



A World of Career Opportunities in Radiologic Technology



Career Opportunities

Medical imaging technology is a science combining advanced technology and human compassion. Medical imaging technologists use their knowledge of physics, human anatomy, and physiology to create permanent medical images. This profession requires a dependable personality with a mature and caring nature. Medical imaging services are offered in various settings such as hospitals, healthcare facilities, physicians' offices, mobile imaging companies, industrial plants, research centers, and government agencies. Commercial sales and marketing positions are also available in the field.

People in this profession may specialize in a particular area or pursue careers as educators, researchers, consultants, or administrators. The constant growth in this field has created many new and exciting career opportunities. There are several choices to make when considering a career in medical imaging technology.

Salaries vary nationwide; however, the range is usually reflective of training, education, demand, and experience. Employment opportunities are available throughout the world and offer medical imaging technologists flexible work situations to accommodate various lifestyles and needs. Admission requirements for education programs vary; however, high school graduation is usually required and basic math and science skills are important. Upon completion of an accredited program, the graduate is eligible for certification in the field of medical imaging technology. To obtain a list of accredited educational programs contact:

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
Phone: (312) 704-5300
E-mail: mail@jrcert.org
www.jrcert.org



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AHRA: The Association for Medical Imaging Management is a resource and catalyst for the development of professional leadership in medical imaging management. To find out more, please contact:

490-B Boston Post Road, Suite 200, Sudbury, MA 01776
ph: 800-334-2472 · fax: 978-443-8046
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Radiographer



The term diagnostic radiography is used to describe a variety of radiographic or x-ray examinations. Most people are familiar with chest x-rays and also know that x-rays are the best way to diagnose broken bones. The radiographer performs these procedures as well as procedures that require the use of contrast agents that make it possible to study organs that otherwise

cannot be seen on x-rays. Radiographers are valued members of the healthcare team. Through a blend of classroom and clinical training, students learn radiographic equipment operation, patient positioning techniques, radiation safety, and patient care.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Most employers require certification as a radiographer by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). State licensure may be required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- ◆ 4 year baccalaureate degree program
- ◆ 2 year associate degree program
- ◆ 2 year hospital certificate program

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities vary at this level. Positions are available in hospitals, imaging centers, private medical offices, sales, research, and commercial areas.



Computed Tomography (CT) Technologist



Computed tomography (CT) technologists are responsible for taking detailed cross sectional images of the internal structures of the human body. They are able to do this with advanced computerized x-ray equipment. These members of the healthcare team work closely with radiologists to provide radiographic studies that assist with patient diagnosis and treatment.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

This is not an entry-level position. Courses are available through community colleges and commercial sources that give specialized training in CT scanning. This training prepares certified radiographers for an advanced certification test in CT scanning administered by the ARRT. Most employers require, as a minimum, certification as a radiographer by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). State licensure may be required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

On the job training is often offered to experienced medical radiographers who exhibit competence in their field and have a genuine desire to learn and advance their careers. This is usually a career ladder position for those who have worked as a radiographer.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for CT technologists are available in hospitals, imaging centers, mobile imaging companies, sales, applications, and marketing.



Mammographer



Mammographers use ionizing radiation to produce images of the breast for screening, diagnosis, and treatment purposes. A mammographer is responsible for creating a clear image that can be read by a radiologist, oncologist, etc, to make an accurate diagnosis. Even routine mammograms can be stressful for patients. Therefore, mammographers must be proficient in making the patient as comfortable as possible throughout the process.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Most employers require advanced certification in mammography by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). State licensure may be required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

This is not an entry-level position and experience in radiologic technology, sonography, or ultrasound is often required. Courses are available through community colleges and commercial sources that give specialized training in mammography. This training prepares certified radiographers for an advanced certification test in mammography, administered by the ARRT. Employees who exhibit competence in their current area of specialization may be trained on the job.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities are available in hospitals, imaging centers, educational institutions, private medical offices, clinical research labs, sales, and marketing.



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist



MRI technologists use radio waves, powerful magnets, and computers to create images of the body. Technologists who work in this field must have good computer skills and a strong knowledge of cross sectional human anatomy.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Most employers require certification as a radiographer by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). State licensure and advanced certification may be required.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

This is not an entry-level position and experience in radiologic technology is often required. Courses are available through community colleges and commercial sources that give specialized training in MRI scanning. This training prepares certified radiographers for an advanced certification test in MRI scanning, administered by the ARRT. Employees who exhibit competence in their current area of specialization may be trained on the job.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for MRI technologists are available in hospitals, imaging centers, mobile imaging companies, sales, applications, and marketing.



Management/Education/Marketing

Radiologic technologists may also progress to different levels of opportunity in the areas of education, management, and marketing. Positions are available as department directors and supervisors as well as education program directors. Some may choose to seek positions using their imaging experience in sales, marketing, or consulting with a medical oriented business. Others who gain a bachelors degree and go on to pursue a masters degree in health administration may choose to seek a position as a hospital administrator, a vice president in a hospital, or a manager of a business for radiologists. Most people in management positions hire and supervise all non-physician employees. They develop strategic plans, prepare budgets, and investigate and implement future technologies. Most universities require radiology educators who teach on a bachelors level (or higher) and have a masters in education and/or masters in radiology science. This is also a new requirement for all radiology technology program directors.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- ◆ Masters in business administration, masters in health administration, master of science in radiologic science administration and/or education
- ◆ 4 year baccalaureate degree program
- ◆ 2 year associate degree program
- ◆ 2 year hospital based certificate program
- ◆ Many careers are based on a minimum baccalaureate degree with experience in an area of special interests

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

For information about becoming a Certified Radiology Administrator (CRA) or for job listings, contact:
AHRA: The Association for Medical Imaging Management
490-B Boston Post Road, Suite 200
Sudbury, MA 01776
800/334-2472
www.crainfo.org
www.ahraonline.org

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Several career levels exist depending on education and experience. Positions are available in hospitals, private businesses, large corporations, research, and colleges.

