

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SUCCEED IN THIS PROGRAM

College Degree Requirement

The American Registry of Radiology Technology requires all candidates seeking to sit for the primary exam in Radiography have obtained a minimum of an Associate degree as well as completed an accredited course in radiography (medical imaging/radiologic technology). St. Vincent Infirmarý's School of Radiologic Technology offers admission to both degree-seeking students and degree-holding students.

The degree-seeking student can apply through either the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College (A.S) degree or the University of Central Arkansas (B.S. degree). Program prerequisites (see admission policy) and general degree requirements will be completed prior to entering the SVI program. Contact either UAPTC or UCA with questions about their program. ***Note admission into either does not guarantee admission into the SVI program. Application and admission into the SVI program is independent of either UAPTC or UCA.***

Degree-holding students who have obtained either an A,S or B,S degree from a regionally accredited college or university may apply as an independent student if they have met certain academic requirements. See the admission policy for specifics.

Time Commitment

It is important that you understand the time commitment requirements for this program. This is a 24 month program which begins in July and ends in June two years later. There are approximately 10 weeks of scheduled breaks scattered throughout the program along with holidays observed by CHI St. Vincent Infirmarý.

You will be in class or clinic 5 days/week. First year students are in class on MWF and clinic on T/Th. Clinical rotations are 8 hour rotations with an hour for lunch. The exact clinic schedule varies depending on the clinical rotation. Students do not have clinic on evenings, weekends or overnight. Class and clinic times are subject to change throughout the program.

You will be taking between 15-17 college hours each semester. See the curriculum calendar. As a rule, you should expect to spend 3 hours studying outside class for every hour you spend in class. Imaging is a science. Some courses require good math skills. ***Time management is critical.*** It is easy to become overwhelmed. Please take time to consider if you will be able to commit to the time required to be successful in the program.

Healthcare culture and environment

You will be working directly with patients and that means direct contact. Empathy and compassion are critical attributes for the radiologic technologist along with the technical skills required to produce quality radiographic images. You will have surgical rotations. You will learn patient care skills. Radiologic technologists learn to do venipuncture. As the saying goes, we are not button pushers, but are a vital component of a health care team focused on the patient's well-being. We recommend interested applicants schedule observation in a hospital imaging department to observe professional radiologic technologist as they perform their

duties. If you wish to do this at SVI, please email heather.riddle900@commonspirit.org. We cannot accommodate requests for observation on weekends or evenings.

Financial Obligations

Tuition

Tuition costs vary depending on enrollment at UAPTC or UCA or as an Independent Student. Please see the tuition cost and refund policy on this website for more information

Fees

- Non-refundable \$50 application fee that is submitted with the application.
- Non-refundable \$200 fee due upon acceptance into the program. This fee covers administrative costs for enrollment including the drug screening and background checks,
- Students are expected to join the American Society of Radiologic Technologists as student members. The fee varies but is typically less than \$50/year. The ASRT often offers discounts. This membership offers a number of valuable student resources including scholarship opportunities.
- \$150 fee for record keeping.
- \$20 fee for students who are accepted into the Lambda Nu National Honor Society. There is an academic requirement, and the student has to be nominated by the program director after completing at least one semester in the program with a GPA of 3.25.

Uniforms

Students purchase their own uniforms and shoes. Detailed information on uniform requirements will be provided to students who are accepted into the program. Cost varies depending on style and brand. Students should expect to purchase a minimum of three sets of scrubs along with a lab coat.

Textbooks

Textbooks will be required. The cost of the textbooks is variable depending on the book designated for a course, but an average cost over the two years is approximately \$800. Students can purchase books at the college/university bookstores or from an online retailer such as Amazon. Detailed booklists are provided upon admission.

Drug Screening, Background Checks and Immunizations

Enrollment in the School of Radiologic Technology is contingent upon passing a drug screen and an Arkansas State Police criminal background check. An offer of position in the program is contingent on a negative drug screen or a background check.

It is highly recommended that you have the following shots before you start school:

- Tetanus within last 10 years
- Record of Hepatitis B shots
- MMR. If you do not have health records with dates for the MMR vaccine, a titer will be drawn in Employee health.

If you have not had these shots, you can get these through Employee Health at no cost after 90 days of being enrolled in class.

- Annual Flu vaccine. SVI will provide the annual influenza vaccine. Students who wish to opt out, must wear a mask during the flu season. The Covid vaccine is not mandatory but encouraged to protect yourself, your family and patient.

Pregnancy

Students will be exposed to ionizing radiation which can be harmful to a developing fetus. The program has a detailed policy regarding pregnancy designed to assist the student in making informed choices. See the pregnancy policy on this website.

Radiation Exposure and MRI Screening

Modern diagnostic medical imaging is considered a safe occupation, albeit exposure to ionizing radiation and the strong magnets found in MRI can be hazardous. The program closely monitors radiation exposure and educates students on minimizing radiation exposure to themselves, their patients and the public. All students will be screened each semester with regard to MRI safety.

If you have any questions regarding these important facets of the program or for additional information regarding the profession and the many opportunities it affords, we suggest you visit these websites:

American Society of Radiologic Technologists www.asrt.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists www.arrt.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology www.jrcert.org

Or emailing the CHI St. Vincent – School of Radiologic Technology Program Director at: rita.fischer@commonspirit.org