

The Profession

The radiation therapist performs or assists in all aspects of radiation therapy treatment and documentation. Following the prescription of a physician who is a radiation oncologist, the therapist uses sophisticated equipment to deliver high-energy ionizing radiation to a localized target volume within the patient. Working closely with cancer patients and their families, the radiation therapist provides technical support to the physician and other treatment team members to ensure high quality, compassionate care for oncology patients.

The increasing use of radiation in medicine and the expanding role of the radiation therapist have brought about the need for qualified radiation therapists. Employment is available in most parts of the country with a starting salary range of \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year. The CARTI staff will provide the students with information about job opportunities.

The Program

The Program is co-sponsored by CARTI (Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute) and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Health Related Professions (UAMS/CHRP). It is a one-year bachelor's completion program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) (see <http://www.jrcert.org/>) and licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education.

The educational program consists of classroom instruction two days a week and clinical rotations held three days a week—Monday through Friday—for 12 consecutive months beginning each August. Most lectures are conducted at CARTI St. Vincent's in Little Rock. Clinical educational rotations include all CARTI facilities in the central Arkansas area. Along with program faculty, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)-registered radiation therapists teach and supervise the students in the clinic. In addition, students spend time in both the dosimetry and nursing departments at CARTI. Students are expected to be full-time while enrolled in the program.

The curriculum is based on the professional curriculum for the radiation therapist, established by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. The program includes, but is not limited to, lectures in oncology, pathology, patient care, psychology, radiobiology, radiation physics, radiation protection and safety, treatment planning, and technical radiation therapy. In addition, the program is supported by clinical education rotations involving tumor localization equipment, high-energy linear accelerators, and dosimetry planning devices.

Students must pay UAMS/CHRP registration fees and tuition (subject to change), and for required radiation therapy textbooks currently costing approximately \$450. In addition, students must provide their required uniforms, scientific hand calculators, professional organization dues, and the certification fee for the ARRT national certifying examination. The H. O. McKenzie Scholarship fund was established at CARTI to provide tuition assistance for qualified students and is awarded during the program year. General financial aid opportunities are available for those who qualify. (see Fees section of this brochure).

Each student is provided medical liability insurance under the CARTI policy. Health insurance is not provided, and students are required to file evidence of health insurance coverage with the University each semester before registration is considered complete.

As of 2010, the program graduated 223 students with a 96% first-time passing rate of the ARRT national certification examination in radiation therapy, with 99% overall passing. The overall attrition rate is four percent.

The Facility

CARTI is a not-for-profit, freestanding, radiation therapy center. Comprised of seven facilities in Arkansas, the main facility is located in Little Rock at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, with additional Little Rock facilities on the campus of Baptist Medical Center and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Other facilities are located in Searcy, Mountain Home, Conway, and North Little Rock. CARTI has the distinction of being the first freestanding radiation therapy center accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

CARTI opened its doors to cancer patients in April, 1976. More than 80,000 patients have received treatment, with approximately 2,200 new cases treated each year. CARTI employs a variety of healthcare professionals, including ARRT-registered radiation therapists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, medical engineers, clinical social workers, oncology nurses, and a complete ancillary support staff. Twelve radiation oncologists (M.D.'s) staff the CARTI units.

CARTI provides and maintains up-to-date radiation therapy equipment. Each center is equipped with a Varian Ximatron Simulator, a CT Scanner, and at least one Varian Clinac 2100 CD with electron capabilities. Other specialized equipment includes a high dose remote afterloading Gamma Med Ili unit, a TomoTherapy unit, and a Stereotactic Brainlab. Students have an opportunity to rotate to all locations and utilize all equipment for educational purposes.

UAMS is a health sciences campus that offers professional programs to approximately 1,800 students in the four Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Health Related Professions, and the Graduate School. The campus is located in west Little Rock with multiple clinical sites in central Arkansas and the rest of the state. The 13 departments of the College of Health Related Professions offer 16 programs in 15 disciplines in several locations around the state.

