

Program Review

Radiography/Medical Imaging Program

Majors Reviewed:

Radiography, A.A.S.

April 2019



**Pennsylvania
College of Technology**

A Penn State Affiliate

The Pennsylvania College of Technology Radiography program (RD) began in 1971 and graduated the first class in 1974 with an Associate of Applied Science degree. The RD curriculum is 24 consecutive months in length once students are accepted into the program. The maximum entering cohort size is 30 as mandated by the capacity of clinical affiliate sites. The JRCERT (The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology) states that we have the capacity of accepting 60 students, but the hospitals have capped the numbers of students at 10 students per primary clinical site. Current overall enrollment in RD is 51, with 30 first-year students and 21 second-year students. Ninety-three percent of the students in the two cohorts are also enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Health Studies degree major.

Following the last accreditation site visit in 2018, the program received the maximum re-accreditation length of eight years. The next accreditation site visit is anticipated in Fall 2026, with an interim report due in 2022. Students must complete of an accredited program to be eligible for the professional American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) licensing examination. The most recent ARRT pass rate for Penn College graduates was 89%, with a five-year average pass rate of 91%, which exceeds the national average first-attempt pass rate of 88.5%.

Assessment of program enrollment revealed that the number of qualified applicants (pre-Radiography students) for the RD major continued to remain consistent through the 2013 to 2016 selections, with an average of 56 qualified applicants annually. Students initially enroll as pre-radiography students and complete defined prerequisite coursework, with the intent to be competitively ranked for acceptance into the RD major. The RD major uses a point-based admission ranking system to select students for the 30 available seats in the major. Math and science courses (MTH 180, BIO 115, BIO 125, and PHS 112) are weighted heavier than other general education courses and remain excellent academic predictors of student ability and success in the radiography major.

Program assessment is an ongoing and informative process that uses multiple sources, including course and program student learning outcome assessment, graduate and employer evaluation data, exit interviews, faculty/staff input, and advisory committee input to examine data regarding program performance. This process leads to curricular improvement and new initiatives.

The United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports current employment trends remain very favorable, with employment nationally of radiographers (Radiologic Technologists & Technicians) expected to grow 13 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. Graduates have been finding employment, and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for radiologic technologists is \$60,070. One-hundred percent of the class of 2018 who actively sought employment (18 graduates) found employment as radiographers.

Recommendations to maintain program excellence and facilitate increased enrollment include:

1. Continue to promote the diverse benefits of enrolling in the Applied Health Studies bachelor's degree major while completing RD or after graduation.
2. Explore mechanisms for attaining a greater volume of credible graduate data to track outcome trends objectively. This may be accomplished by implementing an end-of-program assessment tool using Qualtrics, with the goal of improving return rates on graduate and employer surveys.
3. Research emerging teaching/learning technologies and implement where feasible.
4. Continue to conduct course learning outcomes evaluations and JRCERT assessment evaluations to maintain and enhance instruction to assure continued high ARRT pass rates.

5. Continue to rotate radiography students through all clinical sites and the various modalities (CT, MRI, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy, Interventional Radiography) throughout their 24-month clinic rotations to increase learning and career opportunities.
6. Revise the RD curriculum credit load to align with other associate degree programs in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, with consideration given to reducing the time in the pre-student phase.
7. Align the RD curriculum with the updated 2017 JRCERT standards.
8. Prepare a leadership, mentoring, and orientation plan for the incoming program director.
9. Evaluate curriculum and consider possible integration of certification in MRI and CT within the current Applied Health Studies: Radiography Concentration degree.
10. Explore partnerships with post-secondary institutions of higher education for the purposes of student recruitment.
11. Evaluate and update the selection criteria to improve likelihood of identifying the most qualified candidates for admission into the program. Consider developing selection criteria for prospective high school student admission.