

## **Radiologic Technology Program – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I get into the Radiologic Technology Program?**

The first step is to apply to the college. Once you have received your student ID # we recommend that you make an appointment with a Workforce Advisor who will help guide you in the steps required to start school. Fall semester begins in August, Spring semester begins in January and Summer semester begins in May. Apply to the college well in advance of the semester you plan to start classes.

Students must take pre-requisite courses prior to applying for the limited access program in Radiologic Technology. Please see the catalog page for the Radiologic Technology program for more information: <http://sjrstate.edu/catalog/2155.pdf>

### **What is a limited access program?**

A limited access program means that each year a limited, set number of students are admitted into the program. At SJR State College students are selected for Allied Health programs based on a point system as indicated in the program's catalog description.

### **Why is Radiologic Technology a limited access program?**

Students in the Radiologic Technology program will spend many hours at hospitals and outpatient facilities performing radiographic procedures under the supervision of radiologic technologists. Each health care facility has a limited number of positions for students and our program cannot take more students than the number of clinical spots we have available.

### **When and where are program courses held?**

The Radiologic Technology program lecture and lab courses are held at the St. Augustine campus during the day at this time. This is subject to change and some courses could be held in the evening. Some on-line work will be required. Clinical education courses require students to travel to various area hospitals and will include some evening and/or weekend rotations. Evening and/or weekend rotations will not exceed 25% of the total clinical hours.

### **Can I take the Radiologic Technology Core courses part time?**

No. While the pre-requisite courses may be taken over any period of time that you desire, this program requires a full-time commitment for 5 full semesters. Students who are accepted into the program will complete courses in a specific order. Radiologic Technology program core courses begin with RTE and then the course number. The program schedule can be found on the Radiologic Technology program main webpage under Program Plan.

### **Can I continue to work full-time and complete the program?**

This program, as with most Allied Health programs, requires many hours of class, clinical experience, and studying. Clinical hours alone are 12 hours a week during the first term, 18 hours a week the second

term, 30 hours a week the third term, and 24 hours a week the fourth and fifth term. Along with the lecture/lab courses and study time these five semesters require about as much time as most full-time jobs. To be successful most students find that full-time work outside the program is not possible.

### **Will I be able to choose where I attend my clinical courses?**

While we may ask students their preferred clinical locations the final decision for clinical site locations rests entirely with program faculty. Students should expect to travel some distance at times for their clinical rotations.

### **Where will clinical courses be held?**

Clinical sites are located in North Daytona area (near Ormond Beach), Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, the Orange Park/Fleming Island/Green Cove Springs area and southern Duval County. The college and program currently have affiliation agreements with Baptist South, Baptist Clay, Flagler Hospital (St. Augustine), Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center (North Daytona), Kindred Hospital North Florida, MedEx Medical Express, Putnam Community Medical Center, Orange Park Medical Center, Palm Coast Imaging, Center and St. Augustine Imaging Center, although at any time clinical sites could change. All students will spend the majority of their clinical experience in a hospital environment.

### **How can I improve my chance of getting accepted into the program?**

See the Program Requirements link on the main page for information on the point system. Program acceptance is based on this point system. Students with the highest number of points are accepted first. Students who receive an alternate letter should follow the directions given in their letter to be considered for acceptance should another student decline. Students should meet with a Workforce Advisor for help with determining their points. Call 386-312-4259 to arrange for an appointment at any of our three campuses.

### **I've taken prerequisite courses at another college. Can I still get a degree in Radiologic Technology at St. Johns River State College?**

Students must take a minimum of 25% of degree-related credit hours at the college which will grant the degree. Since the credit requirements for the Associate in Science degree in Radiologic Technology total 77 credit hours, at least 20 credit hours total must be taken at St. Johns River State College. Limited access courses for the Radiologic Technology program total 51 credit hours, so in most cases it is not a problem if pre-requisite courses have been taken at another college. However, if courses taken at another college have different course numbers than the SJR State College course numbers, the course description will need to be compared to the SJR State College course description by a committee to determine if the course will be accepted as a pre-requisite course. See a Workforce Advisor to help you determine whether you need to complete a graduation substitution request to have your transferred courses evaluated.

