



Diagnostic Imaging (Radiology)

Jamie Bailey, Program Director
(256) 352-8315
jamie.bailey@wallacestate.edu

Associate in Applied Science Degree (5 semesters) Career Cluster: Health Science

At a Glance

Radiologic technologists take x-rays and may administer contrast agents into patients' bloodstreams for use in diagnosing medical problems. Some specialize in advanced modalities, such as computerized tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or mammography. With experience and additional training, staff technologists may qualify for advanced certification in CT, angiography, and MRI. Experienced technologists also may be promoted to supervisor, chief radiologic technologist, and, ultimately, department administrator or director. Radiologic technologists should be sensitive to patients' physical and psychological needs. They must pay attention to detail, follow instructions, and work as part of a team. In addition, operating complicated equipment requires mechanical ability and manual dexterity.

Program Description

This program is designed to provide qualified technologists for Diagnostic Imaging Departments of hospitals and clinics. Students are taught the fundamental principles underlying all phases of Radiologic Technology. Upon graduation, the student is eligible to apply to take the registry examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (651-687-4448). According to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist, application for certification to practice as a R.T. may be denied if a person has been convicted of a felony, is guilty of a crime involving moral turpitude, and/or has displayed other grounds for denial by law. Participation in the performance of radiographic procedures in a clinical setting will begin during the first semester of the program. Students enrolled in clinical education will be assigned hours consistent with day shift for the majority of their training; however, assignments may also include 3-11 shifts. Assignment to clinical facilities will be at the discretion of the program officials, and students are required to travel to different locations during the clinical phase. Graduation requirements must be met within three (3) years following entry into the program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants Must:

1. Meet all the general admission requirements of WSCC.
2. Submit the following to the Director of Admissions:
 - a. Submit a WSCC application to the Director of Admissions with official transcripts from all schools and COMPASS scores for reading, writing, and math. Applications will be accepted until June 15. Applications received after June 15 will be considered on a space available basis.
 - b. Applicants must possess a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and must have a "C" or better in all prerequisite courses.
3. Submit a complete application packet for admission to the Radiologic Technology Program Director by June 15. The packet should include the following documents:
 - a. Application for the Program
 - b. Essential Function Standards
 - ~~c. Observation form~~
 - d. Proof of Age (Copy of Birth Certificate)
 - ~~e. Confidentiality & Discrimination Statement~~
4. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. (Alabama Regulations for Control of Radiation Rule 420-3-03(6), "Occupational Radiation Dose Limits", states that all occupational workers employing ionizing radiation, must be at least 18 years of age).
5. A minimum of 2.50 cumulative GPA for previous college work.
6. Applicants must be in good standing with the college.
7. Applicants must meet the Essential Function Standards required for Radiologic Technology Programs.
- ~~8. Applicants must have a minimum of 12 hours clinical observation.~~
9. Applicants must have a "C" or better in all general education courses.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of each applicant to insure that all classes from other institutions have been transferred and to insure that their application is complete. Admission to the Radiologic Technology Program is competitive, and the number of students is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

General Qualifications for ARRT Certification

Students must satisfy general qualifications for certification in accordance with The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) guidelines. The ARRT is the board that administers the national certification examination upon completion of an accredited Radiologic Technology Program. A candidate for certification by the ARRT must meet the ethics education and examination requirements as described in The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Rules and Regulations and ARRT Standards of Ethics.

In order to take this examination you must be of good moral character. Generally, the conviction of a felony or any other offense or misdemeanor, or a felony involving moral depravity indicates a lack of good moral character for ARRT purposes. Please contact American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (651) 687-4448 for advisement if the previous statement applies.

Eligible candidates are allowed three attempts within three years to pass the exam. After three unsuccessful attempts or expiration of the three year limit, the individual must reapply and if accepted, complete the entire program.

Selection and Notification

1. The Radiologic Technology program admits students in the fall semester of each year.
2. Students are selected on the basis of COMPASS scores and GPA of general education courses. All other factors being equal, the date of application will be the deciding factor for admission.
3. All applications will be reviewed for completion of Radiologic Technology program admission requirement.
Written notification of the outcome of each application will be mailed to the student.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Diagnostic Imaging program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Academic Regulations section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Required Competencies:

Candidates for certification are required to meet the Professional Requirements specified in Article of the ARRT Rules and Regulations. The following identifies the minimum didactic and clinical competency requirements for certification referenced in the Rules and Regulations. Upon completion of the Diagnostic Imaging program candidates will have obtained education and experience as required by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) as well as the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT).

