

PSU Radiologic Science Program
Schuylkill Campus

Program Information



Updated 9/2021

Program information for the Radiologic Science Program at Penn State Schuylkill is contained within this document and is listed in alphabetical order by topic.

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ACADEMIC ADVISING CONFERENCES

Student academic advising conferences are scheduled several times each semester between the student and program director to review student academic progress and review course schedules for subsequent semesters. Students should meet with the program director a minimum of once per semester and on an as needed basis to track their academic progress in completing the Radiological Science Program.

ADMISSION WITH ADVANCE STANDING/TRANSFER STATUS (COMPLETION OF COLLEGE CREDITS)

Students may be admitted to the university in transfer status with respect to general education courses; however, specific to the RADSC Program, no credit is awarded for any previous RADSC courses or clinical education completed at another educational institution (except Penn State New Kensington). All RADSC courses and clinical education courses must be completed as prescribed in the six semester RADSC curriculum.

A potential RADSC student can complete some or all general education courses (non RADSC) before starting the program. Please be aware that completion of general education courses prior to matriculating into the program will put the student below full-time status for financial aid in some or all semesters while in the program.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee meets annually in November. This meeting is arranged by the Program Director. The goals of this committee are:

1. To make recommendations to the Radiologic Science program concerning:
 - a. Program philosophy
 - b. Objectives and policy changes
 - c. Curriculum content/revisions
 - d. Clinical education
2. To address problems that may occur at the clinical sites regarding university policies.
3. To maintain channels of communication between the university and the designated clinical sites.
4. To provide impetus for self-study and periodic evaluation of the program's effectiveness.
5. To maintain compliance with standards for an accredited educational program in radiological sciences.

The Advisory Committee consists of: Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Facilitator, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Clinical Instructor, Radiology Manager/Chief Technologist from each clinical education center, Campus Chancellor, Campus Director of Academic Affairs, Campus Faculty Member, and Program graduate.

CATASTROPHIC CONTINGENCY PLAN

As COVID-19 has shown us, a contingency plan may be a necessary response to aid the faculty in maintaining and completing SLOs. Much of the Program response will rely upon University policies that are adopted.

Didactic options:

1. Zooming for course work, synchronous or asynchronous, could be utilized. Technology resource borrowing is available for students and faculty to facilitate this process. Hot spot areas could be identified on campus for students with limited Wi-Fi access at home.
2. Canvas could be used to post recorded lectures. Assignments could be transmitted back and forth via Canvas and/or e mail. Testing could occur via zoom, Canvas or orally via phone. Instructors can observe students via zoom to ensure testing integrity.
3. If a campus specific catastrophe occurs, we would follow the guidance of the chancellor. Additionally, we could reach out to nearby clinical sites to inquire if temporary meeting space would be available so course work could continue.

Clinical contingencies: Many clinical activities were performed via zoom when covid restricted student access to clinical sites. This allowed students to maximize time with patients upon return to clinical since many activities had been frontloaded. If restrictions occur at one or two sites, we will try to accommodate students at other sites or institute campus clinical days to complete non-patient activities and allow for variation in student participation at clinical.

In the event of a faculty catastrophe: Depending on the position(s) impacted, other faculty could step in to cover teaching responsibilities. Prior Program faculty members or current campus faculty in other disciplines such as nursing or STEM could be recruited to fill in if appropriate. Zooming could be an option. The CI at HMC could be flexible in fulfilling campus duties while recruiting back up CIs to cover clinical responsibilities. Off shift personnel could be identified to assist with student labs and activities.

Naturally, a catastrophic plan relies on critical thinking once the catastrophe has been identified and the limitations of didactic and clinical are identified.

CLINICAL POLICIES

Clinical policies and procedures are found in the clinical policies document.

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS (HEALTH, CLEARANCES, CPR CERTIFICATION, LIABILITY INSURANCE, ETC.), CASTLEBRANCH PROFILE, AND ASSOCIATED FEES

In addition to any health forms submitted to the University, Radiologic Science students, prior to entering clinical, must have: MMR vaccine, Chicken Pox vaccine, Hepatitis B vaccine, tuberculosis test (TB test), Tdap vaccine, flu vaccine, a physical examination (using a provided RADSC health form only), and any other medical tests that may be

required by the clinical education site (ex: Covid vaccine, drug test). Exemptions for vaccines are between the clinical site and student, and exemptions may not be granted. If an exemption isn't granted, the student may not be able to complete clinical. Documentation of these health requirements need to be uploaded to the student's CastleBranch profile. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these health requirements.

