



Radiologic Technology Program

2010 Information/Application Guide San Diego Mesa College

rev. 08/03/09

Job Title

Radiologic Technologist

Program website

www.sdmesa.edu/radiologic-tech

*****ATTENTION: PROGRAM PREREQUISITES AND ADMISSIONS CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS YEAR*****

Job Description

Diagnostic radiologic technologists work as part of a large healthcare team, using digital (or computerized) equipment to obtain images that demonstrate relevant anatomy and pathology from skeletal, digestive, urinary, cardiac, respiratory, lymphatic, reproductive and nervous systems. Radiologic technologists work directly alongside physicians and nurses in the imaging department with patients. In hospitals, they also work in the emergency room (ER), operating room (OR) and with bedside portable exams to provide optimal imaging care to the mildly and critically ill. Some radiologic technologists work in outpatient imaging centers.

Program Description

Radiology students complete a full-time (24 month) program of professional education that combines in depth academic study on campus with practical experience in the program's hospital clinical affiliates. Graduates are eligible for national registration by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and state licensure to work as a diagnostic radiologic technologist in California. After some experience, technologists may have the opportunity to advance in a specialized field of imaging, enter a management position in health care or become an educator.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Radiologic Technology Program is to prepare qualified medical imaging practitioners who uphold the highest level of ethical patient care while demonstrating competent technical practices.

GOALS

1. The program will meet the health care employment needs of the community.
2. Graduates will communicate effectively with patients and other healthcare professionals.
3. Graduates will develop independent critical thinking and problem solving skills.
4. Graduates will possess the knowledge and skills to be clinically competent.
5. Graduates will be ethical and professional radiologic technologists.

Attitudes and Characteristics of the Successful Radiologic Technologist

- Enjoys and has significant aptitude in computer, physical and biological sciences
- Physically capable of performing the typical and sometimes strenuous requirements of a technologist
- Demonstrates appropriate initiative, judgment and tact in a variety of situations
- Patient and emotionally stable in stressful situations
- Exhibits genuine care when presented with unreasonable patients, wounds, and infectious diseases
- Enjoys working directly with a diverse population of the physically ill without discrimination
- Maintains reliability and promptness in their assigned schedule
- Able to clearly communicate and understand written and spoken English, which is the primary medical record language used in the healthcare setting (multilingual is certainly advantageous, but not required)

Employment Outlook - Good – employment prospects across the nation.

Probable Salary Range for the San Diego Area

Starting Range for San Diego County: approximately \$25 per hour.

Program Director

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Frequently Asked Questions: (please see the program website for more FAQ's)

1. How can I get more information about this career and the Radiologic Technology Program?

Because we have hundreds of inquiries from prospective students, general information sessions are provided at Mesa College on a regular basis throughout the fall and spring semesters. Please check the Mesa College website for location and time of available sessions, and again prior to attendance for any scheduling changes that may occur. www.sdmesa.edu/radiologic-tech.

Attendance to an information session prior to applying is **mandatory**. Please contact the Program Director if you live in northern CA or out of state.

2. How do I find out if courses I've taken are equivalent?

Refer to the college catalog of both colleges and compare course description for similarity. It is also recommended that you work with an academic counselor at Mesa College (contact info on page 1).

Eligibility for Certification

To be eligible for certification, candidates must comply with the "Rules of Ethics" contained in the ARRT Standards of Ethics. The Rules of Ethics are standards of minimally acceptable professional conduct for all Registered Technologists and applicants.

Exam candidates are required to report **any conviction or plea of guilt of a crime as an adult**, including a felonies and misdemeanors, with the sole exception of speeding and parking violations. All alcohol and/or drug related violations must be reported. All potential violations must be investigated by the ARRT in order to determine eligibility to take the ARRT exam.

Individuals who have a criminal public record are highly recommended to request the ARRT to conduct a pre-application ethics review of their violation before applying to the program. The individual may do this any time (either before or after entry into the program). However, the district, college and/or program are not responsible for the outcome of the ARRT's decision concerning eligibility. Therefore, if applicable, this should be done as early as possible before applying.

The Rules of Ethics and pre-application may be accessed directly from the ARRT. (651) 687-0048 or www.arrt.org.