### **What is the basic x-ray machine operator license that is listed on the points?**

The State of Florida will license those who pass a Limited Scope of Practice in Radiography exam. The basic x-ray machine operator is allowed to take limited x-rays in the state of Florida and is usually educated and licensed in another field. We give extra points to those who can produce a current valid state license as a Basic X-ray Machine Operator.

### **When can I apply to the Radiologic Technology program?**

Applications are accepted between April 1 and May 15<sup>th</sup> each year for admission in the following fall term and will be available on the Radiologic Technology webpage on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Most applicants will have completed their pre-requisite courses by the end of the spring term, prior to the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Applicants who have completed the pre-requisite courses listed under the program requirements (see the link to the Program Requirements on the main Radiologic Technology webpage) OR are in the process of taking their last prerequisites during the spring term will be the first considered for the program. All students are encouraged to apply early, as the date and time the application is turned in is used as a tie-breaker if the applicants for the last available positions have the same number of points. There is no need to wait until the end of the spring semester.

### **What happens after I apply to the program?**

All applications are reviewed and if there are questions you will be contacted by a program staff member or faculty member. After May 15<sup>th</sup> the students with the highest number of points will be chosen as “accepted” and students with the next highest points will be chosen as “alternates”. If one of the accepted students chooses not to accept the position at this time, the first alternate will be contacted and so on until we have all accepted students who accept the available openings. All students will be sent notification by mail, whether or not they have been accepted into the program, by mid-June. Be sure to contact the program at 904-808-7465 if your address and contact information changes, or you may not receive notification.

### **What comes next if I am accepted into the program?**

With your notification of acceptance you will be given a schedule of requirements to complete and deadlines for completion. To follow is an example of the requirements. The order of the meetings may change, dates will be given in the acceptance packet, and health requirements may vary at any given time based on clinical site requirement changes. This is ONLY for those receiving an acceptance letter. These include, but may not be limited to:

1. Have a TB test performed prior to the first scheduled summer meeting. This is a two part exam, with an injection the first day and injection site evaluation 48 – 72 hours following the injection. Both must be completed prior to Summer meeting #1.
2. Summer meeting #1 – Orientation for an area hospital for shadowing in the radiology department. This orientation is held at the college, St. Augustine campus. At this meeting you will schedule one full weekday in a specific time frame to shadow current radiology students and technologists in the radiology department. This will help you to determine if this is the right career for you.

3. Physical Exam – Schedule a physical exam prior to the deadline indicated upon acceptance. This should be similar to a school physical, and your healthcare provider may include a physical form that they use for school physicals. This should be attached to the physical form that you receive from the college in your acceptance packet. You will be given a deadline for completion. Working in healthcare requires proof of completion of various vaccinations. If the student has not received the vaccinations or does not have proof of vaccination, they will need to have blood work performed (called titers) to assure that they have the antibodies present in their bloodstream and cannot get or spread these diseases. At any point in time additional immunizations may be required. The immunizations or titers required at this time include:

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	<u>Must have 2 doses.</u> Having had any of these diseases NOT adequate. – Must include vaccination dates or titer results proving immunity
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	<u>Must have 2 doses.</u> Having had chicken pox during childhood is NOT adequate – Must include vaccination date or titer results proving immunity
TDap (Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis) – Booster within the past 10 years	Some vaccinations offered immunity to one or two of these diseases. All three must be included.
Hepatitis B Vaccine	All three doses must be received prior to the clinical experience or student must sign a Declination form until they are fully immunized.

The influenza (flu) vaccine may be listed on the physical form, but this is not required until the upcoming flu season begins (September). Please call if you have any questions regarding vaccination and physical requirements.

4. Background Check and Drug Screen – All healthcare programs require students to have a criminal background check and drug screen performed. Our affiliated clinical sites require that students are cleared by the college on a criminal background check and drug screen before they will be allowed to care for their patients. The college will provide the information for having the background check and drug screen upon the student’s acceptance into the program as well as a deadline for completion.

Program completion is not a guarantee that students will be allowed to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam. Students concerned about whether an incident could affect their ability to take the certification exam should consider completing a pre-application ethics review to determine if they will be allowed to take the certification exam. Information is available at <https://www.rrt.org/pdfs/ethics/ethics-review-pre-application.pdf> or the student can call the ARRT at 651-687-0048 extension 8580. Successful completion of this certification exam, which graduates take following program completion, is required in order for graduates to work as radiographers.

