Diagnostic Imaging (DI)

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Associate in Applied Science Degree (6 semesters)

At a Glance

Radiologic technologists are healthcare professionals who perform diagnostic imaging examinations. Images are created using x-rays that pass through the body. They are educated in anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety and protection, and basic patient care. Radiologic technologists perform a variety of diagnostic x-ray examinations of the skeletal system, chest, and abdomen. They may also administer contrast media to visualize anatomy in the body such as the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Radiologic technologists work closely with radiologists, the physicians who interpret medical images to either diagnose or rule out disease or injury. Radiologic technologists may have the opportunity to specialize in specific imaging modalities, such as bone densitometry, computed tomography (CT), mammography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear medicine, or sonography.

With the advancement of technology and as the number of aging Americans increases, the demand for diagnostic imaging has grown. Employment opportunities for qualified professionals to provide medical imaging are available nationwide in a variety of settings such as hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers, urgent care centers, and specialty clinics (for example, orthopedics).

Program Description

The program is designed to provide academic and clinical training in the diagnostic imaging profession. Students will begin to participate in clinical rotations beginning the first semester of the program and will be assigned hours consistent with day shift for the majority of their training. Beginning the third semester, students will be required to complete an evening shift rotation from 1:00 – 9:30 p.m. students are required to travel to different locations during the clinical education phase. Graduation requirements must be met within three (3) years following entry into the program.

The Diagnostic Imaging program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) located at 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606 (www.jrcert.org). Upon graduating from a program accredited by JRCERT, students are eligible to apply to take the national registry examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). By successfully passing the national registry exam, you will be awarded the credential, RT(R), registered technologist (radiography).

Admission Requirements

1. Unconditional admission to the college – College application must be submitted by the program application deadline of June 1.
2. Student must be in good standing with the college.
3. Meet all general admission requirements of WSCC.
4. Receipt of complete program applications accepted between March 1 and June 1 for Fall entry. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.
5. The RAD program online application is located on program's webpage at www.wallacestate.edu. Online application instructions are under the Application to Program tab. All applicants are required to upload all necessary documentation for consideration.
6. Official transcripts from each college attended must be provided to the Admissions Office and all unofficial transcripts must be uploaded.
7. A minimum of 20 ACT composite score (National or Residual) is required for admission consideration. Proof of score must be uploaded.
8. Student must meet the essential functions and technical standards required for the program as documented on the required WSCC physical form at www.wallacestate.edu-see Physical Form Essential Functions.
9. 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).
10. Attain a minimum GPA of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale with a grade of "C" or better on all general required pre-Diagnostic Imaging courses only.

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 Diagnostic Imaging 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 the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (651) 687-0048 for advisement if the previous statement applies.

Eligible candidates are allowed three attempts within three years to pass the ARRT exam. After three unsuccessful attempts or expiration of the three-year limit, the individual is no longer eligible to take the exam. The individual must reapply to the Diagnostic Imaging program, and, if accepted, complete the entire program.

Selection and Notification

1. The DI program admits a beginning class annually fall semester only.
2. ALL courses must be complete prior to the application deadline of June 1.
3. Candidates are ranked for admission on the basis of ACT scores, weighted GPA of pre-DI courses (GPA x 9) and completion of admission requirements. In the event of a tie of ranking score, in order to fill all available seats, the following criteria will be used in the order listed to determine student acceptance into the program: 1) cumulative GPA, 2) ACT Math subtest score, 3) date application received.
4. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of program acceptance status will be mailed to each applicant at the address supplied on the application.
5. Following acceptance into the program, students must respond confirming their intent to enroll by using the internet link or QR code provided on the acceptance letter. The response must be received before the indicated deadline. Any student failing to respond will forfeit his/her seat in the class.

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 Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Required Competencies

Candidates for certification are required to meet the Professional Requirements specified in the ARRT Rules and Regulations. Students may visit www.arrt.org to see a complete list of required competencies.

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 Diagnostic Imaging Program, the student must submit:
   a. 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.
   b. Mantoux TB skin test results and complete immunization documentation must be included on the form.
   c. Evidence of having received the second of three Hepatitis B vaccinations or completion of the series.
   d. Provide proof of health insurance coverage.
   e. Provide proof of CPR certification. Online CPR classes will not be accepted.

Admission to the Diagnostic Imaging 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

Uninterrupted progression through the Diagnostic Imaging program is required. Any student whose progression is interrupted must reapply for readmission. If progression is interrupted for any reason, the student may only be readmitted one time. Any changes in the curriculum or admission procedures will be applicable upon the student's readmission. Students selected to the Diagnostic Imaging program must meet the following criteria:

1. Progress through all Diagnostic Imaging courses in the sequence specified by the program faculty.
2. Maintain a minimum grade of 75% or higher in major required courses. Failure to do so will result in dis-missal from the program.
3. Maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA in all coursework.
4. Maintain the ability to meet the Essential Functions.
5. Successfully complete the program within 33 months from the initial semester of RAD courses.
6. Maintain Current CPR at the health care provider level.
7. Abide by the policies, procedures, and rules of behavior

of the college and the Diagnostic Imaging program.