Preprofessional Curriculum

Prerequisites include completion of the following General Education Requirements and the Radiologic Technology Curriculum.

General Education Requirements

The following 42-48 SC are required from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with a minimum 2.0 CGPA and must fulfill all college requirements regarding acceptance of transfer credit:

Area/Typical Course Title	Minimum Semester Credit
SCIENCE AND MATH:	
Precalculus (or College Algebra and Trigonometry)**	3
Anatomy and Physiology***	4-8
General Physics or Applied Physics	3
LIBERAL ARTS:	
English Composition I	3
English Composition II	3
American History or National Government*	3
SOCIAL SCIENCES:	
Psychology	3
Sociology*	3
COMMUNICATION:	
Speech or Oral Communication	2
COMPUTER SCIENCE:	
Computer Fundamentals/Applications	3
ADDITIONAL HOURS:	
Fine Arts*	3
History of Civilization or World History*	6
Humanities*	3
TOTAL	42-46

*These courses do not have to be completed before acceptance into the program but can be taken with the professional courses or following completion of the professional curriculum. They must be completed within five years of the date of admission into the program. All other prerequisites must be completed prior to admission.

**Mathematics courses must be completed within seven years prior to admission into the program.

***Anatomy and physiology courses must cover all body systems and include accompanying laboratory sections. At some colleges, this requirement can be met with one course; at others two courses will be required.

Radiologic Technology Curriculum

The applicant must be a graduate (or graduate eligible) of a JRCERT accredited program in Radiologic Technology (radiography) with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The following thirty-nine (39) SC, or equivalent hours, will be transferred from the Radiologic technology program.

Typical Course Title	Minimum Semester Credit
Radiologic Anatomy	2
Basic Patient Care	3
Radiographic Procedures and Laboratories	8
Radiographic Exposure and Laboratories	4
Radiation Protection and Radiobiology	3
Radiation Physics	3
Radiologic Imaging	2
Clinical Practicum	10
Imaging Elective	4
TOTAL	39

Only grades of "C" or higher are accepted for prerequisite coursework. Fulfillment of the pre-professional curriculum does not assure admittance into the professional program

Radiation Therapy Professional Curriculum Bachelor of Science Degree

The following 46 SC is offered in the Bachelor of Science Radiation Therapy professional program. All courses as listed below must be successfully completed to obtain the degree.

Course # Title	Semester Credit
<i>(Fall Semester)</i>	
RTH 4101 Orientation to Radiation Therapy	1
RTH 4202 Patient Care	2
RTH 4411 Principles & Practices I	2
RTH 4304 Radiation Oncology I	3
RTH 4413 Radiation Physics I	4
RTH 4601 Clinical Practicum I and Laboratory	6
	18
<i>(Spring Semester)</i>	
RTH 4404 Radiation Oncology II	4
RTH 4221 Principle & Practices II	2
RTH 4423 Radiation Physics II	4
RTH 4231 Radiation Biology I	2
RTH 4602 Clinical Practicum II and Laboratory	6
	18
<i>(Summer Semester)</i>	
RTH 4222 Radiation Physics III	2
RTH 4102 Principle & Practices III	1
RTH 4203 Radiation Therapy Review	2
RTH 4503 Clinical Practicum III and Laboratory	5
	10
TOTAL	46

A minimum of 32 SC of coursework must be completed in residence at the College. A grade of "F" or a mark of "U" or "NC" in a professional course is not acceptable for progression to the next semester, nor is it acceptable for graduation if it occurs in the last semester of the program.

Certification

Graduation from the radiation therapy program satisfies academic eligibility to apply for the ARRT national certifying examination in radiation therapy. Candidates who pass this examination become Registered Radiation Therapists [R.T.(T)(ARRT)]. Successful program completion does not itself insure registration. Each student is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with the applicable registration requirements.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

Class size is limited and all applicants may not be selected for participation in the program.