Eligibility for Placement in Directed Clinical Practice

New student admission into the program will be contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the following for placement into Directed Clinical Practice (clinical education at one of our hospital affiliates):

- TB testing (and chest xray, if applicable)
- Physical Examination by a physician
- Original Documentation of all required immunizations (or laboratory titers indicating immunity)
- Background check
- Drug screen
- CPR certification (campus class held for all students the first week of the semester)

If you are admitted to the program, you will then be given a checklist for the above items to complete by a deadline prior to Fall Admission. If the items are incomplete or the deadline missed, the student will immediately forfeit their admission status into the program based on ineligibility for DCP. Because of the critical nature of timely DCP placement, there will be no extensions to the deadline.

Due to specific requirements and specialized forms, physical exams and background/drug screening must be obtained according to program procedures by newly admitted students.

The program's hospital affiliates have the right to accept or reject student placement based on their own established policies regarding background and drug screens results, which do not necessarily reflect the policies of the district or school. If a hospital affiliate refuses student placement, the decision is final.

APPLICATION/ADMISSION PROCESS

The Radiologic Technology Program accepts a class of 35-40 first year students each fall semester. Class size is determined by clinical availability and other regulatory guidelines.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: Completion of A, B and C is required

A. PREREQUISITE COURSES

Completion of the following prerequisites (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of "C" or better is required. These prerequisites are designed to meet the general education curriculum requirements set forth by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT).

- 1. Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 semester units, including a lab, within the last five years), Bio 160 or equivalent.**
- 2. Computer Information Systems (3 semester units within the last five years), CISC 150, CISC 181 or equivalent.**
- 3. Math – Elementary Algebra or higher (3 units) – Math 95, 96 or equivalent. *In 2011, all applicants will need Math 96 or higher.***
- 4. English Composition (3 semester units) – Eng 101, Eng 105, Eng 205 or equivalent.**
- 5. General Physics (3 semester units, within the last five years) – PHYS 100 or equivalent**
**a laboratory is not required for the program, but is recommended if you want to use this course to meet an optional degree requirement.*

B. CAREER EXPLORATION

Applicants need to complete a minimum of 50 hours of directly observing radiologic technologist patient care duties ("job shadowing") in a hospital imaging department (a form and instructions are included here).

C. INFORMATION SESSION

Students must attend a program Information Session (see page 2) **within two years prior to applying to the program**, to obtain career and program information. It also affords the students a question and answer session with program faculty.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

Complete A, B and C above before applying the program. Incomplete applications are not accepted and will be shredded after the application deadline.

1. Complete the 2010 application (pp. 7-11 in this packet). You must submit the entire application published for the year for which you are applying for entrance. Do not use outdated/old application material.
2. Verified Career Exploration. You must use the form included in this packet.
3. Verification of attendance at a Radiologic Technology Program Information Session (given to you at the session).
4. Official transcripts (see "Transcript Information" in this packet). These should include all prerequisite courses.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit your application and all supporting documents to Special Admissions between **January 5th and June 15th**. Complete applications will be stamped with the date received. An application is not complete until all required supportive documentation has been received. Applications received before or after the January 5th– June 15th period will **not** be considered. The application must be received by 4pm on the last business day of the application window; postmarks will not be considered.

Completion of all designated prerequisites does not guarantee admission to the Radiologic Technology program. Applications are reviewed each year; there is no waitlist. Complete applications will be put into a pool from which a computerized, random selection process will select those to be admitted.

Acceptance letters for the Radiologic Technology Program will be sent out by June 30th of each year. The deadline for the return of the acceptance verification letter is July 15th. Applicants must confirm acceptance in writing by the stipulated date to maintain the admission status (postmarks are not considered).

Letters for alternates and those not accepted will be sent out July 16th, or the next business day.

Any candidate wishing to withdraw or cancel their application must provide immediate written communication to the college's **Special Admissions Clerk**.

All applicants are responsible for maintaining their current and accurate contact information (address, telephone and email) with the Special Admissions office.

Applicants are responsible for understanding the application and admission procedures and for obtaining timely clarification on any matter related to their application, admission and eligibility status.

Applicants are responsible for being able to timely complete the contingency requirements for DCP placement (see page 2), if they are offered admission to the program.

Students must be eligible to register for Mesa College prior to enrollment in the Radiologic Technology Program.

Please check the program website for any additional updated information: www.sdmesa.edu/radiologic-tech

RE-APPLICATION

Applicants who have submitted complete application materials who are not selected through the randomized process must reapply another year according to the admission procedure published for that year.