8. Abide by the policies, procedures, and rules of behavior of the clinical agencies.
9. Submit completed medical forms by required deadlines.
10. Students are required to pass the Diagnostic Imaging Exit Exam in RAD 227. Failure to pass the exit exam will result in a failing grade for RAD 227, regardless of other grades or competencies achieved.

Readmission

Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the program must apply for re-admission. No preferential consideration is given to prior students for re-admission. Students will be readmitted ONE time only.

Transfer Policy

1. Unconditional admission to the college with clear academic status.
2. Ability to meet and comply with standards and policies in the current College Catalog and Student Handbook.
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
4. No longer than 33 months elapsing from the initial admission term to date of graduation.
5. Official transcripts verifying a minimum grade of "C" earned in courses which represent collegiate course work relevant to the degree with course content and level of instruction resulting in student competencies at least equivalent for those matriculating students. Alabama Community College System Standardized Radiologic Technology Curriculum courses will be transferred without review of the course syllabus. Verification of knowledge and/or skills may be required.
6. Eligibility to return to previous Radiologic Technology program in good standing.
7. No more than one semester in which a grade of "D" or "F" has been earned in a radiography course.
8. All students transferring into the program must prove competency in all previous coursework as prescribed by the program. If a student cannot prove competency, the request for admission will be denied and the student must apply to the program, and if accepted, must repeat all previous courses.
9. Completion of 25 percent of total required hours for the A.A.S. Degree in Radiologic Technology at institution conferring degree.

Career Path

Upon completion of the program, candidates should take the registry and become a 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) and Computed Tomography (CT). For additional information concerning other areas of specializations go to www.arrt.org.

A 2016 survey by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists showed the annual salaries averaged about $45,276 for entry-level radiographers. With experience, additional education or supervisory responsibilities, salaries can range from $56,000 - $109,000 per year, depending on area of specialization. Radiologic technologists may have flexible work schedules, including part-time or evenings, giving time for family, friends, school, or other activities. WSCC Diagnostic Imaging courses have been accepted for transfer to UAB for a Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Management. Please consult STARS transfer guide for the latest information.

NOTE: *The Guided Pathways Curricular Maps below contain all the elements required for degree/certificate completion. However, courses may be offered or taken in other semesters so long as prerequisites are met and courses are available. Additional option available. Please see DegreeWorks for allowable substitutions. Courses may be available days, hybrid, and online. Please see an advisor.*

ASSOCIATE DEGREE:
AAS DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING – Guided Pathway/Map
1st Semester - Prerequisite

ORI 110*	Freshman Seminar	1
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
MTH 100	Intermediate College Algebra	3
BIO 201**	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
	Total Semester Credit Hours	11

2nd Semester - Prerequisite

BIO 202	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
IDS 102	Ethics	3
	Total Semester Credit Hours	10

NOTE: *The final four semesters of the program must be completed in the sequence shown.*

3rd Semester

RAD 111	Introduction to Radiography	2
RAD 112	Radiographic Procedures I	4
RAD 113	Patient Care	2
RAD 114	Clinical Education I	2
RAD 125	Imaging Equipment	3
	Total Semester Credit Hours	13

4th Semester

RAD 122	Radiographic Procedures II	4
RAD 124	Clinical Education II	5
RAD 135	Exposure Principles	3
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12

5th Semester

RAD 204	Clinical Education III	8
RAD 136	Radiation Protection & Biology	2
	Total Semester Credit Hours	10

6th Semester

RAD 214	Clinical Education IV	8
RAD 212	Image Evaluation & Pathology	2
RAD 227	Review Seminar	2
	Total Semester Credit Hours	12
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		**67-68**

*ORI 110 (Freshman Seminar) is a college requirement, not a requirement of a specific program. You are exempt from Freshman Seminar 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. ORI 110 is required for incoming freshmen in all divisions.

**BIO 103 is a pre-requisite to these courses.

SHORT- TERM CERTIFICATE:

The short-term certificate in Computed Tomography (CT) provides current Diagnostic Imaging students with the opportunity to advance their radiologic science career. This online program provides students with both didactic and clinical educational experiences to help prepare for the post-primary certification in Computed Tomography administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® (ARRT®).

Admission Requirements
1. Meet all general admission requirements of WSCC.
2. Be a currently enrolled student in the WSCC Diagnostic Imaging program at time of application.
3. Submit an application for the Computed Tomography short-term certificate program to the program director by November 1.
4. Ability to meet and comply with standards and policies in the current Diagnostic Imaging student handbook.

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SPECIALIST SHORT-TERM CERTIFICATE – Guided Pathway/Map

ACR 111	Principles of Refrigeration	3
ACR 112	Service Procedures	3
ACR 147	Refrigerant Transition & Recovery	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		**9**

RAD 247	CT Imaging Procedures	3
RAD 249	CT Physics and Instrumentation	2
RAD 265	CT Clinical Education	4

NOTE: *The ARRT® requirements for both structured and clinical education must not be more than 24 months old at the time in which the student makes application to take the computed tomography certification exam. The program does not guarantee that students will complete all required clinical*