In addition to the above medical requirements, students must obtain abuse clearances, criminal background check and fingerprinting, CPR certification (see below), and professional liability insurance (see below). Many of the clinical sites also require drug testing. Student health insurance coverage is recommended/required and is the responsibility of the student. Students are considered guests at the clinical sites and are not covered by any employee benefits. Students are also responsible for any other requirements that may be requested by the clinical sites. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these requirements.

These are requirements for all clinical education centers for admitted Radiologic Science students and must be completed prior to beginning the clinical internship courses. Students admitted to the Radiologic Science program must purchase a profile (approximately \$100) through [CastleBranch.com](https://www.castlebranch.com). This is a onetime fee, and the profile is theirs for life. All completed requirements are uploaded to the profile and representatives at the clinical sites review them for compliance. Clinical education centers have the right to deny student placement at their facilities if a criminal record, positive drug test or other clinical site requirements are not in compliance. Inability to complete clinical education experiences will result in the inability to meet program objectives. It is the student's responsibility to keep all information up to date on CastleBranch. Many of the requirements must be updated yearly (TB test, flu vaccine, liability insurance) or every other year (CPR). Students are responsible for the associated fees. Clinical education centers have the right to deny student placement at their facilities if requirements are not updated on CastleBranch.

In addition to these pre-clinical requirements, there are other requirements for clinical that the student is responsible to purchase. Students must wear a uniform to clinical and must always have lead markers to use at clinical. The student is also responsible for his/her own transportation to the clinical sites.

Student professional liability insurance

Per JRCERT standards and the agreements made between the Pennsylvania State University and clinical education facilities:

- Students assigned to clinical courses at a facility shall be advised they are required to obtain, at the student's own cost and expense, liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 aggregate to cover the student's act or omissions while participating in the clinical educational experience on the facility premises. Students shall be advised they

are required to supply a certificate of such insurance coverage to the facility prior to starting the student's clinical education experience at the facility.

- It is recommended that Radiologic Science students apply for their professional liability insurance policy through [Healthcare Providers Service Organization \(HPSO\)](#), endorsed by the [American Society of Radiologic Technologists \(ASRT\)](#).
- The student must renew his/her policy yearly and is responsible for fees (approximately \$40).

The student may select another provider with instructions to:

- Obtain a policy for \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 aggregate to cover a students' acts or omissions while participating in the clinical education experience on the facility premises.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

All students entering the Radiologic Science Program must be certified in CPR. Students must complete the Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider CPR course administered by the American Heart Association. Students are responsible for completing CPR instruction and obtaining certification before the start of their first semester classes in the fall. Students are responsible for keeping their CPR certification up to date while enrolled in the program. Students not maintaining their CPR certification will not be permitted to participate in clinical internship.

Admitted students are advised on the procedure to follow in submitting their background checks, medical tests, and other pre-clinical documents to [CastleBranch.com](#) during the RADSC new student orientation. After the new student orientation, students are required to visit two of the program clinical sites: Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and another site of their choice.

COURSE GRADING

A "C" grade in all components of the stated RADSC curriculum is necessary to pass the course. A "C" grade for the didactic component is 75% and clinical component is 85%.

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Didactic Scale	Clinical Scale
A	4.00	96-100	96-100
A-	3.67	92-95	94-95
B+	3.33	89-91	92-93
B	3.00	85-88	90-91
B-	2.67	81-84	88-89
C+	2.33	78-80	86-87
C	2.00	75-77	85
D	1.00	70-74	80-84
F	0.00	0-69	0-79

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Students entering the program should purchase their first semester textbooks at the campus bookstore; they will be in a bundle at a discounted price. For the remaining semesters, course textbooks may be purchased in the campus bookstore, online, or rented. Each student is responsible for acquiring the required textbooks before the first-class meeting of a course. Because the same textbook may be used again in later courses, it is strongly recommended that before selling books, a student consult the Program Faculty.

