

# **Merritt College Radiologic Science Program**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

10-16-14

### ***Where can I find the offices of the Radiologic Science Program?***

The Allied Health office is located in the “S” building, room S343. The Program Director’s office is in S325. Additional program faculty are located in S319 and S324. The Allied Health senior clerical assistant’s phone number is 510 436-2422. The Program Director’s phone number is 510 436-2427.

### ***How long is the program?***

The program is 24 consecutive months, from August of the first year to August, 24 months later. There is generally no break between semesters except for winter and spring break. The summer session is 12.5 weeks and begins the day after Memorial Day and ends the Wednesday before the beginning of Fall semester.

### ***What are the requirements for applying to the program?***

1. Students must complete four prerequisite courses, with a grade of “C” or better on each course and an overall average GPA of 2.5 or above (on the prerequisite courses only) to qualify for application to the program. Prerequisites must be taken within seven years of application.
  - a. Survey of Radiologic Science (Radte 1A)
  - b. Intermediate Algebra (Math 203)
  - c. Anatomy and Physiology-two choices: Bio 2 AND 4 **OR** Bio 20a AND 20b (or equivalent at another college-at least 8 units total)
  - d. Students entering the program are expected to demonstrate proficiency using Microsoft Word, e-mail, PowerPoint presentation software, and navigating the internet. Students who are not proficient should take Introduction to Computer Information Systems, CIS 1 or an equivalent course at another college.
2. Completion of all General Education requirements for the Associate Degree.
3. Proof of prerequisite and General Education requirement completion must be verified by the Radiologic Science enrollment evaluator (appointments available between January 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> in EVEN years) on a form called the “Permit to Apply.” The enrollment evaluator will directly submit the Permit to Apply and General Education progress record to the Allied Health Office. The evaluator will give applicants the program application upon verification of courses. Students are responsible for submitting proof of high school completion, the application, and two sets of official transcripts from each college attended either by mail or in person to the Allied Health office in S343.

***How are students selected for the program?***

In the event that the number of qualified applicants exceeds the available program slots (this is almost always the case), a lottery will be used as a means of student selection. Qualified applicants from the previous application period who were not selected (and placed on the wait list) will be given priority for the current year's selection process. Detailed information regarding the status of the student selection process for a particular application period may be obtained from the Radiologic Science Program, is available on the Radiologic Science Home Page <http://www.merritt.edu/wp/radsc/> (Link to "Program Status Statement") and will be presented in the prerequisite course, **Survey of Radiologic Science**. Depending on the number of clinical placements available at affiliate sites, the program accepts approximately 25 students per year. All applicants will be notified of acceptance status.

***Is there anything I can do other than completing the prerequisite and general education courses that might increase my chances of successfully completing the program if accepted?***

A recommended preparation is not **required** for enrollment but may support student success in the program. The program recommends higher Mathematics (such as Statistics, Pre-Calculus, or Calculus), Physics (such as Introduction to Physics, General Physics or Physics of Radiation and/or Electromagnetism), Medical Terminology, Introduction to Computer Information Systems, and Professional or Business Communications. Prior work or volunteer experience in health care or customer service is also recommended as preparation for the program.

***How do I qualify to begin working as a technologist after graduation?***

The **AS degree or the Certificate in Radiologic Science** will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the Prerequisite requirements, the General Education requirements, and the Major course requirements. **The certificate-only option is available only to those who have already earned an Associate degree or higher. All students must submit a petition for either a certificate or the Associate Degree** (or both) to Admissions and Records by the deadline for Summer graduation in order to officially complete the program and become eligible for employment.

Graduates take a registry examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology that covers knowledge and skills required of an entry level technologist. After successfully passing the exam with a score of 75% or greater, and obtaining a certificate from the California Department of Public Health, Radiologic Health Branch, the graduate is qualified to begin working as a radiologic technologist.

***What is the difference between a technologist and a technician?***

A radiologic technologist holds a two-year degree or certificate and is qualified to x-ray any part of the body. A Registered Technologist may perform x-rays in the radiology department, on nursing floors, surgery, and the emergency department of any hospital. Technologists may also work in imaging centers, mobile units, clinics, or doctor's offices.

A technician holds a limited permit and has completed a shorter education program than the technologist. A technician program prepares students to sit for state licensing examinations that upon successful passage permit them to x-ray a very limited range of body parts. Technicians usually work in doctor's offices and the salary rate is generally considerably less than that of a technologist.

***What is the salary range for a radiologic technologist in the Bay Area?***

Salaries range from about \$35.00 - \$51.00 per hour for a new graduate working in a hospital in the Bay Area (Class of 2014 Alumni Survey). Technologists working evening or night shifts generally receive a pay differential above the base salary level. Technologists working in doctor's offices and clinics may receive 20-30% less pay. San Francisco hospitals generally pay higher than those located in the suburbs of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

***What career growth opportunities exist for this profession?***

New graduates can enhance their employability by continuing their education in specialty areas such as Sonography, Nuclear Medicine, or Radiation Therapy, or by earning a BS or BA degree. Possibilities also exist for careers in management, sales of equipment or supplies, applications, education, and as an independent contractor or consultant.

***I already have a BA/BS degree. What do I still need to do?***

You must still complete all of the prerequisite requirements to qualify for application. You have probably satisfied the Math requirement as part of your Bachelor program, however coursework must be taken within seven years of application. If older, an assessment test may be taken to establish currency. Make an appointment with Counseling to take an assessment test (436-2475). Survey of Radiologic Science and Anatomy and Physiology must be current within seven years or must be retaken.

***I took a course similar to Survey of Radiologic Science at another college. Do I have to take the course again at Merritt?***

Due to the tremendous volume of students interested in applying to the program, it is not possible for program faculty to meet individually with each student. The

Survey class is the method in which program application information is communicated to prospective students, as well as what is expected of students and what students can expect from the program.

***Is it possible to transfer to the Merritt College Radiologic Science Program from another program?***

Due to the differences that exist in program structure and clinical requirements, transferring from another program is not currently permitted. The only option offered is the full twenty-four month program.

***Is there an accelerated program available for graduates of foreign x-ray programs, or CRT's seeking ARRT registry eligibility?***

The program will consider such applicants on a case-by-case basis, and only if space is available. Contact the program director at [jyates@peralta.edu](mailto:jyates@peralta.edu) to discuss this possibility.