5. Scheduled summer meeting #2 – Uniform ordering and orientation – Plan to spend most of the day at the college. Half of the day radiology students will be scheduled to purchase specific uniforms to be worn up to five days a week for both lecture/lab courses and clinical courses. Uniform tops must have

the radiology program logo embroidered on the top, and specific colors and type of uniform are required. We will provide a vendor who offers uniforms at reasonable prices and provides the embroidery as well. You will need to be in uniform during both class and clinical days. Students will be able to try on uniforms to determine the best size to order. Our vendor will also perform alterations at a reasonable price, or you may choose someone else to provide alterations as needed.

The other half of the day a program orientation will be held. The Allied Health and Radiologic Technology program policies will be discussed, as well as important information on financial aid opportunities.

6. Scheduled summer meeting #3 – One full day. Basic Life Support class for Healthcare workers will be scheduled at the college. BLS card must be good for the full two years of the program, so classes taken previously might not be accepted. This is a half-day class. Students also must complete a 4-hour HIV/AIDS course that is approved by the Florida Department of Radiation Control. Other HIV or blood-borne pathogen courses will not apply. This will be held during on the same day as the BLS course. The BLS course will be charged as a course fee to your Patient Care course. There is no charge for the HIV-AIDS course.

#### Other Health Related Tests/Vaccines:

The student must submit proof of having a TB test just prior to their hospital shadowing experience and an additional TB test after one year in the program. If the test indicates a positive result the student must have a chest x-ray and submit the chest x-ray results with the physical form.

The student must submit proof of a flu (influenza) vaccination every fall term. Students will be notified of the appropriate time for vaccination by the program director. Flu shots are required of all health care workers unless a medical condition prevents them from having the vaccine. Those healthcare workers who cannot have the vaccine due to medical reasons may be required to wear surgical masks at all times while in the clinical environment. Studies have shown that flu shots help to reduce the spread of the flu to patients who are already ill or injured and help to reduce employee absenteeism.

#### **What Expenses Can I Expect Beyond Tuition and Course Fees**

Background check and drug test fees – The student pays for this out-of-pocket. Contact the Allied Health department for the current cost at 904-808-7465 as the cost for this exam may change.

Physical exam, vaccinations or blood tests as required. Annual TB tests and Influenza Vaccines – The student pays for this out-of-pocket. See FAQ “What comes next if I am accepted into the program?” Costs will vary based on whether or not an individual student has already had the required vaccines, and where the student decides to have the physical, vaccines, and/or titers performed.

Uniforms – Out-of-pocket expense for students. Call the Allied Health department for current costs, as costs may change. A specific vendor is used for college program uniforms in order to assure that students pay the lowest possible costs and choose the correct uniform.

### Text books and Course Fees –

Course fees for each course are fees in addition to tuition. These fees cover supplies used in specific courses and are updated annually in the catalog after July 1. Course fees for the current year can be found at <http://www.sjstate.edu/catalog/tuition.pdf>. Radiology course fees start with the prefix RTE.

As this is a professional program all books will be used throughout the program and even after program completion, so books are not sold after a semester and rentals are not an option. Some courses require purchase of an access code to an online program in addition to the textbooks. Books are sold in packages through the bookstore to get the best price, and pre-ordered for each student in advance of the fall semester. Books are purchased at the beginning of each fall term after a student is accepted into the program and prior to the final spring term of the program. Check the bookstore textbook list prior to each semester for a list of requirements and prices at: <http://www.sjstate.edu/bookstore.html>.

NOTE: For the current price on the background check, drug screen, or uniforms please contact the Allied Health Department at 904-808-7465. These costs may vary year to year. Tuition and course fees are available in the current catalog and may vary from year to year. Always check the updated catalog for current tuition costs after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

School supplies – Typical school supplies (such as pens, pencils, binders, note cards, note card box, paper, notebooks, flash drives, basic calculators which include the square root function), etc.