CURRICULUM

Program requirements, suggested academic plan, and course descriptions can be found in the [Penn State Undergraduate Bulletin](#)

Fall I / semester 1 (3 days clinical/2 days campus)

RADSC101 - Radiographic Introduction & Procedures / Lab I	4.0 credits
RADSC110 - Patient Care in Radiologic Sciences	3.0 credits
RADSC295A - Clinical Internship I	1.5 credits
BIOL161 & 162 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab	4.0 credits
PSU008 - First Year Seminar (required for first semester college students and transfers with less than 18 cr)	2.0 credits

Spring I / semester 2 (2 days clinical/3 days campus)

RADSC102 - Radiographic Procedures / Lab II	4.0 credits
RADSC230 - Radiographic Physics	3.0 credits
RADSC295B - Clinical Internship II	1.0 credit
MATH - GQ designation	3.0 credits
BIOL163 & 164 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II and Lab	4.0 credits

Summer I / semester 3 (3 days clinical/2 days campus)

RADSC103 - Radiographic Procedures / Lab III	3.0 credits
RADSC220 - Radiation Biology and Protection	3.0 credits
RADSC295C - Clinical Internship III	2.0 credits

Fall II / semester 4 (2 days clinical/3 days campus)

RADSC204 - Radiographic Exposure I	3.0 credits
RADSC295D - Clinical Internship IV	1.0 credit
ENGL015 - Rhetoric and Composition	3.0 credits
IST110 - Information, People and Technology	3.0 credits
PHIL103 - Intro to Ethics	3.0 credits

Spring II / semester 5 (3 days clinical/2 days campus)

RADSC205 - Radiographic Exposure II	3.0 credits
RADSC206 - Advanced Procedures	3.0 credits
RADSC210W - Radiographic Pathology	3.0 credits
RADSC295E - Clinical Internship V	1.5 credits
General Education Arts Course Selection/AA100 (GA) (US, IL)	3.0 credits

Summer II / semester 6 (4 days clinical/1 day campus)

RADSC207 - Registry Review	4.0 credits
RADSC295F - Clinical Internship VI	2.0 credits

ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION and THE AMERICAN REGISTRY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS STANDARDS OF ETHICS

Any student who has graduated from the RADSC program is eligible to apply to take the certifying examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). ARRT Examinations are administered at various cities across the nation through a computer-based system. The program director will distribute ARRT testing information to all students meeting graduation requirements from the Radiologic Science Program.

ARRT Rules and Regulations require that candidates must be morally sound and have successfully completed a program of formal education which has been approved by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology or Regional Accreditation. Additional information may be obtained on the ARRT web site: <http://www.arrt.org/>

ARRT STANDARDS OF ETHICS

Students must comply with the [ARRT Standards of Ethics](#). As part of this, three issues are addressed as ethics-related questions on the ARRT examination application form. The questions and information about them can be found as a link from ARRT Standards of Ethics page or by clicking [here](#).

Technologists and applicants who violate the Rules of Ethics must provide the ARRT with a written explanation, including court documentation of the charges, with the application for examination. The individual may [request an ethics review](#) by the ARRT at any time either before or after entry into the Radiologic Science program. This review may avoid delays in processing the application for the ARRT certifying examination. The exam application is normally submitted in the sixth semester prior to graduation from the Radiologic Science program. The pre-application request form does not waive the application for the ARRT certifying examination, the examination fee or any other application procedure.

ENERGIZED LAB POLICY

Students aren't permitted to operate the x-ray equipment in an energized state. Only program faculty are authorized to use the energized equipment. Policies and procedures for the energized equipment are posted in the lab.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

If the student completes all areas of the curriculum, graduation occurs 24 months after matriculation (i.e., enter the program in August, graduate in August). Schuylkill Campus does not hold a Summer or Fall Graduation Ceremony; students are invited to participate in the May Graduation Ceremony at Schuylkill Campus. Students can also choose to participate in Graduation Ceremonies at other Penn State campuses. Students must satisfy the following requirements for graduation: successful completion of stated number of preliminary and final competencies, all clinical objectives, and the course requirements of 68 credits. Students must obtain at least a 'C' in each RADSC course and have at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

The procedure outlined may be followed by a student who believes that there is information contained in his/her academic or clinical record that is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.

1. If the questionable information concerns an academic grade received in a RADSC Course, the student should first talk with the instructor to discuss the grade in question within 7 days of receiving the grade.
2. If the questionable information pertains to a clinical evaluation, the student should first discuss the evaluation with the member of the clinical education staff who evaluated the student or the clinical instructor within 2 days of receiving the evaluation. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of that discussion, the clinical coordinator should be notified within 7 days of receiving the evaluation. If there is still a dissatisfaction on the student's part, the student should make arrangements to discuss the matter with the program director within 7 days after receiving feedback. The program director will investigate the situation and meet with the student within 4 days of the student's request.
3. If after the student has discussed the questionable information, as indicated in steps 1 or 2, and there is still a dissatisfaction on the student's part, the student can make arrangements to discuss the matter with the director of academic affairs within 4 days. Once the student accesses the DAA, the University grievance policy and timelines are utilized. Documentation of grievance will be maintained and placed in the student's file.

JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY (JRCERT)

The program is accredited by the [Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology](#), recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Students must graduate from an accredited program to take the certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). In addition to accreditation, the JRCERT is an avenue for a student to file a complaint about program non-compliance with the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography. The student must first follow the program/university established grievance policy before contacting the JRCERT at the address or phone number listed below.

For more information regarding accreditation status and compliance contact:

JRCERT
20 N. Wacker Drive
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
312-704-5300
Email: mail@jrcert.org
<http://www.jrcert.org/>

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT, PHILOSOPHY, GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mission Statement

The mission of the radiologic science program is to continue to provide excellence in education in radiologic science (radiography) by providing students with a diverse clinical and academic background in radiography, thereby meeting the challenges of today's entry level radiographer.

Vision Statement

The vision of the radiologic science program is to maintain and continuously improve upon its leadership in radiologic technology education, create opportunities and access for individuals to attend and continue high quality advanced degree and certificate programs in radiological sciences.

Program Philosophy

Radiologic Technology is an art and science based upon principles and techniques which are utilized by members of the profession in meeting the needs of patients while carrying out specific responsibilities within a multicultural medical environment. Learning is a continuous process of assimilation of knowledge and progressive development of the student towards pre-established goals. Learning is dependent upon the readiness, motivation and active participation of the student, the student's self-determined goals, and progress toward these goals.

Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: Effective communication

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will exhibit effective oral communication in the clinical setting.

Students will use critical thinking skills in research and problem-solving activities with oral presentation.

Goal 2: Demonstrate clinical competency consistent with an entry level radiographer

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will successfully apply radiographic procedure skills.

Students will evaluate images to determine acceptable criteria.

Goal 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will utilize critical thinking in the performance of radiographic examinations.

Students will vary thinking for age specific and diverse situations.

Goal 4: Professionalism

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students are knowledgeable about the radiology profession.

Students will demonstrate professional values in the clinical setting.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

This committee meets annually in April to review program mission statement, goals, student learning outcomes, ARRT exam results, and employer and graduate surveys to identify program effectiveness. A report of the committee's findings relative to program outcome assessment is presented at the Advisory Committee's Annual Meeting in November.

Members of the Program Assessment Committee include: Program Director, Director of Admissions, Director of Academic Affairs, Campus Faculty Member, Campus Registrar, Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Facilitator, PSH Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Clinical Instructor, Radiology Managers and/or Chief Technologists of Clinical Facilities, and a Program Graduate.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Upon acceptance into the program, a student should complete the program in 24 months. If a student leaves the program for any reason in the first semester and then decides to return to the program in the future, reapplication to the program is required. Readmission is not guaranteed. If a student leaves the program for any reason in semesters 2-6, he/she can return to the semester he/she withdrew from without formal reapplication for the next year. If more time than a year has passed, reapplication to the program is required with restart from semester 1. Completed general education credits may not have to be retaken but completed RADSC courses will. This is so the student is current on material in the rapidly changing field of radiology and meets the requirements for ARRT examination eligibility. See returning student policy for more information.

PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF

Responsibilities of program faculty and staff (clinical preceptors/instructors) are reflected in the [Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology](#) "Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography".

Program Director

The Program Director is a faculty member with the University. Activities in the clinical education centers and the University are administered by the Program Director. The Program Director teaches radiologic science courses, advises students in the program, and maintains assessment and accreditation documents.

Clinical Coordinator

The Clinical Coordinator is a faculty member with the University. The Clinical Coordinator oversees all activities for clinical education and teaches radiologic science courses. The Clinical Coordinator will make regular visits to each clinical education center to monitor clinical activities.

Clinical Facilitator

The clinical facilitator is a faculty member with the University. The Clinical Facilitator provides support and assistance to all clinical instructors at each clinical site and teaches the radiologic procedures courses and labs on campus. The clinical facilitator makes regular visits to all clinical sites to facilitate clinical education activities.

