

RADIATION ONCOLOGY INFORMATION SESSION



Linear accelerator (LINAC)



Virtual linear accelerator

**VWCC AND NOVA
JOINT VENTURE**

Last Updated September 2025

ABOUT THIS JOINT VENTURE

Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) are both part of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). These two colleges partnered in 2007 to make the Virginia Western Radiation Oncology Program available here in Northern Virginia.

This opportunity allows students to complete an accredited program at NOVA that prepares them to sit for the ARRT Radiation Therapy certification exam after graduation. Students earn an associate degree in approximately 21 months. They complete classes at both colleges, and after successfully completing the program, they receive an associate in applied science degree in Radiation Oncology from Virginia Western Community College. No travel to Virginia Western Community College is required during the program.



NOVA and Virginia Western logos

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

Apply by:	March 15
Admission Policy:	Competitive
Program Location:	Medical Education Campus Springfield, Virginia
Program Size:	10 students
Program Length:	Approximately 21 months
Program Starts:	Every August

**Medical Education Campus, Health Sciences Division
6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield, VA 22150**



ROC students practicing on the virtual linear accelerator (VERT)

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The VWCC/NOVA Radiation Oncology program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)

Contact Information

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850

Chicago, IL 60606-3182

Phone: 312.704.5300 | Email: mail@jrcert.org

www.jrcert.org/programs/virginia-western-community-college-2/

Program completion data, registry exam pass rates, credentialing, and job placement statistics are available under **Program Effectiveness Data** at the VWCC program website.

www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/radiation-oncology



JRCERT logo

WHAT RADIATION THERAPISTS DO

- Treat patients with cancer and other diseases by administering radiation treatments
- Simulate patients for accurate treatment planning
- Work with other radiation therapists, radiation oncologists, nurses, dosimetrists, and physicists
- Work in hospitals and cancer clinics
- To see salary information, go to www.bls.gov and search Radiation Therapist



Radiation Therapy students

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Apply to both Virginia Western CC and NOVA
- Complete the pre-application requirements
- Apply to the program by the deadline

If accepted:

- Complete the clinical requirements
- Successfully complete the program and graduate
- Successfully pass the ARRT RT(T) registry exam



Student using the virtual linear accelerator in lab

APPLY TO VIRGINIA WESTERN

Apply to Virginia Western at www.viriniawestern.edu

- Select the current semester so you can enroll in classes after applying
- Select the **CSC Introduction to Radiation Oncology** plan to complete prerequisites
- Reapply to the college if it has been more than 3 semesters since you enrolled in classes
- Academic Calendar: www.viriniawestern.edu/academic-calendar

APPLY TO NOVA

Apply to NOVA at www.nvcc.edu

- Select the current semester so you can enroll in classes after applying
- Select the **Health Sciences Associate of Science** degree to complete prerequisites
- Reapply to the college if it has been more than 3 semesters since you enrolled in classes
- Academic Calendar: www.nvcc.edu/academics/calendar

COMPLETE PRE-APPLICATION REQs

- Complete the pre-application requirements by enrolling in available classes on the Student Information System (SIS)
- Prerequisites may be taken at any campus they are offered including NOVA Online, and online with Virginia Western Community College (if available)
- High-school students may be eligible to complete requirements while still finishing high school
- **How to Enroll in Classes on SIS:** www.nvcc.edu/admissions/register
- **VW Schedule of Classes:** www.virginiawestern.edu/classes
- **NOVA Schedule of Classes:** www.nvcc.edu/academics/schedule
- **HS Dual Enrollment Procedures:** www.nvcc.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment



PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Review the Radiation Oncology Overview and Application Checklists at the Virginia Western Radiation Oncology website for the most current list of requirements.

