

## The Program: General Information

### 1. *Q: Is the program “accredited”?*

**A:** The Radiography Program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182 (312) 704-5300, e-mail: [mail@jrcert.org](mailto:mail@jrcert.org)

The JRCERT promotes excellence in education and elevates quality and safety of patient care through the accreditation of educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. For more information, visit [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org)

### 2 *Q Will I be eligible to take the national certification examination for radiography (ARRT)?*

**A** Students successfully completing all course work and clinical requirements are eligible, provided they meet all other ARRT eligibility criteria. For a complete listing of eligibility criteria and ethics requirements, visit [www.rrt.org](http://www.rrt.org). Program graduation requirements can be found at [www.nmh.org/clinicalschools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschools).

### 3 *Q Are there any part-time enrollment options, weekends and / or evenings?*

**A** This is a traditional program in the sense that classes and clinical are scheduled Monday-through-Friday. Many of the examinations needed for competency evaluations are performed only during daytime hours. Although senior students rotate for a 3-week period 2:00 – 10:30PM, this is a limited, trauma center rotation. Because of supervision issues, no clinical rotation assignments are scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> shift (after 11 PM), on weekends, or holidays.

### 4 *Q What is the difference between an “academic affiliate” student and a “non-affiliate” student?*

**A** Academic affiliate students complete the first two years of their education at an accredited university. They then apply during the selection process for consideration. Those accepted will complete the same courses and clinical assignments, and receive a certificate of completion upon program graduation. Their affiliate universities will also award a 4-year degree in radiography. Currently, the program is affiliated with the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, and Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. For more information about the B.S. Degree in Radiography, visit [www.stfrancis.edu](http://www.stfrancis.edu), [www.lewisu.edu](http://www.lewisu.edu), or [www.roosevelt.edu](http://www.roosevelt.edu).

Accepted students not from an academic affiliate will graduate with a certificate of completion from the program. In 2015, eligibility criteria for ARRT eligibility will require completion of an A.S. Degree (or higher). Beginning 2013, only applicants completing an Associate’s Degree by the time of program start, or those applying through academic affiliates will be considered for program enrollment.

**5 Q *How long is the program?***

**A** The radiography program is 21-months long and begins each year in late September. You can view the academic calendar at: <http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools> > School of Radiography > Academic Calendar.

**6 Q *How can I obtain program effectiveness data?***

**A** Program effectiveness data is published on the JRCERT website [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org). This information includes in-field employment and ARRT 1<sup>st</sup> attempt pass rates. This information can also be found on the program's web page [www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools).

**7 Q *How can I obtain more information about the program?***

**A** Visit our program webpage at [www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools). Click on the "School of Radiography" link.

**8 Q *Where can I find out more about the profession of radiography?***

**A** Visit the ASRT website at [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org). The ASRT is the national professional organization for the imaging sciences. The Annual Wage & Salary Survey can also be found on the ASRT website.

**Application, Pre-requisites & Selection Process**

**9 Q *What courses do I need to take so I can apply?***

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| <p><b>A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology (minimum of 2 semesters) **</li><li>• Written Communication minimum of three credits</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College Algebra or Statistics minimum of three credits**</li><li>• Oral Communication minimum of three credits</li></ul> |
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All pre-requisite courses must be completed and passed with a grade of "C" or higher, from an accredited college or university, by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Final acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of all prerequisite courses and a minimum of an AS Degree (for non-affiliate students). No remedial-level coursework will be accepted for pre-requisite course credit.

\*\* Must have been taken within seven years from the date of application

**10 Q *Where can I take pre-requisite courses? Does the program offer preference for those completed at certain colleges or universities?***

**A** Pre-requisite courses can be taken at any regionally-accredited college or university. The program does not offer preference for particular institutions.

**11 Q *How can I tell if a course I took was college-level or not?***

**A** All colleges and universities have a course numbering system. Each course number is preceded by a prefix corresponding to a department (such as ENG 101, which would represent a course offered by the English Department).

Generally, courses that are college-level are either 100-series or higher (sometimes 1000-series or higher depending on the school). Course numbers beginning with a zero are usually remedial level courses. These are not considered meeting the pre-requisite course requirements.

For example, MTH 212 would represent a college-level math course, while MTH 098 would indicate a remedial-level math course.

