What is the role of the Radiologic Technologist?

- The Radiologic Technologist, or Radiographer, is a skilled health professional with a dual responsibility: care of the patient and the performance of radiographic procedures.
- It requires:
  - Technical Expertise
  - Communication Skills
  - Humanisitic Skills
  - Problem-Solving Skills
The Radiographer

- assists the Radiologist (M.D.) by performing examinations on the body to rule out or confirm fractures, diseases, and other injuries;
- operates sophisticated equipment;
- communicates with patients;
- problem-solves; and
- works with other members of the health team.
Attributes of a Good Radiographer

- Good interpersonal skills to communicate with other members of the healthcare team and to provide support for patients who may be frightened or uncertain about what is going to happen;
- Confidence (after appropriate training) to work with leading-edge technology;
- Excellent attention to detail;
- Willingness to learn new skills and adapt to a constantly changing field;
- Ability to make decisions quickly and independently.
Additional Skills

- Radiographers need to be physically fit. They may be on their feet most of the day, and there is significant moving and lifting of patients and equipment involved.

- All radiographers work to a Code of Conduct and Ethics which establishes the values and principles necessary to promote, maintain and disseminate the highest standards of behavior for the radiography profession.
Where are duties of an RT performed?

- Radiographers work in the Radiology Department but also are needed in the
  - emergency room
  - operating room
  - morgue
  - in specialty areas, and
  - at the bedside.
Program Mission

The Radiologic Technology Program provides accessible, affordable, equitable, state-of-the-art, and high quality instruction which prepares the graduates to enter, adapt to, and potentially advance in the job market with entry-level radiography skills. It assists the graduates in achieving their professional and personal goals, as well as prepares the graduates with the necessary skills for life-long learning.
Program Goals

- The student will
  - demonstrate the necessary **skills** to perform as an entry-level radiographer.
  - possess **critical thinking and problem-solving skills** that contribute to excellent standards of patient care.
  - demonstrate effective **interpersonal and communication skills**.
  - demonstrate **professional development and a positive work ethic**.

- The Program will **graduate competent entry-level radiographers** to meet the needs of the healthcare community.
Program Specifics

- The Radiologic Technology Program is a two-year full-time associate degree program offered on the Central Campus of SCC
- It is fully accredited through the Joint Review on Education in Radiologic Technology
  - 20 N. Wacker Drive Suite 2850
  - Chicago, IL 60606-3182
  - (312) 704-5300
  - www.jrcert.org
- Begins once per year - Fall Term
Spartanburg Community College - Central Campus

Health Sciences Building
Program Specifics (continued)

- Students in this program are involved in professional didactic coursework and clinical education between 25 - 37 hours per week, depending on the academic term.

- Didactic classes are predominately face-to-face, however the student will use SCCOnline as a supplement to most classes. Currently only one course in the program is fully on-line.
Program Specifics (continued)

• Clinic is an integral part of curriculum - students are enrolled in a clinical course each term.

• As a radiography student you will be dealing with sick and injured patients of all ages and conditions.

  • Radiologic Technology is a hands-on direct patient care oriented career!

• Students must be willing to devote the necessary time and energy to the program to achieve the goal of becoming a Registered Radiographer.
Professional Curriculum by Term

• Fall 1
  ▫ Patient Care Procedures
  ▫ Radiographic Anatomy
  ▫ Radiographic Imaging I
  ▫ Radiographic Procedures I
  ▫ Applied Radiography I (clinic)

• Spring 1
  ▫ Radiographic Imaging II
  ▫ Radiographic Procedures II
  ▫ Radiation Biology
  ▫ Applied Radiography III (clinic)
Curriculum by Term (continued)

- **Summer 1**
  - Radiographic Procedures III
  - Advanced Radiography I (clinic)
  - PSY 201

- **Fall 2**
  - Radiographic Physics
  - Imaging Practicum
  - Advanced Radiography II (clinic)

- **Spring 2**
  - Radiographic Pathology
  - Imaging Practicum
  - Advanced Radiography III (clinic)
  - Humanities elective

- **Summer 2**
  - Selected Radiographic Topics (Registry Rev.)
Clinical Component of Program

- The clinical education sites provide the opportunity for the mastery of the knowledge, insight, and skills required to perform a radiographic procedure and produce a diagnostic radiograph while practicing good radiation protection on patients of all types.

- The mastery of the interpersonal skills required to deal effectively with patients and other members of the health care team is an important aspect that is developed and acquired in conjunction with the performance of radiographic procedures.
Clinical Education

- Because it is important to introduce the student into the ‘clinical world’ as quickly as possible as this is where the student applies the information learned in the classroom, students are enrolled in a clinical course each term.

- Hours per week vary depending on the specific term but range from 9 hours per week to 31 hours per week.

- The majority of hours are Monday - Friday daytime, but students also have 2nd shift (M - F) assignments as well as weekend (Sat/Sun) assignments beginning the second term. These rotations provide the student with experiences that are not normally available during regular weekly clinical education assignments.

- Assignments may begin as early as 7:00 AM.
Current Clinical Sites

- Mary Black Memorial Hospital
- North Grove Medical Park - Imaging Department
- Spartanburg Medical Center
- Pelham Medical Center
- Union Medical Center
- Westside Diagnostic Center

All students go to all clinical sites!
Problems? Questions? Struggling with Coursework?

- Communication is key!
  - Talk to the Faculty!
  - They are more likely to know the **CORRECT** answer.
  - Come in a timely manner for assistance - do not wait until the day before a test.
The College is where you will...
Attend Didactic Classes and Use Energized Labs to Enhance Learning
The Clinic is where you will...
Work with Registered Radiologic Technologists to Perform Exams on Real Patients
Work with Patients of All Ages, Shapes, and Dispositions
Provide Direct Patient Care
Touch Patients
Work in areas that require special gowning for protection.
Work with High-Tech Equipment
Use Critical Thinking Skills
Work with Radiologists
Integrate the Classroom Knowledge within the Clinic
Program Statistics

- 90% job placement for new graduates over past five years
- 100% success rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists for National Certification Exam for 30 years
- Positive Employer surveys
- Positive Graduate surveys
Career Opportunities

- Educated in anatomy and physiology, patient positioning, equipment protocols, radiation safety and protection, and fundamental patient care skills, radiographers often specialize in a particular area of diagnostic imaging. They work in a variety of environments, including:
  - Practicing and providing care to patients in hospitals and private clinics
  - Regulating radiation safety practices and working for government and other agencies
  - Advancing into administrative and management positions
  - Digital imaging systems administration
  - Specializing in sales or new product development with commercial companies
  - Educating future radiographers in academic settings
Questions to ask yourself???

• How do you feel about technology?
• Do you mind having close physical contact with people?
• How do you feel about regularly having face-to-face discussions with individuals or teams?
• Are you dependable?
• Are you good at controlling your emotions?
• Are you willing to work in an area where you are exposed to sick people?
• Are you attentive to details?
Still Unsure?

- These websites may offer additional information about the profession:
  - [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)
    - Click on Career Center at the top of the page then read “Explore Careers” and “What Do Radiologic Technologists Do.”
  - [www.asrt.org/radacademy](http://www.asrt.org/radacademy)
  - [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)
  - [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm)

- Schedule a time to shadow in a department
- Ask the technologists about the hands-on part of the career!