Radiation Oncology Overview

www.viriniawestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RadiationOncologyOverview.pdf

Radiation Oncology Application Checklist

www.viriniawestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/RadiationOncologyChecklist.pdf

TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

- Obtain official transcripts from all non-VCCS colleges attended (transcripts for VCCS colleges are not required)
- Obtain official high school transcripts (high school transcripts are required from all applicants, including those with college degrees)
- Request transcripts be sent to your home address, so you are aware when they are received
- **Do not open any envelope that contains transcripts** (opened transcripts are no longer “official” and will not be accepted)
- Electronic Transcripts (e-transcripts, Parchment, etc.) are acceptable. Select **allied health undergraduate** for parchment
- International transcripts must be evaluated by an approved organization (such as WES) before transfer credit can be determined. If you attended a foreign high school and cannot obtain a transcript, you may provide a written statement to explain why you are unable to provide it
- Mail all materials in one larger envelope directly to Pam Woody at Virginia Western Community College - Health Professions, 3091 Colonial Ave., Roanoke, VA 24015
- If any school refuses to issue "official" transcripts directly to you, please request they be sent directly to Pam Woody at Virginia Western Community College using the address above
- Early applicants should remember that if you enroll in any courses at a non-VCCS school after your application is on file, you will be responsible for having “official” transcripts sent to VWCC directly after grades are posted by that institution. Have updated transcripts mailed to Pam Woody before the application deadline
- Radiation Oncology courses are sequential and will take the same amount of time to complete even if some courses are transferred or taken early

DOMICILE ADMISSION POLICY

The VCCS Admission Policy for Programs with Limited Enrollment states that students are accepted into the program on the following priority basis:

1. Legal residents domiciled in the cities and counties supporting the College
2. Other Virginia legal residents
3. Out-of-state applicants
4. International students requiring Form I-20

This policy is established by the Virginia Community College System and is stated in section 6.0.5 Admission Priorities of the VCCS Policy Manual.

In-state Tuition Eligibility:

www.viriniawestern.edu/about/legal-and-policies/policies/student-affairs/i-30

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Essential Functions are a group of minimal physical and cognitive abilities as well as sufficient mental and emotional stability to confirm that students are able to complete the entire course of study, participate fully in all aspects of training, and be deployable as competent Health Sciences and Nursing students, with or without reasonable accommodation.

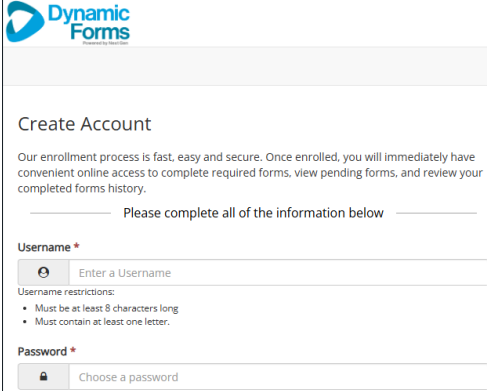
Review the Radiation Oncology Program Essential Functions:

www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/radiation-oncology/essential-functions

HOW TO APPLY

- Apply by **March 15** after meeting all requirements
- Make sure you have applied to both VWCC and NOVA
- Have all official high school and college transcripts or GED scores
- Have two letters of recommendation from employers/professors
- Have a copy of any healthcare licensure or certification (if applicable-not required)
- Complete a Virginia Western **Radiation Oncology Application**
- Indicate **NOVA** for your campus preference on the application
- Follow all directions on the VWCC Radiation Oncology application website to create an account and successfully submit your application package
- Early application is highly recommended

www.viriniawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/radiation-oncology/apply

A screenshot of a web form titled "Create Account" from Dynamic Forms. The form includes a header with the Dynamic Forms logo, a sub-header "Create Account", and a paragraph explaining the enrollment process. Below this is a line of text: "Please complete all of the information below". The form has two main sections: "Username" and "Password". The "Username" section has a text input field with a placeholder "Enter a Username" and a list of restrictions: "Must be at least 8 characters long" and "Must contain at least one letter". The "Password" section has a text input field with a placeholder "Choose a password".

