

Radiation Therapy Technology

Nature of the Profession

The radiation therapist plays an important role in the cancer treatment process.

Primary responsibilities of the radiation therapist include:

1) assisting in simulation and treatment planning procedures to delineate the area to be treated, 2) administering treatments and providing patient support and education during the course of treatment, 3) monitoring and assessing the patient and communicating with the members of the cancer care team regarding the patient's condition, 4) performing quality control procedures on highly technological equipment, and 5) working closely with oncologists, nurses, dosimetrists and physicists to provide the most effective care possible.

Knowledge of how radiation interacts within the body, having the desire to use advanced technology in the treatment of malignant and some nonmalignant conditions and wanting daily interactions with patients are important characteristics of becoming an excellent radiation therapist.

APTITUDES

- Ability to apply theory of radiation biology in a clinical setting
- Good verbal and math skills
- Ability to see differences in images and adapt the treatment accordingly
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, keep accurate records, make judgments based on data, and work within precise standards of measurement
- Ability to work with a variety of people

EDUCATION

Successful completion of an accredited, radiography program and 35 hours of general college coursework is required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

To be certified in radiation therapy, an individual must first complete a program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification exam. Once students have completed this course of study, they may become certified in radiation therapy by completing an additional year of study and passing the national certification exam.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists

Web Address: www.asrt.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

Web Address: www.arrt.org