

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION SCIENCES TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR A RADIATION THERAPIST

A Radiation Therapist is typically employed in a hospital or clinic.

Clinical and laboratory assignments for the Radiation Therapy program require certain physical demands that are the technical standards of admission. These standards are based upon the minimum tasks performed by graduates of the program as recommended by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Listed below are the technical standards which all applicants must meet in order to participate and complete the radiation therapy program.

1. Sufficient visual acuity to read radiation therapy prescriptions & charts, observe conditions of the patient & evaluate x-ray images, identify faint skin markings & optical distance indicator projections.
2. Sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and members of the healthcare team and to assess the health needs of people through the use of monitoring devices such as intercom systems, cardiac monitors, respiratory monitors, fire alarms, etc.
3. Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and to implement skills related to the performance of radiation therapy procedures, such as positioning and transporting patients. Radiation therapists must be able to manipulate equipment such as the linear accelerator, table and control panel.
4. Sufficient communication skills (verbal, reading, writing) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively, as may be necessary in the patient's/client's interest. Students must have access to email and be able to communicate via email.
5. Sufficient intellectual and emotional function to plan and implement patient care.

Examples of specific technical standards the radiation therapy student must be able to meet are:

- Lift, transfer and/or move patients from wheelchair/stretcher to a treatment table. Lift, move, reach for or push equipment
- Manual dexterity and ability to bend/stretch
- Students must possess strong hand/eye coordination in order to operate equipment while observing patients.
- Have physical stamina and stand for long periods of time
- Distinguish colors and shades of gray
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills, including patient instruction
- Read and extract information from the medical chart or patient prescriptions
- Explain clinical procedures verbally and/or in writing
- Physical, mental and emotional abilities to handle moderate and frequent exposure to infectious agents (blood, urine etc.) and possible moderate exposure to ionizing radiation
- Students are expected to quickly learn how to operate new equipment
- Interact compassionately with the sick or injured.