

## RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### A. OCCUPATIONAL DESCRIPTION:

The radiographer plays an important role on the medical team. A radiographer is responsible for performing diagnostic imaging examinations to assist the radiologist in diagnosing broken bones, ulcers, tumors, diseases or malfunction of various organs. As a skilled radiographer, you would perform the following functions:

- Adjust and maintain imaging equipment
- Precisely follow orders from physicians on what areas of the body to image
- Prepare patients for procedures, including taking a medical history and answering questions
- Protect the patient by shielding exposed areas that do not need to be imaged
- Position the patient and the equipment in order to get the correct image
- Operate the computerized equipment to take the images
- Work with physicians to evaluate the images and determine whether additional images are required
- Keep detailed patient records

### B. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Employment opportunities are good for registered radiographers both locally and nationally. A certified radiographer is qualified to work in hospitals, outpatient diagnostic centers, physician offices and military hospitals. Once certification for diagnostic radiography is attained, it is then possible to enter such specialized fields as ultrasonography, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy. Other diagnostic specialties within the specific sphere of radiography include fluoroscopy, angiography, tomography, and C.T. scanning.

In addition, it is possible through continuing education to become active in hospital administration or in the instruction of radiological sciences.

### C. SALARY AND EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK:

The mean salary for a radiographer in the local metropolitan area ranges from \$53,520-\$60,070 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm> Salaries are generally higher in metropolitan areas and in hospitals or diagnostic outpatient clinics. Employment of radiologic technologists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows older, there will be an increased demand in medical imaging.

### D. PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Refer to the online information session for the most up-to-date application requirements.

<http://www.nvcc.edu/medical/divisions/allied/radiography.html>

## E. CLINICAL AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following is required prior to entrance into clinical rotations:

1. Evidence of good mental and physical health as substantiated by a Health History and Physical Form signed by a physician.
2. CPR certification (BLS for Health Care Provider through American Heart Association) is required and must be maintained for the duration of the program.
3. Criminal background check and drug screen are required to attend clinical rotations. An annual criminal background check and drug screen will be required as clinical affiliates mandate this requirement in affiliation agreements. Any student that does not pass the background check or drug screen must resolve this issue directly with the agency who conducted the search. Unresolved issues presented in the criminal background checks or drug screens will prevent clinical placement resulting in the student's failure to meet program objectives. Please be aware that some misdemeanors committed in other states are considered felonies under Virginia law. Felonies committed prior to Virginia Code reclassification as misdemeanors are still considered felonies.
4. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is the national certifying organization for all radiographers. The ARRT provides the examination process for certification. The following are standards for submission for an application for the examination:

**The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists require an applicant to be of good moral character. The ARRT requires convictions or charges resulting in any of the following be reported: Plea of guilty, plea of nolo contendere, withheld or deferred adjudication, suspended or stay of sentence, or military court martial. Misdemeanor speeding violations must be reported if they are related to alcohol or drugs.**

**For more information please reference website:**

**<https://www.arrt.org/contact/frequent-questions/Category/ethics-public/> or by calling ARRT at (651) 687-0048, ext. 8580.**

**F. PROGRAM CONTINUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. All courses in the program major must be completed with a grade of "C" or better before taking the next course in the sequence.
2. All courses in the major must be taken in the sequence outlined in the college catalog.
3. Program faculty and clinical affiliates reserve the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, withdrawal of any student who neither exhibits safe performance nor adheres to prescribed clinical affiliate policies and procedures.
4. Physical and mental health must be maintained for continuance in the program. Applicants must be free of any physical and or mental conditions, which might adversely affect their acceptance or performances in the program. The college reserves the right to require medical examinations to verify continuing competence.

**G. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RADIOGRAPHY STUDENTS:**

1. To prepare for the high ethical standards of the health professions, the College expects absolute academic honesty both in the classroom and in clinical practice.
2. Students in the Radiography Program incur a variety of additional expenses. These include the cost of uniforms, accessories and travel to clinical assignments.
3. A strict dress code is required in the clinical setting.
4. Students must provide their own transportation to clinical assignments. Students may be required to attend both day and/or evening assignments. Students will be required to rotate to various clinical sites to obtain clinical competencies.

**H. FACULTY MEMBERS:**

- a. Jarice Risper, Program Director, Radiography  
[jrisper@nvcc.edu](mailto:jrisper@nvcc.edu)
- b. Jonathan White, Instructor, Radiography  
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f. Yani Rivera, Lab Instructor, Radiography  
[yrivera@nvcc.edu](mailto:yrivera@nvcc.edu)

I. **HOSPITAL AFFILIATES:** Northern Virginia Community College has made affiliation agreements with the following clinical education centers where student radiographers will receive instruction and practical experience:

Association of Alexandria Radiologists  
Alexandria, VA

Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center  
Haymarket, VA

Inova Alexandria Hospital  
Alexandria, VA

Novant Health Prince William Medical  
Center, Manassas, VA

Inova Fairfax Hospital  
Falls Church, VA

Radiology Imaging Associates  
Lansdowne, VA

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital  
Alexandria, VA

Radiology Imaging Associates  
Sterling, VA

John Hopkins Sibley Memorial Hospital  
Washington, DC

Reston Hospital Center  
Reston, VA

Kaiser Permanente  
Tysons Corner, VA

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center  
Woodbridge, VA

Kaiser Permanente  
Reston, VA

Virginia Hospital Center  
Arlington, VA

Loudoun Hospital Center  
Leesburg, VA

**J. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

For information concerning professional certification, contact the ARRT or visit their website.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55120  
(651) 687-0048  
<http://www.arrt.org>

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
15000 Central Avenue SE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123-3909  
(800) 444-2778  
<http://www.asrt.org>