Screenshot of the account creation step on the Radiation Oncology Application

AFTER APPLICATION

- All communication regarding the application process will be sent to the email associated with your Navigate account
- Qualified applicants will receive an interview process letter and a final fall status letter to the email listed in Navigate
- Please be aware of the email account associated with your Navigate platform and turn on your notifications in Navigate
- Qualified applicants may be contacted from mid April to mid May to schedule the program interview

Navigate Resources: www.nvcc.edu/student-resources/advising/navigate.html

COMPETITIVE ADMISSION

Meeting the minimum application requirements does not guarantee acceptance

- Admission in the program is competitive
- There are 10 openings for NOVA each year
- Interviews for qualified applicants are in mid-April to mid May each year

What the interview committee looks at:

- Overall GPA
- Math/science GPA and background
- Understanding the job of a radiation therapist
- Written communication skills
- Personal interview conduct and oral communication skills
- Letters of recommendation
- Existing credentials in healthcare field (not required but is considered)

RADIATION ONCOLOGY PROGRAM

- Full-time, 21-month program including the summer
- Program cannot be completed part-time; employment is not recommended past the start of the summer semester
- Students must earn a grade of C or higher in all classes to advance each semester
- Distance learning technology connects students in a classroom at the NOVA Medical Education Campus with the Virginia Western professors and students for didactic (lecture) courses of the program
- Clinical courses are taught by an instructor at NOVA
- Other courses are delivered online or are taught asynchronously with students completing assignments by the due dates on their own time
- Students also have open practice labs using a [virtual linear accelerator](#)
- No travel to VWCC is required except for optional attendance at the VWCC pinning ceremony and graduation at the end of the program



Radiation therapy students practicing in lab



ROC students meeting in a classroom at MEC



ROC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

First Year, Fall Semester

Lectures/labs at MEC on Wednesdays, other courses online

First Year, Spring Semester

Lectures/labs at MEC on Wednesdays, other courses online

Clinical Rotations at sites in Northern Virginia on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 am - 4:30 pm

Summer Semester, 10 Weeks

Clinical Rotations at sites in Northern Virginia Monday-Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm, 40 hours per week

Second Year, Fall Semester

Lectures/labs at MEC on Thursdays

Clinical Rotations at sites in Northern Virginia on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8 am - 4:30 pm

Second Year, Spring Semester

Lectures online and/or at MEC on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Clinical Rotations at sites in Northern Virginia on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8 am - 4:30 pm

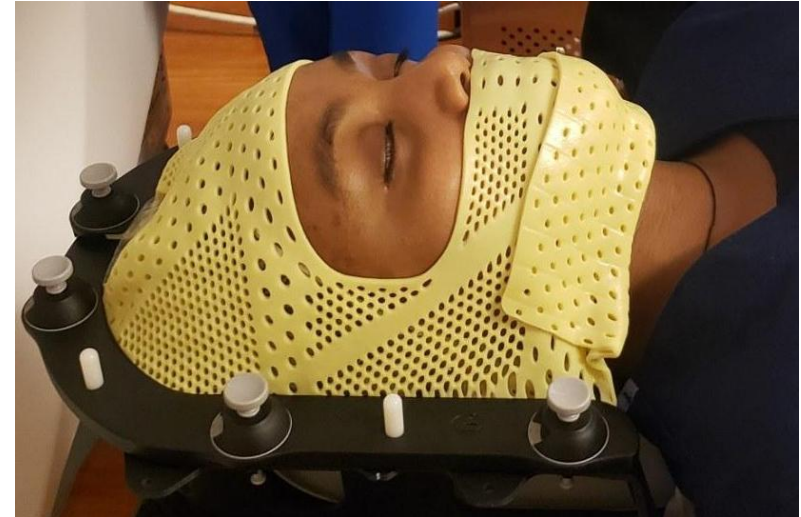
CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students may be regularly exposed to:

- Ionizing Radiation
- Infectious Diseases
- Terminally ill patients
- Combative/difficult patients
- Urine/feces/blood and other potential hazards

Before attending clinicals, students must complete:

- Annual Background Check with Drug Screen, results compliant with clinical affiliate requirements
- Current CPR – American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Certification
- Current physical exam and immunizations compliant with clinical affiliate requirements
- Ability to Perform Essential Functions Form



Patient in a radiotherapy mask – a thermoplastic mask used in radiation therapy to hold a patient's head and neck still for precise treatment delivery