Complete applications submitted within the stated application period will be kept on file for only one year. Applicants who have their application kept on file for the following year are **not** considered to have reapplied until they have submitted their new application in the appropriate timeframe. Applications that are not updated for one year will be purged from the system.

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

You must request official transcripts from each college you have attended, even Mesa College. Your transcripts must be official and unopened in the original sealed envelope or sent directly from the other college(s) to Mesa College, specifically addressed as follows:

San Diego Mesa College
Attention: Special Admissions/Radiology
7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, CA 92111

Transcripts sent to Mesa College without designation to Special Admissions will end up in a different department and will not be reviewed. It is the student's responsibility to assure their transcripts are sent properly and confirm their receipt with our Special Admissions Clerk before the application deadline.

Computer print outs of grades are not accepted and will not be considered. Students are advised to proceed carefully in situations where spring classes end near the program application deadline; the application process will not altered for late grade postings. Students should plan accordingly.

Students with foreign transcripts should consult an academic counselor before submitting an application, since such transcripts will need to be evaluated by an independent service prior to be accepted.

Military experience must be documented on a military transcript to be considered.

OTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Program Cost

The program cost consists of regular course tuition and fees (including health, parking and other fees) set by the San Diego Community College District (see the college catalog). Other typical costs for program students include books, DCP eligibility requirements (see page 2), uniforms (scrubs), parking at their hospital clinical site and other incidentals. Overall, the entire program cost is approximately \$2500. This is an estimate subject to change according to district and hospital policies and also varies slightly among students.

Associate Degree Requirements

In 2015, all applicants for primary certification by the ARRT will be required to have obtained an associate degree from a regionally accredited institution. This was announced by the ARRT in their Annual Report (May 2009) and will affect students admitted to program in 2013. Students are encouraged to consult the ARRT for the most current information on this requirement (www.rrt.org).

Whether students will be required to have an associate degree as a prerequisite to the program in 2013 (or prior) or be able to concurrently obtain an associate degree while in the program has yet to be determined or announced. Due to the rigorous academic and clinical requirements, students usually find it difficult to take any additional courses while in the program. Since it is impossible to predict the specific year prospective students will be granted admission to the program, you are encouraged to develop an educational plan with an academic counselor and work toward your associate degree at this time.

Accreditation

Though many institutions are "accredited", it is essential that the prospective student ensure that their degree is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in order to qualify to sit for the ARRT exam:

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement(NCA)
- Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges (MSA)
- Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NWCCU)

Students are responsible for confirming the accreditation type and transferability of credits before they enroll in any institution. Resources to consult are college catalogs and academic counselors.

San Diego Mesa College maintains accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), 10 Commercial Blvd, Ste 204, Novato, CA 94949. (415) 506-0234

The Radiologic Technology program maintains additional accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182. (312) 704-5300

DISCLAIMER

"The San Diego Community College District is governed by its Board of Trustees. No oral or written representation by any employee of the College is binding on the San Diego Community College District without the express approval of the Board of Trustees."

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

(Subject to change; please consult the college catalog and the program for course descriptions and updates)

<u>FIRST SEMESTER (Fall)</u>	UNITS	<u>FOURTH SEMESTER (FALL)</u>	UNITS
RADT 105 – Basic Radiologic Technology	3	RADT 220 – Radiographic Technique	3
RADT 130 – Patient Care	2	RADT 230 – Radiologic Science	2
RADT 199 – Positioning I	2	RADT 211 – Positioning III	2
RADT 251A – Directed Clinical Practice	3	RADT 252B – Directed Clinical Practice	5
<u>SECOND SEMESTER (Spring)</u>	UNITS	<u>FIFTH SEMESTER (Spring)</u>	UNITS
RADT 110 – Radiographic Processing	2	RADT 240 – Radiation Biology	1
RADT 120A – Radiographic Exposure	2	RADT 241 – Sectional Anatomy Lab	1
RADT 120B – Radiographic Exposure Lab	1	RADT 244 – CT/MRI	3
RADT 200 – Positioning II	2	RADT 253A – Directed Clinical Practice	5
RADT 251B – Directed Clinical Practice	4	<u>SIXTH SEMESTER (Summer)</u>	UNITS
<u>THIRD SEMESTER (Summer)</u>	UNITS	RADT 242 – Organization of Radiology	1
RADT 252A – Directed Clinical Practice	5	RADT 253B – Directed Clinical Practice	5

*3 units equal 225 hours

*4 units equal 300 hours

*5 units equal 375 hours

Important Notes:

Students who require 12-units per semester for financial aid qualification (or other reasons) may need to add other general courses.