**12 Q *I have completed courses at a foreign college or university. What is the process for considering foreign credits?***

**A**

- Applicants will need to have transcripts from outside the United States evaluated by the Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. (ECE) prior to consideration
- Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official [TOEFL](#) scores. Information about the TOEFL Exam can be found at [www.nmh.org/clinicalschools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschools) > for prospective students > application and admissions process.

**13 Q *If I am not sure that I've met a pre-requisite course requirement, what should I do?***

**A** You should have official transcripts sent to the academic registrar for evaluation. The registrar's contact information can be found on the program's website. This should be done well before the application deadline to ensure course credit is determined.

**14 Q *When can I apply? What is the typical timeline for the application and selection process?***

**A** Most applications begin arriving in October of each year, and continue until the application deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>. However, applications are accepted year-round, and all applicants are encouraged to apply early. This allows ample time to obtain any additional documentation that may be required.

**15 Q *Are all applicants interviewed?***

**A** No. This will depend on the number of program applicants and each applicant's qualifications, including academic history. The admissions committee considers all aspects of an individual's application and offers interview appointments to the most-qualified applicants.

**16 Q *Why are only 10 students accepted each year?***

**A** Each program has a maximum number of students it can accept. This number is based on the number of available clinical rotation sites and student capacity at each. This ensures appropriate levels of student supervision. Currently, the program uses Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and the Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medical Center as clinical sites.

**17 Q *How are students selected? What criteria are considered?***

**A** Multiple factors are considered during the selection process, with points awarded for each. These include grades in pre-requisite courses, cumulative GPA (tabulated from all colleges attended), application essay and references, prior educational experience, panel interview scores, and whether an applicant has previous medical experience. The 10 highest-ranking at the end of the process are offered slots, along with 4 alternates designated in order of final ranking.

**18 Q *How can I improve my chances of being selected?***

**A** Grades play a significant role in the selection process. If a student earns a "C" in any of the pre-requisite courses, they are strongly urged to re-take that course. The program will award points based on the higher grade of both attempts. Additional ways of improving selection chances include obtaining healthcare experience, either through paid employment or volunteer experiences, and completion of an academic degree.

**19 Q *Does the program have a wait list?***

**A** No. The program uses a competitive selection process, which ensures that only the most-qualified are chosen. A competitive selection process provides all applicants equal selection opportunity.

**20 Q *I applied previously and was not selected. Do I receive preference if I reapply?***

**A** No. You must re-apply and compete with all other applicants for that year.

**21 Q *I previously attended another radiography program. Does the program accept transfer credits?***

**A** Courses completed at other radiography programs are not recognized by this program. Students must complete all courses within the program curriculum.

**22 Q *What is the 2013 applicant degree requirement?***

**A** Effective January 1, 2015 the ARRT has mandated that all registry exam candidates must complete an Associate's Degree (or higher) as one of the eligibility requirements. This requirement will initially impact the 2013 incoming cohort. Therefore, all applicants must have completed an Associate's Degree (or higher) by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the application year or apply through an academic affiliated institution (2+2 B.S. Degree Program) to be considered.

**23 Q** *How can I get more information about the application and selection process?*

**A** Visit our website at [www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools). If you still have questions after reviewing the website, contact the academic registrar at (312) 926-2215.

<b><u>Tuition and Finances</u></b>
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**24 Q** *Is financial aid available? What payment options are available?*

**A** Northwestern Memorial Hospital does not administer Title IV federal financial aid. However, students currently attending affiliated colleges/universities may be eligible for financial aid through their respective school's financial aid program.

If necessary, Northwestern Memorial Hospital offers a payment plan to students, which allows tuition charges to be paid in three partial installments. To participate, students must contact the Registrar prior to the due date of the first tuition payment.

- The student will make an initial payment of 50 percent of the total charges due by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which the first day of class begins for each school (August 15<sup>th</sup>).
- The remaining balance is due into two equal installments due on the 15th of the month for the following two months after initial payment (September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>).

Additional information about the Northwestern Memorial Hospital payment plan may be obtained by contacting the Registrar's Office at (312) 926-2215.

**25 Q** *Besides tuition, what other expenses are associated with program enrollment?*

**A** Visit our website at [www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools](http://www.nmh.org/clinicalschoools). A summary can be found under the “For Prospective Students” tab. An itemized listing can be obtained upon request. Tuition and fees are subject to change.

