

Radiologic Technologist Job Description

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The primary job of [radiologic technologists](#) is to help physicians identify injuries and illnesses by using different diagnostic imaging equipment and techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging, x-ray equipment, computed tomography, mammography, etc. They often specialize in one or several types of diagnostic imaging technologies and receive titles according to that particular technique (McKay). Further, their duties and responsibilities are to receive specific instructions from the physicians about which parts of the body need to be scanned and operate the imaging equipment accordingly; explain the detailed procedure to patients; position patients and equipment for optimal operation; follow strict procedures to avoid unnecessary exposure to radiation and keep a complete record of patients.

In this way, radiologic technologists collaborate closely with physicians to effectively diagnose the patient's medical conditions and initiate proper treatment. This implies that they must have the essential skills to position patients and use equipment precisely to work on high-quality diagnostic images. Moreover, a dependable personality with a caring and mature nature is also required to offer services in various settings, for example, healthcare facilities, hospitals, mobile imaging companies, research centres, and industrial plants. Marketing positions and commercial sales are available positions for radiologic technologists. They can also pursue their careers as researchers, educators, consultants, and administrators depending upon their preferences and goals (AHRA). However, irrespective of the field of services, radiologic technologists must possess excellent communication skills, empathy and patience, physical stamina, and mathematical ability to accurately and passionately perform their duties.

Wages And Earnings

In 2018, radiologic technologists were highest-paid by the federal government on an hourly basis at the rate of about \$31.3. It was higher than the average salary of \$28.6/hour for all radiologic technologists. Moreover, the highest and lowest salaries of the top and bottom 10% were \$86,350 and \$40,630, which is equal to \$41.51/hour and \$19.53/hour, respectively (McKay). However, the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the annual salary of radiologic technologists is increasing continuously at a rate of 0.3%. Therefore, it was \$30.34 per hour on an average basis in 2019 (Radiologic Technologists). Moreover, the hiring of radiologic technologists will rise significantly by 12% in 2026 due to the increased number of elderly patients and the growing demand for diagnostics of severe fractures and breaks caused by osteoporosis ("Radiologic Technologists"). This rate of growth is 5% higher than the average growth of all occupations in the country.

Career Path

The career starts with the relevant associate degree certified by a specific radiology program and then the license of specialization in the chosen field. Therefore, the common entry point is the bachelor's degree for radiologist assistants, while the master's degree is the prerequisite for advanced careers in radiology assisting, developing, designing, and testing radiologic equipment. The most common specializations include CT scans, X-rays, MRIs, Nuclear Medicine, and Radiation Therapy. Therefore, the entry-level job is quite different from an advanced-level job where radiologic technologists work only in a specified area and perform technically complex jobs.

Education And Training Requirements

The fundamental requirement for securing a job as a [radiologic technologist](#) is to attain an associate degree accredited by a particular radiography program. These programs have different coursework classes to teach image evaluation, pathology, anatomy, and radiation physics. However, the preparation for this career can begin in high school by taking science courses, i.e. biology, chemistry, physics, advanced mathematics, and anatomy.

But some states also have a requirement for licenses for radiologic technologists that have a prerequisite of an associate degree program duly endorsed by “the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology” and a written examination offered by the “American Registry of Radiologic Technologists”. In addition, appropriate training and experience are mandatory to perform different diagnostic procedures, such as CT scans that involve the collection of X-ray images to inspect the object without any surgical intervention.

Moreover, to specialize in a specific diagnostic test such as mammography, cardiac interventional radiography, bone densitometry, and vascular sonography, additional training and ARRT certification are also required. Once the desired specialization is acquired, radiologic technologists can work solely in the specialized area upon extensive work experience. However, regardless of the particular imaging technology, a [radiologic technologist](#) must have the relevant educational background to follow precise instructions and operate equipment accordingly, along with maintaining a positive attitude toward helping patients to the best of his capabilities.

Career Services

Centre for Student Success provided me with an insight into relevant resources and skills required to gain success on my career path. More importantly, the platform helped me to establish contact with several healthcare professionals to understand the requirements of the field and workplace better. After having different sessions with the professionals at the centre of student success, I am much more confident and determined to pursue my career as a radiologic technologist. Also, it helped me

identify the different core skills and knowledge that I must acquire during college to earn a relevant degree and certificate in the later stages of my career.

Moreover, the various seminars organized by the center provided me a relative assessment of different professions in terms of their scope and economic benefits further developed my career goals.

Works Cited

AHRA. "A World of Career Opportunities in Radiologic Technology." *Wwww.Ahra.org*, 2018, www.ahra.org/AHRA/Careers/A_World_of_Career_Opportunities.aspx.

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