The Radiologic Technology program runs primarily Monday through Friday with daytime hours that fluctuate between 7am to 5pm, with very occasional rotations that may begin as early as 6am or end as late as 11pm. Students must adhere to an assigned schedule by their clinical affiliate.

There is no advanced placement in this program for individuals with previous related education. Consult the ARRT for advanced placement program information.

Applicant Agreements

Instructions: Read and place your initials by each item. Retain a copy for your records.

- _____ I have read all of the material contained in the RADT Information/Application Guide, have had the opportunity to ask for clarifications, and understand the application and admission processes.

- _____ I have the opportunity to seek clarification or confirmation regarding requirements prior to deadlines.

- _____ I understand that after my application is accepted and verified, it is my responsibility to notify the Mesa College Special Admission Clerk of any changes in my email, address or telephone number.

- _____ I understand that if I should require special accommodations, it is my responsibility to contact the College Disabled Student Program and Services office (619-388-2780) early in the process so as to ensure time to validate and establish the necessary reasonable accommodation which maintains the essential elements of the program.

- _____ I understand it is my responsibility to: meet program requirements; ensure prerequisite course equivalency; follow proper application procedures; provide transcripts; and keep informed on revisions regarding degree requirements, program requirement, and selection process.

- _____ I understand that the general education requirements for the associate degree are subject to change with the publication of each year's Mesa College catalog.

- _____ I understand that if I am notified for program admission, my failure to submit a written confirmation of acceptance or any required clinical placement eligibility documentation by the specified deadline will result in forfeiture of my admission status.

- _____ I understand that the RADT program admission policies are based on published College and Department policies; program admission is an equal opportunity process and persons are not excluded based on ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

- _____ I understand that success in this program and profession is based on clinical competency and patient safety, and that if the results of my physical examination or physical condition conflict with the physical requirements of the profession (tactile sense; see; hear; bend; stoop; lift; push; operate overhead equipment and transfer patients with both hands/arms; and other requirements as listed under "Technical Standards"), my admission or status may be re-evaluated or denied due to patient safety. I understand I have the opportunity to discuss these matters beforehand with the Program Director and access due process if these matters pertain to me.

- _____ I understand that Mesa College reserves the right to revise program requirements and/or selection procedures, immediately after the application filing date.

- _____ I have read the current Allied Health Department Policy manual (www.sdmesa.edu/allied-health/index.html.) and understand that I will be expected to adhere to the terms and conditions outlined of the most current version of the manual as part of my participation in an Allied Health Department program.

- _____ I understand that once I have met all Directed Clinical Practice placement requirements, I will be assigned to a Mesa College clinical affiliate, not necessarily of my preference.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

CAREER EXPLORATION

The purpose of Career Exploration is to allow prospective students to make an educational and career decision based on firsthand knowledge of what radiologic technologists do on a daily basis. To ensure that this is achieved, please complete the following **50 Hours**.

Area Or Modality	Hours Required	Hours Completed	Supervisor/Tech Initials
Fluoroscopic Procedures	8	_____	_____
Emergency Room/Trauma Radiology	8	_____	_____
Portables	8	_____	_____
Inpatient General Radiology	8	_____	_____
Outpatient General Radiology	8	_____	_____
Specialty areas (choose any or a combination: Ultrasound, CT, MRI, Angiography or Nuclear Medicine)	10	_____	_____

_____ has completed 50 hours of Career Exploration
(Name of individual completing hours)

Comments _____

Dates of Attendance (list first and last date): _____

Hospital _____

Imaging Supervisor or Manager Name: _____

Imaging Supervisor or Manager Signature _____

Phone _____

Date _____

RADIOGRAPHER CAREER EXPLORATION

Sharp Memorial **Contact: Jill Moore (858) 939-3588**
7901 Frost Street, San Diego, CA

UCSD Medical Center **Contact: Judy Bradrick (619) 543-6370**
200 W. Arbor, San Diego, CA

Palomar Medical **Contact: Sam Ramos (760)796-6606**
555 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA

Veterans Administration **Contact: Fred Andrade (858) 552-8585 ext. 2529**
3350 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA

Grossmont Hospital **Contact: Fran Lupo (619) 740-4059**
5555 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa, CA

Scripps/Mercy Hospital **Contact: Lori Kenner (619) 260-7082**
4077 5th Avenue, San Diego, CA

Planning for Career Exploration

Hospitals may not be able to accommodate the dates of your preference and several have waitlists for Career Exploration. Prospective students are encouraged to make their Career Exploration contacts as early as possible to ensure completion by the program application deadline.