Clinical Instructor

The clinical education sites designate a registered radiologic technologist as a Clinical Instructor. The Clinical Instructors are employed by the respective sites and approved for the position by mutual agreement between the University and the clinical education center. The Clinical Instructor at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is a staff member with the University.

To provide students with adequate supervision, each center has an alternate clinical instructor and staff evaluators. Scheduling will permit at least one member of the clinical education staff to be on duty when students are in the clinical area. In addition, staff radiographers provide support and supervision in each area of clinical assignment.

RETURNING RADSC STUDENT / READMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

A student who withdrew from the program within the past one year and wishes to return to the program must notify the program director. Readmission is granted based on the student's previous records and the availability of clinical education placement. Returning student clinical objectives must be completed prior to the semester of re-enrollment for clinical.

The returning student will:

1. Complete all pre-clinical requirements and be in complete status on Castlebranch. See pages 4 and 5. This must be done prior to #3 below.
2. successfully test out (85%) on all exams previously evaluated on during lab and clinical prior to #3.
3. participate in clinical for a minimum of 10 days. The clinical instructor will maintain observation sheets concerning the student's clinical performance and will conference the student a minimum of twice during the clinical experience.
4. review clinical policies and student status with clinical coordinator.
5. complete clinical education objectives.

Guidelines and information:

1. The student will adhere to all policies of the program during the re-entry clinical experience.
2. Though the student is allowed to participate in exams, the student may not acquire prelims or competencies during this period. The only exception would be if the student were lacking the minimum requirements.
3. Once the schedule is determined, the student will adhere to the schedule. Excessive absences may result in the student not being allowed to return to the program.

4. The student may incur additional costs during the re-enrollment process. Examples of possible costs include, but are not limited to, liability insurance premium, health requirements, background checks, and any University fees.

If a student withdrew from the RADSC curriculum and later decided to return, the above objectives must be completed in their entirety prior to the student's re-enrollment in clinical internship (RADSC 295). The returning student is responsible for contacting the clinical coordinator to determine a schedule for successful completion of the objectives.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Sexual harassment of faculty, staff or students is prohibited and will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment violates the dignity of individuals and impedes the realization of the University's educational mission. The University is committed to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment of faculty, staff, and students through education and by encouraging faculty, staff and students to report any concerns or complaints about sexual harassment. Prompt corrective measures will be taken to stop sexual harassment whenever and wherever it occurs.

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the Report Bias webpage. <https://policy.psu.edu/policies/ad85>

SYLLABUS

Each RADSC course has a syllabus, which provides course objectives, schedule, student roles and responsibilities, requirements, and any other specifics related to the course. Other items included in the syllabus are the University Academic Integrity statement, Student Disability Resources, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Educational Equity/Report Bias statement.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The purpose of the following Technical Standards is to make applicants aware of non-academic requirements necessary to function in the role of a medical radiographer. Acceptance into the Program is not based on the applicant's abilities, but to successfully participate in the Program, applicants must meet technical standards that enable students to engage in educational and training activities that do not endanger them or others.

The RADSC Program Technical Standards are reviewed and signed at the pre-enrollment advising session / new student orientation session. The Program will attempt to make reasonable accommodations to allow a differently abled individual to accomplish the stated curriculum.

1. **OBSERVATION:** The applicant must be able to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercises, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend the condition of all patients assigned for examination, diagnosis and treatment.

2. **COMMUNICATION:** The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and with sensitivity with patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity and posture; assess non-verbal communications; and be able to effectively and efficiently transmit information to patients, fellow students, faculty and staff, and all members of the health care team.

3. **MOTOR:** The applicant must: have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by appropriate diagnostic maneuvers; be able to physically perform basic examinations; possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic procedures; be able to interpret movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients.

4. **INTELLECTUAL/CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATIVE & QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES:** The applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of Allied Health Practitioners, requires all these intellectual abilities. In addition, the applicant must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures; have corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or better to evaluate radiographs relative to contrast, brightness, and patient positioning.

5. **BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES:** The applicant must: possess the emotional health required for full utilization of the applicant's intellectual abilities; exercise good judgment; promptly complete all responsibilities required to care for patients; be able to develop a mature, sensitive and effective relationship with patients. Applicants must also tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concerns for others, interest and motivation are personal qualities which each applicant should possess.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All University policies can be found by searching the appropriate policy at <https://policies.psu.edu>

The undergraduate advising handbook is found at <http://handbook.psu.edu/>