Computer Access - All students will be required to have access to computers and reliable internet access. Students will have access to the college Blackboard learning platform for all classes and will be required to access this on a regular basis. Handouts will be available in the Adobe Acrobat PDF format on Blackboard. The program also uses Evolve/Elsevier courses to supplement coursework, which requires the purchase of access codes, which are included in the book package. All papers must be written using Microsoft Word.

Exam fees and licensure fees – Prior to program completion (in the fifth and final semester of the program) students will sign up for their national certification exam through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and state of Florida license. The ARRT exam is taken after the student has successfully completed the program and obtained his/her Associate in Science degree. Passing this exam is required to work in the field. Current application costs and procedures for the ARRT exam can be found in the current year Radiography Certification handbook at this link: <https://www.rrt.org/Handbooks> . The application and current cost for a State of Florida license as a Certified Radiologic Technologist can be found at this link: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/licensing-and-regulation/radiologic-technology/applications-forms/index.html> .

### **Is there anything different in grading compared to other college courses that I've taken?**

There are several things which may be different from other courses you have taken.

- First, all Radiologic Technology courses have a grade reduction policy for absenteeism and tardiness both in the clinical and lecture/lab courses. The first absence or tardy for a course does not affect the student’s grade, but the second and subsequent absences will reduce the course grade. Excessive absenteeism may cause you to be removed from a course and from the program.
- Second, note the grading scale below:

A	92 – 100
B	83 – 91
C	75 – 82
D	65 – 74
F	> 65

This grading scale is used for all Allied Health program courses. Student must earn a C or higher in every course to remain in the program and progress to the next course.

- Third, while the clinical courses are graded using the scale above, you may not have been graded in the past on areas such as professionalism, dependability, initiative, aptitude, communication skills, procedure competency and patient care. These areas make up a large portion of the clinical grade.

**I’ve heard that Radiologic Technology can be physically strenuous. How will I know if I am able to perform this work?**

The Radiologic Technology profession requires certain standards that the radiologic technologist must be able to meet to safely care for the patient. The information below comes from a U.S. Department of Labor website that describes the typical functions required to perform jobs in a variety of fields. This is a summary of the list for Radiologic Technologists/X-ray Techs. If you have any concerns regarding the following list, you should check with your personal physician. The program will make reasonable accommodations for disabilities as is appropriate: However, students should be able to perform the following functions without risk of injury to themselves or the patient.

**ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE**

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

Applicants and students should be able to perform these essential functions, or with reasonable accommodations, such as the help of compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices, be able to perform these functions. Allied Health Programs are open to all qualified applicants and complies with the American with Disabilities Act with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Refer to <http://www.onetonline.org/> for more information regarding technical standards.

Technical Function	Performance Standard	Essential Function
--------------------	----------------------	--------------------

<p>Critical Thinking</p>	<p>The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. Recognizing there is a problem.</p> <p>Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.</p> <p>Visualization – The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around or rearranged.</p> <p>Organizing and prioritizing work.</p>	<p>Assess the patient to determine if the patient will be able to stand. . Recognize a change in the patient’s health status. Identify a patient in distress and take appropriate actions. Recognize the need for adjustment of imaging procedures based on patient condition (trauma, difficulty breathing in various positions, pain). Evaluate image and determine which measures to take to correct positioning or process to improve image quality. Positioning patient while visualizing how the body part will look on the image based on the patient and x-ray tube position. Determine which patient has priority during multiple requests for x-ray.</p>
<p>Interpersonal</p>	<p>Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do.</p> <p>Explain procedures and observe patients to ensure safety and comfort during scan. Provide assistance in dressing or changing seriously ill, injured, or disabled patients.</p> <p>Job requires being sensitive to others’ needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job.</p> <p>Job requires preferring to work with others rather than alone, and being personally connected with others on the job.</p> <p>Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying</p>	<p>Interact appropriately with patients when they are in pain, upset, under the influence of drugs, or mentally challenged.</p> <p>Communicate in a respectful manner, clearly explaining procedure and making efforts to ensure patient comfort and safety.</p> <p>Assisting patients with personal needs as required. Cleaning patient after bowel movement. Assisting patients as needed to change into patient gown, removing artifacts, etc.</p> <p>Willingness to help other workers with patients or other work. Working as a team to move patients and complete work.</p>