Eligible Hospitals

This is a list of hospitals familiar with participating in career exploration or you may choose another hospital in any area or state. Hospitals or Medical Centers other than those listed here are acceptable but must have an emergency room, in-patients and operating rooms. To arrange Career Exploration at a hospital not on this list, contact their Imaging Department Manager for permission and coordinate with their Volunteer Services.

Objective and Duties

The objective of Career Exploration is "job-shadowing" a radiologic technologist. Career Exploration volunteers should not be primarily assigned to patient transportation, file room or clerical duties beyond the extent of typical radiologic technologist duties. It is the student's responsibility to ask for observation in each of the six radiology areas.

Patient Privacy and Professionalism

Any documented HIPAA (patient information) violations or inappropriate conduct committed during Career Exploration may be grounds for program admission denial.

Specific Hospital Requirements

Some hospitals require more than 48 hours of their volunteers. Only the first 48 hours are required for this program, but some hospitals may not release the Career Exploration form until all of their required volunteer hours are completed. The reason for this is that hospitals utilize their resources toward the orientation of volunteers and may understandably have certain expectations in return for their resource expenditure. The RADT program is not responsible for any conflicts between the program requirements and hospital requirements for volunteer hours.

There may be immunization, TB testing and other documentation and requirements specific to each hospital pertaining to volunteers. There may also be parking and uniform fees. These requirements and costs are the responsibility of the prospective student.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS (Essential Functions) FOR RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGISTS

According to the ARRT Standards of Care (www.arrt.org), technologists must be physically and mentally capable of performing the clinical duties of their job. If a "No" response is given to one of the tasks, reasonable accommodation will be considered and utilized as appropriate to maintain program standards. While the program may be able to accommodate certain physical limitations, the student should be aware that potential employers may not be able to make similar accommodations.

DIRECTIONS: Please check the appropriate box on the right, sign, date, and return with your application.

A. ARE YOU ABLE TO:	YES	NO
1. Stand for 60+ minutes (up to 4 hours) on a tiled or carpeted surface?		
2. Sit for 50 minutes on a chair at a table or desk?		
3. Walk 600 feet one way on a tiled or carpeted surface? Turn to either direction on a tiled or carpeted surface? Walk backwards for up to 20 feet on a tiled or carpeted surface?		
4. Lift and carry various equipment of up to 30 lbs with both hands?		
5. Lift equipment of approximately 10 lbs to shoulder level and then carry same up to 30 feet?		
6. Assist patients from a lying position to sitting on the edge of the bed (and vice versa) with varying degrees of assistance, working with up to 200 lbs?		
7. Assist patient transfers between gurneys, wheelchairs and beds in a manner to prevent patient falls?		
8. Maintain your standing balance in awkward positions (such as when you are handling equipment in sterile conditions and working with patients)?		
9. Bend, stoop, or crouch to reach a low object?		
10. Rotate your trunk (spine) from side to side?		
11. Rotate your forearms to turn knobs and levers?		
12. Reach overhead, forward and side to side and able to push overhead equipment in the same manner?		
13. Manipulate small size objects such as small dials and switches, needles and syringes, hospital gown ties, individual keys on a keyboard, etc.?		

B. OTHER DEMANDS OF TRAINING IN THIS PROFESSION. ARE YOU ABLE TO:	YES	NO
1. SEE: all spectrum of colors, read printed information; read small control panels; observe patient skin and coloration before, during and after treatment; read patient identification and medical records on paper and computer screens; observe that the work area is free of obstacles, etc.?		
2. HEAR: patient and healthcare team questions/comments face to face and without being face-to-face; faint cries for help, emergency call bells, equipment timers, etc.?		
3. SPEAK: give exam instructions to patients/family members; clarify patient identification and history; provide patient and peer instructions in emergency situations, etc.?		
4. TACTILE: feel hot and cold sensations, feel liquid that may spill or touch any part of your body, feel pressure such as to avoid accidentally touching or bumping a sterile field with any part of your body?		

Note: Please read each item very carefully and answer the above questions accurately and honestly. An answer of "no" does not automatically mean your admission will be denied; however, fraudulent answers will be considered as a violation of the ARRT Rules of Ethics.