A) Didactic Requirements:

Candidates must successfully complete coursework addressing the topics listed in the General Required Courses and Major Required Courses.

B) Clinical Requirements:

Candidates must demonstrate competence in the following clinical activities (www.arrt.org):

- Six mandatory general patient care activities
- Thirty-six mandatory radiologic procedure
- Fifteen elective radiologic procedures to be selected from a list of 30 procedures.

Upon Admission:

1. Students accepted into the program must attend the mandatory orientation session. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of their place in the class.
2. Upon acceptance into the Radiologic Technology Program, the student must submit:
 - A recent certification of good health from a physician, verifying that the student is in good physical and mental health and is able to perform the duties and activities required of Radiologic Technologists.
 - Mantoux TB skin test results and complete immunization documentation must be included on the form.
 - Evidence of having received the second of three Hepatitis B vaccinations or completion of the series.
 - Copy of health insurance card.
 - Student will be required to complete CPR certification within class activities.

Admission to the Radiologic Technology Program shall be provisional depending upon the student's ability to pass an initial drug screen and background check. Students may be subjected to random drug testing during the length of the program. Students are required to carry liability, accident, and medical insurance for the duration of program enrollment. Students cannot begin clinical rotations until copies of the health certificate, Hepatitis immunization status, CPR certification and health insurance card are on file. Liability and accident insurance are available through the college. Students should provide copies of the above documents at the mandatory orientation.

Progression:

Students selected for admission to the program must maintain a minimum grade of 75 in major required courses. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.

Readmission to Program:

A student who withdraws or is dismissed from the program must reapply for admission for the following year. Readmission into the program will be allowed one time only.

Career Path

Upon completion of the program, candidates should take the registry and become Registered Radiologic Technologist. Career opportunities include hospitals, outpatient imaging centers and physician's offices.

There are advanced imaging options available to Registered Radiologic Technologists to include but not limited to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT), Mammography etc. For additional information concerning other areas of specializations go to www.arrt.org.

The national projections by the Department of Labor indicate that employment of radiologic technologists has an expected growth rate between 18 & 26 %. Employment is projected to grow faster than average, and job opportunities are expected to continue to be favorable. According to the national occupation outlook the average salary for Radiologic Technologist with an Associates Degree ranges from \$16-\$33/hr.

WSSC Diagnostic Imaging courses have been accepted for transfer to Athens State University for a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science and the University of Alabama at Birmingham for a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology. Please consult STARS transfer guide for the latest information.

Completion Requirements

GENERAL REQUIRED COURSES

ORI 101*	Orientation to College	1
ENG 101-102	English Composition I & II	6
HUM**	Humanities and Arts Elective	3
BIO 201-202***	Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	8
MTH 100	Intermediate College Algebra	3
PSY 200	General Psychology	<u>3</u>
		23-24

*Orientation to College is a college requirement, not a requirement of the program. You are exempt from orientation if you are a transfer student with a minimum of 12 semester hours of college work or if you were enrolled at Wallace State Community College before Fall 2004. Orientation 103 is required for any student who places in a remedial level course.

**HUM-SPH 107 does not satisfy the HUM elective

***BIO 103 is a prerequisite class to these courses.

MAJOR REQUIRED COURSES

RAD 111	Introduction to Radiology	2
RAD 112	Radiographic Procedures I	4
RAD 113	Patient Care	2
RAD 114	Clinical Education	2
RAD 122	Radiographic Procedures II	4
RAD 124	Clinical Education II	5
RAD 125	Imaging Equipment	3
RAD 134	Clinical Education III	5
RAD 135	Exposure Principles	3
RAD 136	Radiation Protection & Radiation Biology	2
RAD 212	Image Evaluation & Pathology	2
RAD 214	Clinical Education IV	8
RAD 224	Clinical Practicum V	8
RAD 227	Review Seminar	<u>2</u>
		52

TOTAL HOURS 75-76

The Diagnostic Imaging Program is accredited by: Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, 20 N Michigan Avenue, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 704-5300, Fax: (312) 704-5304.

Advanced Imaging Options

The Diagnostic Imaging Department also offers two Advanced Imaging options for Registered Radiologic Technologists who are interested in preparing for advanced certification in, Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging. These courses are available on line. Courses also qualify as continuing education credits.

Admission Requirements & Procedures:

Advanced Imaging students (Mammography, CT, & MRI) must be a currently registered Radiologic Technologist through ARRT or ARRT registry eligible. Refer to the WSSC course schedule for course offerings.