- Application for Admission:** The College of Health Related Professions Application for Admission Form is required. This may be found on the Web site at www.uams.edu/chrp or you may contact the CHRP Office of Student Affairs for information.
- Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of \$20.00 is required and must accompany the UAMS application. If applying to multiple programs, a \$20.00 fee is required for the first program and \$10.00 for each additional program.
- Official Transcripts:** Official transcripts from each college or university attended must be forwarded directly to CHRP. **Transcripts "issued to the student" will not substitute for official transcripts forwarded directly to the College of Health Related Professions by the institution issuing the transcripts.**
- Admission Requirements for International Applicants:** All applicants who are not United States citizens or permanent resident aliens or for whom English is not their native language must meet additional admission requirements. Please consult the Admission/Academic Information section of the CHRP Catalog found at <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/catalog/>.

The above forms, fees, and transcripts must be post-marked by March 1 to ensure consideration for the fall term.

Upon receipt of the application and official transcripts, student information will be reviewed to ensure that minimal qualifications for interview have been met. Interview qualifications include completion of, or current enrollment in, a JRCERT accredited Radiologic Technology program with a CGPA of 3.0 or better and completion of the Prerequisite Preprofessional Curriculum courses (see Preprofessional Curriculum) with a 2.0 GPA or better. Once these qualifications have been met, the applicant is sent an interview packet. This packet includes additional information needed for the interview. The interview process includes the following:

- Datasheet and Essay:** The applicant must complete the CARTI Datasheet and write a short essay describing their interests, goals, and potential contributions to the field.
- References:** Applicants must submit one reference from each of the following: a radiography program director, clinical supervisor or coordinator, and other radiology professional. Reference forms are provided in the interview packet.
- Testing and Personal Interview:** Qualified applicants must present themselves in person for an interview at CARTI scheduled by the department during the spring semester. Applicants will complete an examination administered during the interview.

Arkansas residency will be considered during selection for admission. Applicants are considered without regard to race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or disability status as a criterion in deciding against any individual in matters of admission, placement, transfer, hiring, dismissal, compensation, fringe benefits, training, tuition assistance, and other personnel or educationally-related actions.

Fees

Shown below are fees for 2011-2012. Fees are subject to change without notice by action of the Board of Trustees, so contact the division director prior to registration to learn the exact fees. Note that all fees are due upon registration.

Tuition for all students:

Arkansas resident	\$220.00 per semester credit
Non-resident	\$534.00 per semester credit

Other fees (laboratory, health fee, etc.)

Books	\$500.00 year
Student Health fee	\$79.90 per semester (fall/spring)
Technology fee	\$46.30 per semester (fall/spring)
Student Clinic fee*	\$60.00 per semester (fall/spring)

*Most full-time students in Arkansas; additional information at (501) 686-5730.

Applicants may request financial aid information, which includes grants, scholarships, and student loans, from the UAMS Student Financial Services Office-Awards Division, 4301 West Markham, #864, Little Rock, AR 72205. Please call (501) 686-5451 or visit www.uams.edu/studentfinancialservices for eligibility requirements.

Program information is available to the applicant upon request including The Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiologic Sciences published by the JRCERT. Please contact the CARTI Program office at (501) 660-7623 for a copy. The CARTI Program is accredited by the JRCERT, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182; telephone (312) 704-5300; email: mail@JRCERT.org.

Our mission is to provide competent and compassionate entry-level radiation therapists in an educational atmosphere of distinction to meet the needs of today's changing health care community.

This brochure describes the program requirements for the 2011-2012 academic year. While it is expected that most of the requirements will apply to 2012-2013 as well, some changes are likely. You are strongly advised to contact the department/program office to receive the latest information.

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UAMS

COLLEGE OF HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

2011-2012



A Program Offered by the
Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute
and the
College of Health Related Professions at the
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences