

The Program: General Information

1. *Q: Is the program “accredited”?*

A: Yes! The Radiography Program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182 (312) 704-5300 e-mail: mail@jrcert.org

The JRCERT promotes excellence in education and elevates quality and safety of patient care through the accreditation of educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. For more information, visit www.jrcert.org

2 *Q Will I be eligible to take the national certification examination for radiography (ARRT)?*

A Students successfully completing all course work and clinical requirements are eligible, provided they meet all other ARRT eligibility criteria. For a complete listing of eligibility criteria and ethics requirements, visit www.arrt.org. Program graduation requirements can be found at www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools.

3 *Q Are there any part-time enrollment options, weekends and / or evenings?*

A This is a traditional program in the sense that classes and clinical are scheduled Monday-through-Friday. Many of the examinations needed for competency evaluations are performed only during daytime hours. Although senior students rotate for a 3-week period 2:00 – 10:30PM, this is a limited, trauma center rotation. Because of supervision issues, no clinical rotation assignments are scheduled for 3rd shift (after 11 PM), on weekends, or holidays.

4 *Q What is the difference between an “academic affiliate” student and a “non-affiliate” student?*

A Academic affiliate students complete the first two years of their education at an accredited university. They then apply during the selection process for consideration. Those accepted will complete the same courses and clinical assignments, and receive a certificate of completion upon program graduation. Their affiliate university will also award a 4-year degree in radiography. Currently, the program is affiliated with the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. For more information about the B.S. Degree in Radiography, visit www.stfrancis.edu

Accepted students not from an academic affiliate will graduate with a certificate of completion from the program. In 2015, eligibility criteria for ARRT eligibility will require completion of an A.S. Degree (or higher). Beginning in 2013, only applicants already completing an Associate’s Degree at the time of application, or those applying through academic affiliates will be considered for program enrollment.

5 Q How long is the program?

A The radiography program is 21-months long and begins each year in late September. You can view the academic calendar at: <http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools> > School of Radiography > Academic Calendar.

6 Q How can I obtain program effectiveness data?

A Program effectiveness data is published on the JRCERT website www.jrcert.org. This information includes in-field employment and ARRT 1st attempt pass rates.

7 Q How can I obtain more information about the program?

A Visit our program webpage at www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools. Click on the “School of Radiography” link.

8 Q Where can I find out more about the profession of radiography?

A Check out the ASRT website at www.asrt.org. This is the national professional organization for the imaging sciences. The Annual Wage & Salary Survey can be found on the ASRT website.

Application, Pre-requisites & Selection Process

9 Q What courses do I need to take so I can apply?

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| • Human Anatomy & Physiology minimum of 6 credits (total) ** | • College Algebra or Statistics minimum of three credits** |
| • Written Communication minimum of three credits | • Oral Communication minimum of three credits |

All pre-requisite courses must be completed and passed with a grade of "C" or higher, from an accredited college or university, by September 1st. Final acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of all prerequisite courses. No remedial-level coursework will be accepted for pre-requisite course credit.

** Must have been taken within seven years from the date of application

10 Q Where can I take pre-requisite courses? Does the program offer preference for those completed at certain colleges or universities?

A Pre-requisite courses can be taken at any regionally-accredited college or university. The program does not offer preference for particular institutions. Applicants are encouraged to take courses at local community colleges, which is perhaps the most cost-effective option.

11 Q *How can I tell if a course I took was college-level or not?*

A All colleges and universities have a course numbering system. Each course number is preceded by a prefix corresponding to a department (such as ENG 101, which would represent a course offered by the English Department).

Generally, courses that are college-level are either 100-series or higher (sometimes 1000-series or higher depending on the school). Course numbers beginning with a zero are usually remedial level courses. These are not considered meeting the pre-requisite course requirements.

For example, MTH 212 would represent a college-level math course, while MTH 098 would indicate a remedial-level math course.

12 Q *I completed courses at a foreign college or university. What is the process for considering foreign credits?*

- A**
- Applicants will need to have foreign transcripts, from outside the United States, evaluated by the Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. (ECE) prior to consideration
 - Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official [TOEFL](#) scores. Information about the TOEFL Exam can be found at www.nmh.org/clinicalschools > for prospective students > application and admissions process.

13 Q *If I am not sure I've met a pre-requisite course requirement, what should I do?*

A You should have official transcripts sent to the academic registrar for evaluation. The registrar's contact information can be found on the program's website.

14 Q *When can I apply? What is the typical timeline for the application and selection process?*

A Most applications start coming in October 1st of each year, and continue until the application deadline of February 1st. All applicants are urged to apply as early as possible. This allows ample time to obtain any additional documentation that may be required.

15 Q *Are all applicants interviewed?*

A This will depend on the number of program applicants. The admissions committee considers all aspects of each individual's application and offers interview appointments to the most-qualified applicants.

16 Q *Why are only 10 students accepted each year?*

A Each program has a maximum number of students it can accept. This number is based on the number of available clinical rotation sites and student capacity for each, which ultimately determines the available level of student supervision. Currently, the program uses Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and the Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

17 Q *How are students selected? What criteria are considered?*

A Multiple factors are considered during the selection process, with points awarded for each. These include grades in pre-requisite courses, cumulative GPA, application essay and references, prior educational experience, the panel interview scores, and whether an applicant has previous medical experience. The highest-ranking at the end of the process are the incoming cohort.

18 Q *How can I improve my chances of being selected?*

A Grades play a significant role in the selection process. If a student earns a “C” in any of the pre-requisite courses, they are strongly urged to re-take that course. Other ways to improve selection chances include obtaining healthcare experience, either through paid employment or volunteer experiences, and completion of an academic degree.

19 Q *Does the program have a wait list?*

A No. The program uses a competitive selection process. This ensures that only the most-qualified are chosen. A competitive selection process provides all applicants equal selection opportunity.

20 Q *I applied previously and was not selected. Do I receive preference if I reapply?*

A No. You must re-apply and compete with all other applicants.

21 Q *I previously attended another radiography program. Does the program accept transfer credits?*

A Courses completed at other radiography programs are not recognized by this program. Students must complete all courses within the program curriculum.

22 Q *Do I need a previous degree for consideration? What is the 2013 applicant degree requirement?*

A Having a previous degree certainly improves your chances for selection however, this is not necessary at this time.

Effective January 1, 2015 the ARRT has mandated that all candidates must complete an Associate’s Degree (of higher) as part of exam eligibility requirements. This requirement will impact the 2013 incoming cohort directly. Therefore, beginning in 2013, all applicants must have completed an Associate’s Degree (or higher) at the time of application, or apply through an academic affiliated institution (B.S. Degree Program) to be considered.

23 Q *How can I get more information about the application and selection process?*

A Visit our website at www.nmh.org/clinicalschools. If you still have questions after reviewing the website, contact the academic registrar at (312) 926-2215.

Tuition and Finances

24 Q *Is financial aid available? What payment options are available?*

A Northwestern Memorial Hospital does not administer Title IV federal financial aid. However, students currently attending affiliated colleges/universities may be eligible for financial aid through their respective school's financial aid program.

If necessary, Northwestern Memorial Hospital offers a payment plan to students, which allows tuition charges to be paid in three partial installments. To participate, students must contact the Registrar prior to the due date of the first tuition payment.

- The student will make an initial payment of 50 percent of the total charges due on the 15th of the month preceding the month in which the first day of class begins for each school.
- Remaining balance is due in two equal installments on the 15th of the month for the following two months after initial payment.

Additional information about the Northwestern Memorial Hospital payment plan may be obtained by contacting the Registrar's Office.

25 Q *Besides tuition, what other expenses are associated with program enrollment?*

A Visit our website at www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools. A summary can be found under the "For Prospective Students" tab. An itemized listing can be obtained upon request. Tuition and fees are subject to change.

Once I enroll

26 Q *What does a typical weekly schedule look like?*

A The first 6-months of the program (first 2 academic quarters) are the most intense. Students should expect classes 3 days a week, and clinical 2 days per week. As the program progresses, this changes to 1 day of class and 4 days of clinical (during the summer quarter), and 1 or 2 days of class, 3 days of clinic the remaining 3 quarters.

Classes, labs, and clinical are scheduled between the hours of 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM. In addition, all seniors complete a 3-week trauma rotation at NMH between the hours of 2:00PM and 10:30 PM. In accordance with JRCERT accreditation standards, students are not permitted to invest more than 40 hours per week, or 10 hours per day, in combined program activities.

27 Q *Can I work while I am enrolled?*

A To maintain good health and to be successful in the program, it is recommended that students not be employed. If part-time employment is necessary, it cannot interfere with the responsibilities of class, clinical and laboratory attendance.

Class and clinical rotation assignments will not be adjusted to meet individual work schedules. Employed students must accept responsibility for maintaining satisfactory attendance, and academic and clinical performance while meeting established program standards.

28 Q *Where do students complete clinical rotation assignments?*

A Students must provide their own transportation to and from clinical assignments. All students rotate through Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and the Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medical Center. In the near future, the program will be looking to expand to Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital and its free-standing imaging centers.

29 Q *Is radiography a "safe" profession?*

A Yes! With proper standard precautions, and sound professional judgment regarding the use of radiation, radiography is a safe profession. For further information, visit: www.asrt.org and www.ncrp.org

30 Q *How is my radiation exposure monitored?*

A Students wear a radiation monitor badge (dosimeter) at all times while on clinical assignment. The badges are processed monthly, and reports of exposure are produced. Students sign the dose reports to indicate they have reviewed the information and the most recent dose received.

31 Q *What happens if I become pregnant during my enrollment?*

A Disclosure of pregnancy is voluntary. Following a disclosure, an additional radiation badge will be issued to monitor fetal exposure. A safe working environment will be coordinated by the program director and radiation safety officer.

Options for student continuance in the program may include an altered rotation schedule, enrollment in the didactic portion only until after delivery, or continuation without any alterations to rotation schedules or program activities. Each pregnancy disclosure will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, any declared pregnant student may revoke her declaration at any time (undeclare).

32 Q *What is the minimum grade requirement for all program courses?*

A For all didactic and clinical courses, the following grading scale is used:

A: 94-100%

B: 84-93.9%

C: 75-83.9%

D: 65-74.9%

F: below 65%

Students must maintain a final course average of “C” (75% or higher) in all didactic and clinical courses in order to remain in the program.

33 Q *Do I need internet access once I am enrolled?*

A Yes. One of the primary means of communication the program uses is email. All follow up for program applications is conducted electronically, including interview appointments and final applicant status.

For those enrolled, course assignments, handouts, etc. are often emailed. The program currently offers 2 courses in a hybrid format, requiring some online work outside of class.

Graduation and Beyond

34 Q *Once I complete the program, how do I become “certified”?*

A Those completing all graduation requirements, and meeting eligibility requirements of the ARRT, can take the national certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (aka. “The Registry Exam”). A complete listing of exam eligibility requirements can be found at www.arrt.org.

35 Q *What career options are available once I graduate?*

A There are many different career paths available to entry-level radiographers. Radiographers work in a variety of settings including hospitals, diagnostic centers, doctor's offices, clinics and orthopedic practices. Radiographers can also cross-train in CT, MRI, mammography, interventional radiography, and many other areas. Advanced career options in education, administration and research are also possible.

36 Q *What is the job and salary outlook for radiographers?*

A According to the US Department of Labor, radiography as a profession is expected to grow at a rate “faster than average”. The ASRT also publishes information about job and salary surveys (www.asrt.org).

Additional Links:

- The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists www.arrt.org
- The American Society of Radiologic Technology www.asrt.org
- The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology www.jrcert.org
- The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital www.nmh.org