	a good-natured, cooperative attitude.	Greet patients pleasantly and with respect.
Communication	The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so that others will understand. The ability to speak clearly so that it is understandable to the listener.	In English, clearly explain procedures to the patient in terms the patient can understand. Give instructions to the patient throughout the procedure and following the procedure. Utilize interpretations services when patients do not speak English.
Physical Ability	<p>Performing physical activities that require moving one's whole body, such as in climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping where the activities often also require considerable use of the arms and legs, such as in the physical handling of materials.</p> <p>Static Strength – The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects. Dynamic Strength – The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.</p>	<p>Transport patients using wheelchairs, stretchers, and/or beds. Bend to lock wheelchair brakes. Stoop to move foot rests out of the way so the patient may walk without tripping. Assist with moving bedridden patients from bed to x-ray table. Provide support for patients as they step up to sit on x-ray table, as they lie down or sit up. Roll patients side to side.</p> <p>Carry multiple x-ray cassettes.</p> <p>Push portable x-ray equipment.</p>
Mobility	Using one's own hands and arms in handling, installing, forming, positioning, and moving materials or in manipulating things.	Reach both arms above shoulder height to move x-ray tube into position. Reach around and behind patient to place cassette, sponges, or other positioning tools.
Motor Skills	Finger Dexterity – The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.	<p>Move x-ray tube into position using both hands, grasping handles, controlling locks with thumbs.</p> <p>Insert needle into vein for contrast injection.</p>

	<p>Manual Dexterity – The ability to quickly move your hand your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.</p>	<p>Stabilize patient if they are unsteady.</p>
Hearing/Listening	<p>The ability to detect or tell the difference between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.</p> <p>The ability to tell the direction from which a sound originated.</p> <p>Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.</p> <p>Take thorough and accurate medical histories.</p>	<p>Identify alarms on medical equipment. Hear pitch change when taking manual blood pressure.</p> <p>Identify location of patient calling for help.</p> <p>Listening to instructors or technologists instructions. Clarifying information not thoroughly understood. Obtain appropriate clinical information from patient.</p>
Visual Ability	<p>Near vision – The ability to see details at close range</p> <p>Far vision – The ability to see details at a distance</p>	<p>Notice changes in patient status (blue lips, hives, lack of respiration). Evaluate image diagnostic quality on computer screen.</p> <p>Ability to recognize incorrect tube angle after stepping back.</p>
Tactile Ability	<p>Take vital signs</p> <p>Positioning</p>	<p>Feel pulse</p> <p>Ability to feel boney positioning landmarks.</p>
Professional Presentation	<p>Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable and fulfilling obligations.</p> <p>Job requires maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and</p>	<p>Be punctual to classes and clinical sites. Avoid absences and schedule changes as much as possible.</p> <p>Maintain composure with upset patients.</p>

	<p>avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.</p> <p>Job requires being honest and ethical.</p> <p>Job requires accepting criticism and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations</p> <p>Job requires a willingness to take on responsibilities, challenges.</p> <p>Special uniform</p>	<p>Protect patient privacy. Obtain permission to touch patient. Be honest with time sheets, during testing.</p> <p>Accept critique from experienced technologists and physicians without becoming defensive.</p> <p>Attempt challenging exams.</p> <p>Wear appropriate uniform and follow dress code.</p>
--	--	---

**What happens if I apply and I'm not accepted into the program?**

If you are not accepted into the program we recommend that you meet with a Workforce Advisor who can help you to evaluate your options. Call 386-312-4259 for an appointment at any campus.

**Does this program include training in Ultrasound, CT, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy or MRI?**

The Radiologic Technology program is usually the first step towards these advanced modalities and required prior to training for some of these specialty imaging fields. The Radiologic Technology program at St. Johns River State College does not prepare the student for working in these fields, but does introduce students to these fields.

**Where can I find an advanced modality school or program?**

Check with programs recognized by the ARRT. These include radiography, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, sonography, MRI : <https://www.arrt.org/Education/Educational-Programs>

For ultrasound (Diagnostic Medical Sonography) additional programs may be found at CAAHEP for a program accredited through their organization: <http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>

For MRI, additional programs may be found at: <http://www.armrit.org/schools.shtml>

Updated June 2015, June 2016