

Career Profile

A weekly series devoted to providing information on career exploration

Do You Like

- Actively looking for ways to help people?
- Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, and asking questions as appropriate?
- Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems?
- Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things?

Then This Could Be The Career For You!

The Type of Work

- Use beam-restrictive devices and patient-shielding techniques to minimize radiation exposure to patient and staff.
- Position x-ray equipment and adjust controls to set exposure factors, such as time and distance.
- Position patient on examining table and set up and adjust equipment to obtain optimum view of specific body area as requested by physician.
- Explain procedures to patients to reduce anxieties and obtain cooperation.
- Determine patients' x-ray needs by reading requests or instructions from physicians.
- Operate mobile x-ray equipment in operating room, emergency room, or at patient's bedside.
- Prepare and set up x-ray room for patient.
- Assure that sterile and non-sterile supplies such as contrast materials, catheters, films, chemicals, or other required equipment, are present and in working order or requisition materials.
- Process exposed radiographs using film processors or computer generated methods.
- Make exposures necessary for the requested procedures, rejecting and repeating work that does not meet established standards.

Pathways to Success

Formal training programs in radiography lead to a certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. An associate degree is the most prevalent form of educational attainment among radiologic technologists and technicians. Some may receive a certificate. Certificate programs typically last around 21-24 months.

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology accredits formal training programs in radiography. The committee accredited 213 programs resulting in a certificate, 397 programs resulting in an associate degree, and 35 resulting in a bachelor's degree in 2009. The programs provide both classroom and clinical instruction in anatomy and physiology, patient care procedures, radiation physics, radiation protection, principles of imaging, medical terminology, positioning of patients, medical ethics, radiobiology, and pathology. Students interested in radiologic technology should take high school courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology.

What Employers Look For

Individuals who possess knowledge in:

- Customer and Personal Service - principles and processes for providing customer and personal services.
- Physics - Knowledge and prediction of physical principles, laws, their interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic and sub-atomic structures and processes.
- Medicine and Dentistry - information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities.
- Psychology - human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- Computers and Electronics - circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software.
- Biology - plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.
- Education and Training - principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- Clerical - administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.

Job Outlook

Radiologic technologists held about 214,700 jobs in 2008. About 61 percent of all jobs were in hospitals. Most other jobs were in offices of physicians; medical and diagnostic laboratories, including diagnostic imaging centers; and outpatient care centers.

Employment of radiologic technologists is expected to increase by about 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows and ages, there will be an increasing demand for diagnostic imaging. With age comes increased incidence of illness and injury, which often requires diagnostic imaging for diagnosis. In addition to diagnosis, diagnostic imaging is used to monitor the progress of disease treatment. With the increasing success of medical technologies in treating disease, diagnostic imaging will increasingly be needed to monitor progress of treatment.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNICIANS

DEFINITION:

Radiologic technologists and technicians perform diagnostic imaging examinations like x-rays, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and mammography.



NAME: Stacie Feliciano

JOB TITLE: Radiologic Technologist

COMPANY: Orthopaedic Associates

LOCATIONS: Westlake, Avon, Lorain

Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?

A. I knew I wanted to be in the medical field to care for people. I come from a family of nurses but knew I didn't want to be a nurse.

Q. Who or what influenced your decision the most and why?

A. I spoke with my cousin Sandy who had been an X-ray tech for years. She answered my many questions and decided this would be a career I would enjoy and do well.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Southview High School and earned my Associates Degree in Applied Science from Lorain County Community College.

Q. How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

A. I started off working the afternoon shift at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in downtown Cleveland. I then changed paces and went to a small family practice/urgent care in Amherst. I have worked for the last 9 years for a group of orthopaedic surgeons.

Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

A. You need to pass a state issued test in radiography and keep up with your continuing education points every two years in order to keep your license up to date.

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. I truly enjoy taking care of people both young and old. I pride myself in making every patient feel as comfortable and taken care of when they are in my x-ray room. I work for a great group of orthopaedic surgeons who also give great patient care and inspire me to be the best x-ray tech I can be.

Q. Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

A. Call your local hospital or doctor's office that have x-ray techs on staff and ask if you can speak with them or shadow them for a day to see what their job entails. I feel if you enjoy giving care for others, this could be a possible career choice for you.



Earnings Potential

Location	Year	Pay Period	Low	Median	High
United States	2009	Yearly	\$35,700	\$53,200	\$75,400
Ohio	2009	Yearly	\$37,400	\$49,600	\$63,800
Cleveland Elyria-Mentor, OH MSA	2009	Yearly	\$39,400	\$49,900	\$62,800

O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

Sources: Occupational Information Network, O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>; *U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>