CLINICAL LOCATIONS

- Hospitals participate on a voluntary basis
- Clinical schedules and locations are assigned
- Students must be willing/able to travel to all rotation sites in Northern Virginia
- To assure success, a commute of more than one hour from the DC area is not recommended
- Clinical placement is based on educational opportunities at each site, not on home address/location

Clinical Site Locations:

- Fairfax
- Fair Oaks
- Reston
- Winchester
- Alexandria
- Gainesville
- Woodbridge
- Loudoun
- Washington, DC

ROC PROGRAM EXPENSES

Expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Tuition and textbooks
- Uniforms
- Physical exam with immunizations
- Annual background check/drug screen
- AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers CPR class
- ARRT fees (board exam)
- ASRT membership fees
- Parking (campus and clinical)
- Travel expenses
- Clinical tracker packages

Estimated Costs: www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/radiation-oncology/cost

FINANCIAL AID CONSORTIUM

- Federal financial aid students need to be aware of how consortium agreements work
- A consortium agreement allows a student to enroll in courses at two different academic institutions while receiving federal financial aid based on their total enrollment across both schools
- **Home institution (VWCC):** The school from which the student will receive their degree. This institution disburses the financial aid
- **Host institution (NOVA):** The school where the student takes supplementary courses. The credits are transferred back to the home institution to count towards the degree
- Please be aware that NOVA has an enrollment cancellation policy where classes will be dropped if the tuition is not paid by a certain date
- Tuition deadlines are posted each semester in the [NOVA Academic Calendar](#)
- Federal aid disbursement from VWCC will most likely happen after the tuition deadline at NOVA
- Students with federal aid must plan payment for their NOVA courses up front to hold their registration during enrollment cancellation
- Students will be reimbursed for their NOVA courses when the federal aid is disbursed by Virginia Western Community College
- NOVA offers a [payment plan](#) where students can make smaller payments over time

ARRT RT(T) EXAM ELIGIBILITY

- Students must disclose criminal convictions to ARRT prior to sitting for the certification board exam per the ARRT Standards of Ethics
- Questions regarding eligibility must be addressed directly with ARRT
- Contact ARRT to request a pre-application review to determine certification eligibility
- Visit ARRT at www.arrt.org for more information

GRADUATION AND LICENSURE

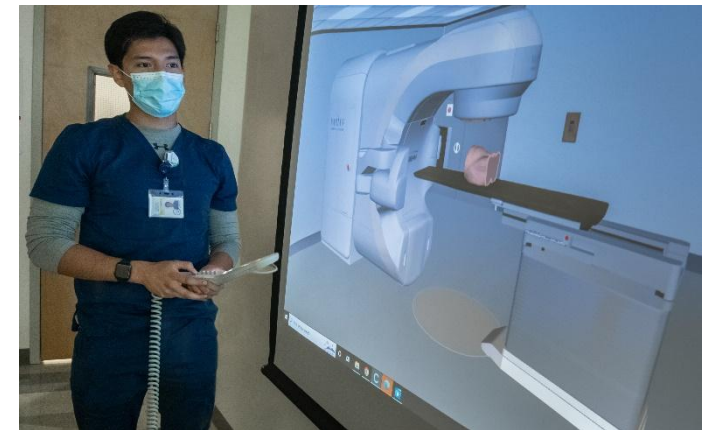
Students are awarded an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Radiation Oncology from Virginia Western Community College after successful completion of the program

- Graduates are eligible to obtain national RT(T) certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

www.arrt.org/pages/earn-arrt-credentials/credential-options/radiation-therapy

- Graduates are also eligible to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Health Services Administration Professional from Old Dominion University

www.odu.edu/academics/programs/undergraduate/health-services-administration



ROC student practicing on the VERT

CONTACTS AND FAQ

For assistance with application requirements and transcripts:

Pam Woody, Jasmine Terry, and the Program Advising Team

healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu

VWCC Radiation Oncology Program Advisory Team

Rhonda Perdue rperdue@viriniawestern.edu



Virginia Western logo

For assistance with Radiation Oncology career questions:

VWCC Radiation Oncology Program Director

Tillie Conner, MS, RT(R)(T) mconner@viriniawestern.edu

Frequently Asked Questions:

www.viriniawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/radiation-oncology/faq