

# Introduction to the Radiologic Technology Program

**Spartanburg Community College**

**Updated Fall 2018**

# 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
  - Humanistic 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 general 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](http://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*.

# Associate of Science, Pre-Health Science

- Allows greater flexibility for taking classes needed to fulfill a LIFE scholarship or a need to remain a full-time student until accepted into the actual AAS RAD professional curriculum
- Students must still use the AAS RAD course listings when choosing general education courses
- Once the required general education courses are completed for RAD, students may take additional classes from the AS-PHS listing
- Once a student is formally accepted into the professional curriculum, he/she will be changed to the AAS RAD program

# Listing of General Education Courses for Radiologic Technology Program

## Entering FALL 2018

- BIO 112\*
- COL 101\*
- ENG 101\*
- MAT 110 or 111 or 130\*
- SPC 205\*

\*Required to be eligible to apply!

- PSY 201 or 203 or 212
- Humanities Elective

# Students entering Fall 2018

## 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)

- **Fall 2**

- Radiographic Physics
- Imaging Practicum
- Advanced Radiography II (clinic)

- **Spring 2**

- Radiographic Pathology
- Imaging Practicum
- Advanced Radiography III (clinic)

- **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.
- 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.

# Clinical Education

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- Students begin clinical rotations the first semester of the program and spend two days per week during the semester. Days vary among Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

# Current Clinical Sites

- Mary Black Health System - Spartanburg
- March Black Health System - Gaffney
- North Grove Medical Park - Imaging Department
- Spartanburg Medical Center
- Pelham 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...**

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# Attend Didactic Classes and Use Energized Labs to Enhance Learning



**The Clinic is where you will...**

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# Work with Registered Radiologic Technologists to Perform Exams on Real Patients





# Work with Patients of All Ages, Shapes, and Dispositions



# Provide Direct Patient Care





A



B

# 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 35 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>
- Schedule a time to shadow in a department
- Ask the technologists about the hands-on part of the career!