## **Once I enroll**

### **26 Q *What does a typical weekly schedule look like?***

**A** The first 6-months of the program (first 2 academic quarters) are the most intense. Students should expect classes 3 days a week, and clinical 2 days per week. As the program progresses, this changes to 1 day of class and 4 days of clinical (during the summer quarter), and 1 or 2 days of class, 3 days of clinic the remaining 3 quarters.

Classes, labs, and clinical are scheduled between the hours of 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM. In addition, all seniors complete a 3-week trauma rotation at NMH between the hours of 2:00PM and 10:30 PM. In accordance with JRCERT accreditation standards, students are not permitted to invest more than 40 hours per week, or 10 hours per day, in combined program activities.

### **27 Q *Can I work while I am enrolled?***

**A** To maintain good health and to be successful in the program, it is recommended that students not be employed. If part-time employment is necessary, it cannot interfere with the responsibilities of class, clinical and laboratory attendance.

Class and clinical rotation assignments will not be adjusted to meet individual work schedules. Employed students must accept responsibility for maintaining satisfactory attendance, and academic and clinical performance while meeting established program standards.

### **28 Q *Where do students complete clinical rotation assignments?***

**A** All students rotate through Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and the Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medical Center. In the near future, the program will be looking to expand to Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital and its free-standing imaging centers. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation.

### **29 Q *Is radiography a "safe" profession?***

**A** Yes! With proper safety precautions, and sound professional judgment regarding the use of radiation, radiography is a safe profession. For further information, visit: [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org) and [www.ncrp.org](http://www.ncrp.org)

### **30 Q *How is my radiation exposure monitored?***

**A** Students wear a radiation monitor badge (dosimeter) at all times while on clinical assignment. The badges are processed monthly, and reports of exposure are generated. Students sign and date the dose reports to indicate they have reviewed the information and the most recent dose received.

**31 Q *What happens if I become pregnant during my enrollment?***

**A** Disclosure of pregnancy is voluntary. Following a disclosure, an additional radiation badge will be issued to monitor fetal exposure. A safe working environment will be coordinated by the program director and radiation safety officer.

Options for student continuance in the program may include an altered rotation schedule, enrollment in the didactic portion only until after delivery, or continuation without any alterations to rotation schedules or program activities. Each pregnancy disclosure will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately, the enrollment option will depend upon documentation by the student's obstetrician and the student's decision. Furthermore, any declared pregnant student may revoke her declaration at any time (undeclare).

**32 Q *What is the minimum grade requirement for all program courses?***

**A** For all didactic and clinical courses, the following grading scale is used:

A: 94-100%

B: 84-93.9%

C: 75-83.9%

D: 65-74.9%

F: below 65%

Students must maintain a final course average of "C" (75% or higher) in all didactic and clinical courses in order to remain in the program.

**33 Q *Do I need internet access once I am enrolled?***

**A** Yes. One of the primary means of communication the program uses is email. All follow up correspondence for program application are conducted electronically, including interview appointments and final applicant status.

For those enrolled, course assignments, announcements, handouts, etc. are often emailed. The program currently offers 2 courses in a hybrid format, requiring some online work outside of class. This number will increase in the near future.



## **Graduation and Beyond**

**34 Q *Once I complete the program, how do I become “certified”?***

**A** Those completing all graduation requirements, and meeting eligibility requirements of the ARRT, can take the national certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (aka. “The Registry Exam”). A complete listing of exam eligibility requirements can be found at [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org).

**35 Q *What career options are available once I graduate?***

**A** There are many different career paths available to entry-level radiographers. Radiographers work in a variety of settings including hospitals, diagnostic centers, doctor's offices, clinics and orthopedic practices. Radiographers can also cross-train in CT, MRI, mammography, interventional radiography, and many other areas. Advanced career options in education, administration and research are also possible.

**36 Q *What is the job and salary outlook for radiographers?***

**A** According to the US Department of Labor, radiography as a profession is expected to grow at a rate “faster than average”. The ASRT also publishes information about job and salary surveys ([www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)).

Additional Links:

- The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)
- The American Society of Radiologic Technology [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)
- The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org)
- The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital [www.nmh.org](http://www.nmh.org)