obtain employment in this field. It should be noted that felony or misdemeanor convictions may make a student ineligible to take the ARRT exam. Many states also require a license to practice as a radiographer in that state. Continuing education is required with both the ARRT and state licenses to retain current certification status. Recertification is required every ten (10) years in order to maintain ARRT national certification.

The DACC Radiologic Technology program is fully accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

Special Admissions Criteria

Radiologic Technology is a limited-entry program. Prior to applying to the program, students will have taken all program Core and Related Requirements. The following items are among the criteria considered in the selection of program applicants:

- Minimum overall college GPA depends on TEAS assessment (3.0 with > 60% of TEAS or 3.25 with < 60% on TEAS)
- TEAS assessment test
- GPA in Core and Related Requirements courses
- County of residence
- Completion of advanced science or math courses
- Second or third application with a 3.4 GPA
- Students must pass background check, FBI fingerprint and drug screen
- Successful completion of interview process

A complete list is included in the application packet, available at the Health and Public Services Office in room DAHL-190 (575) 527-7630.

Required Skills and Abilities

Students should be able to demonstrate good oral expression (speech clarity), written comprehension, near vision, critical thinking skills, and physical stamina (e.g., the ability to stand for long periods of time, manipulate radiographic equipment, and move/lift patients).

DACC Radiologic Technology Mission

The mission of the DACC Radiologic Technology Program is to provide the student with the academic knowledge and clinical skills necessary to attain eligibility for certification and meaningful employment in the diagnostic imaging profession.

NOTE: Students in the Radiologic Technology program are required to complete and pass a security background check, FBI fingerprinting, and drug screening in order to participate in clinical education classes. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the degree and gaining employment in the field.

Certificate Program in Computed Tomography

Computed Tomography (CT) is a branch of radiology that employs specialized radiography equipment to produce sectional images of the human anatomy. The CT technologist performs various diagnostic procedures under the supervision of a licensed radiologist or in most cases, a licensed technologist. In order to produce quality images, the CT technologist must be able to work effectively with patients and health professionals, operate sophisticated computer equipment, and observe radiation protection measures. Job prospects in the Las Cruces/El Paso area are occasionally limited, but nationwide there is faster-than-average job growth with many opportunities for persons seeking entry-level positions.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) National Computed Tomography Certification Exam. It should be noted that felony or misdemeanor convictions may make a student ineligible to take the ARRT exam. Many states also require a license to practice as a radiographer in that state. Continuing education is required with both the ARRT and state licenses to retain current certification status.

Special Admission Requirements

In order for students to be admitted to the CT program they must be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in Radiologic Technology, Radiation Therapy, or Nuclear Medicine. Nuclear medicine technologists may also be certified by the ARRT or by the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board (NMTCB). The program is offered online in order to allow students from all over New Mexico and other parts of the country to enroll. Each cohort of students admits up to 25 students per new class offering. The student must have a minimum overall college GPA of a 3.0.

NOTE: Students in the Computed Tomography program are required to complete and pass a security background check, FBI fingerprinting, and drug screening in order to participate in clinical education classes. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the degree and gaining employment in the field.

Required Skills and Abilities

The student will acquire and develop the education and skills necessary to perform as an entry-level computed tomography technologist.

The student will develop learning habits that will demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal growth by participating in professional activities and continuing education.

The student will understand and apply methods for effective problem solving, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Important Facts About This Certificate Program

For information concerning the total cost, financing, time to completion, and job placement rates associated with this program, visit the following web page: <https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/radiologic-technology/index.html> (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/radiologic-technology/>)