

Career Information: Radiology Technician

Description:

Radiologists use x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging, and ultrasounds to diagnose injuries and illnesses. They also use nuclear medicine and radioactive substances to treat diseases and illnesses. Radiologists work in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, doctor's offices, and diagnostic imaging centers. Note: A radiologist has attended medical school whereas a radiology technician requires less school.

Pre-requisites for a Radiologist Program:

Training in radiology differs in length, anywhere from 1 to 4 years and you can earn a certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree. Most radiologists attend a two year program. Each radiology program has different required classes. The schools of your choice need to be carefully researched so that you are aware of the requirements. Typically they require an associate's degree or at least all the required classes to apply to the program. Most schools encourage that you take science, chemistry, and physics in high school or if they require college courses similar subjects are recommended. The closest major at BYU that is recommended is Exercise Science.

Applying to a Program:

There are radiology programs that you can go straight into from high school. Some schools will have a selection process where you'll take some of the basic classes and then those who are the most competitive will be allowed to continue in the program. This can occur if there is limited enrollment or too many people applying. Most will require recommendation letters, official transcript, essay questions, and a processing fee.

Specializing:

Once you've completed radiology technology school there are options to specialize within radiology, for example ultrasonography. The program you're in will give you those options and explain them more completely. If you want to know what specialties each school has you must contact them and talk to that school. The following websites also describe the different areas you can specialize in:

http://www.radiologyinfo.org/content/careers/careers_diag.htm.

<http://www.umm.edu/diagnosticrad/index.html>

Future of Radiology & Imaging:

Radiology technologists and technicians make on average \$42,470 in 2002. It depends on the level of education you've received as described above. Individuals who attend medical school to become a radiologist make more than the average physician salary.

Resources in the Career and Learning Information Center (2590 Wilkinson Center):

Health Professions, Career and Education Directory 2004-2005
America's Top Computer and Technical Jobs

Related Websites:

<http://www.samrt.ca/index.php?C=radiology-schools&T=radiology-tech-school>

All of the information on this sheet has been compiled from the above web address, Weber State University's website: <http://weber.edu>, Occupational Outlook Handbook (2005), and the American Society of Radiological Technologist.

