

# ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY



Cleveland University  
KANSAS CITY

Chiropractic and Health Sciences

## SIGNIFICANT POINTS

- ◇ The two-year CUKC Radiologic Technology degree is a great fit for someone who likes working with technology and has people-focused skills. In addition to operating equipment, radiologic technologists explain procedures, demonstrate compassion, provide encouragement for patients in pain, and understand the physician's imaging expectations.
- ◇ Radiologic technologists work one-on-one with people, so they need advanced people skills. Rad techs help patients be as comfortable as possible with the imaging procedure, explain what to expect, and reassure them by being a voice of encouragement and compassion.
- ◇ Radiologic technologists are achieving a national median wage of more than \$61,980 per year<sup>1</sup>, and a first-year average salary of about \$46,351, according to Salary.com. That's 30% more than the median salary of those with other types of associate (two-year) degrees.<sup>2</sup>

## RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST: A MEDICAL IMAGING PROFESSIONAL

Those who like the technical side of healthcare and interact comfortably with people often find themselves attracted to today's rapidly expanding medical imaging professions, including the role of a radiologic technologist.

A registered radiologic technologist is a medical professional who is certified to perform diagnostic imaging examinations. Radiologic technologists learn anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety and protection, and patient care.<sup>3</sup>

The technology used to see inside the human body is rapidly advancing and the use of imaging is growing. Physicians know invasive procedures carry specific risks. They will choose to use detailed scanned images to give them the information they need whenever possible.

In an average week, a rad tech might do the following:

- Use imaging equipment to acquire images requested.
- Discuss with a physician how the images taken met the diagnostic goals.
- Show compassion for a patient returning for another round of imaging.
- Explain to patients how the imaging equipment will be carefully positioned and what it will accomplish.
- Answer questions from patients who may have never been examined with this kind of technology before.

## THE CUKC TWO-YEAR RAD TECH DEGREE

In the radiologic technologist program at Cleveland University-Kansas City (CUKC), students receive their Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Radiologic Technology degree in as little as two years. The degree is 75 credit hours, which includes:

- 24 credit hours of general education courses
- 51 credit hours of professional radiologic technology courses as a full-time student.

Students gain experience via two full-functioning radiologic equipment rooms and in the University's two demonstration suites. Clinical experience comes via partner healthcare facilities in Kansas City and surrounding communities.

All courses are delivered in an eight (8) week module, and are sequenced to ensure a maximized learning experience.

The focused program coursework covers:

- Anatomy
- Imaging techniques
- Medical terminology
- Equipment protocols
- Radiation safety and protection
- Patient positioning and examination
- Critical thinking, and problem-solving
- Guidelines required for patient care and satisfaction

The curriculum is competency based and follows the requirements of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT).<sup>5</sup> Professional radiologic technology courses are conducted on the CUKC campus from 6-10 p.m.

Clinical education occurs at affiliated medical and imaging facilities in the communities surrounding our Overland Park, Kansas location. Clinical schedules vary by assignment and may include traditional daytime hours, evenings, and weekends.

## ACCREDITATION

The A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology degree at CUKC is officially recognized as an American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) approved educational provider for Radiography.

The two-year program at CUKC ensures graduates have met the educational requirements necessary to apply for certification and registration by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

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## LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Certification and registration by the ARRT is a required component of many state's licensure requirements for Radiologic Technology, including the state of Kansas. Additionally, many employers in the states currently without licensure requirements also prefer those who have earned ARRT certification.<sup>6</sup>

Certified and registered radiologic technologists need to renew their certification and registration yearly, and must meet continuing education requirements.

## EARNINGS AND JOB OUTLOOK

The field of medical imaging is growing steadily. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for radiologic technologists will increase at least 6% through 2031.<sup>7</sup> The fastest growing population segments are older adults. As a natural result of the aging process, conditions such as breaks and fractures caused by osteoporosis or other age-rated conditions will require imaging for proper diagnosis.

Radiologic technologists sometimes specialize in a particular area of medical imaging, such as mammography, computed tomography (CT), or radiation therapy.

More than half of all radiologic technologists work in hospitals; others work in diagnostic clinics, physician group practices, mobile imaging facilities, and surgery centers.<sup>4</sup>

A normal work week is typically 40 hours and in an environmentally controlled healthcare facility. Some radiologic technologists work flexible schedules, and some choose to work part-time or evenings. Of course, there is no such thing as an average day – and for many, that's part of the attraction to a medical imaging position.<sup>8</sup>

## CAMPUS VISITS AND TOURS

Campus tours and visits are an excellent way to get to know the CUKC program, faculty, and campus environment.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Referenced October 2022)

<sup>1</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm#tab-5>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.salary.com/tools/salary-calculator/radiology-tech/overland-park-ks>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.asrt.org/main/careers/careers-in-radiologic-technology/who-are-radiologic-technologists>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.asrt.org/>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.arrt.org/earn-arrt-credentials/requirements>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm#tab-6>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=29203400>

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