

The Profession

Rapid technological innovations place imaging sciences at the leading edge of diagnostic medicine. The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA), working in conjunction with physicians, will help meet the growing demand for advanced imaging practitioners as new procedures are developed and as the range and utilization of imaging procedures expand. Professional competencies are based on the existing scopes of practice, knowledge, and clinical skills expected of other middle-level providers. NMAAs are required to demonstrate clinical leadership skills, including the ability to function with a high level of autonomy, technical sophistication, advanced levels of clinical knowledge, and strong critical thinking and decision-making skills.

The Program

The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA) program is offered as part of an educational consortium formed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in cooperation with the University of Missouri at Columbia and Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. UAMS is the degree-granting institution and administers this two-state, three-institution collaborative. The NMAA program is the second educational track of the Master of Imaging Science (MIS) degree to be offered through the Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences at UAMS. The Radiologist Assistant (RA) program was the first approved track of the MIS program. Students in both programs enroll in common core courses, and then take their own discipline-specific (*i.e.*, NMAA and RA) clinical internship.

The NMAA program is designed for distance students and is delivered using a combination of online instruction and clinical instruction at facilities affiliated with UAMS and the consortium partners. Clinical instruction will normally take place at the student's place of employment and may be completed during his/her normal workday if the employer agrees. In accordance with requirements for clinical education, a physician preceptor agreement and an affiliate agreement must be completed for each NMAA student.

Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate

Program applicants must be certified nuclear medicine technologists with a minimum of two years of experience. They will be educated at the master's degree level, completing a program that follows a professionally approved curriculum. NMAA's are highly capable,

competent, and motivated professionals, grounded in the sciences, and practicing with increased clinical responsibilities. As a specialized nuclear medicine physician extender, the NMAA performs advanced patient assessment, patient management, and nuclear medicine procedures beyond the current scope of practice of technologists. They will monitor and supervise cardiac exercise or pharmacologic stress testing, furnish adjunctive and interventional medications, recommend complementary procedures, analyze imaging, correlative, and laboratory data, and educate, assess, and follow-up with patients undergoing therapeutic procedures.

NMAAs will actively participate in practice-based improvement activities as well as facility quality assurance programs. They will be competent in overseeing compliance with all local, state, regional, and federal requirements for laboratory operations and accreditation and provide education for technologists, students, and staff. They will be expected to participate in maintenance of certification (MOC) activities and be credentialed by the institution in which they practice.

Professional Curriculum

NMAA students are required to complete a minimum of 41 semester credits (SC) for the program. The NMAA program is designed to be completed in five semesters on a full-time basis but part-time degree plans are permitted as well. The clinical internship courses must be completed in consecutive semesters with at least one didactic course per semester. Applicants will develop individualized degree plans with the program director upon admission acceptance. The courses for the NMAA program include:*

Course #	Title	Semester Credit
MIS 5311	Patient Assessment	3
MIS 5312	Statistics & Research Methods	3
MIS 5321	Clinical Pharmacology	3
MIS-N 6341	Pathophysiology and Clinical Correlation	3
MIS 6351	Health Care Systems in America	3
MIS 6V31	Research Project I	3
MIS 6V42	Research Project II (optional)	3
MIS-N 5413	Clinical Internship I	4
MIS-N 5423	Clinical Internship II	4
MIS-N 6433	Clinical Internship III	4
MIS-N 6443	Clinical Internship IV	4
MIS-N 6453	Clinical Internship V	4
	Elective – Approval of NMAA program director required.	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL	41-44

*Course requirements are subject to change.

Certification

Graduates of accredited programs will be eligible for the national NMAA credentialing examination currently under development by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). Students must have successfully completed all NMAA degree requirements to be eligible for the certification examination. NMAA students are advised that credentialing requirements for NMAAs may vary by location. Some states, for example, may require that NMAAs be registered by the NMTCB, licensed in accordance with state regulations, and/or granted practice privileges in writing at each facility for specific procedures to be performed. Accordingly, successful completion of the UAMS NMAA program does not in itself assure compliance with specific state practice requirements.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program may begin in any semester. Application postmarked by June 1 will be considered for fall semester, by November 1 for spring semester, and by March 1 for summer semester. The forms specific to this program may be found at the program's Web site: <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/nuclearadvanced>. The process for admission consideration includes the following:

1. **Certification as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist** by the Nuclear Medicine Certification Board (NMTCB), the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), or the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT). Applicants must submit evidence of current certification in nuclear medicine technology.
2. **Application for Admission:** A completed College of Health Related Professions Graduate Program Application for Admission is required.
3. **Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of \$20.00 is required and must accompany the application.
4. **Official Transcripts:** Arrange for each college or university you have attended to forward an official transcript of your course work to the CHRP Office of Student Affairs. An earned bachelor's degree, or higher degree, from a regionally accredited college or university is required

5. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE):** Applicants are required to submit their GRE scores (from an examination taken within five years of the date of application to the NMAA program) to the CHRP Office of Student Affairs, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 West Markham Street, #619, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205. Use GRE code 6146 to have scores sent directly to CHRP.
6. **Course Completion for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS):** Applicants must submit evidence of current ACLS certification and maintain certification while a student, if accepted.
7. **Post-Certification Clinical Experience:** Applicants must submit evidence of completion of a minimum of two (2) years of full-time equivalent clinical experience in nuclear medicine following certification. This experience should have preferably been completed within the past five years and is to be documented on the Professional Résumé. Teaching experience in an accredited nuclear medicine technologist program may be submitted for consideration in meeting this requirement.
8. **References Forms:** Applicants must submit two (2) references, one of which must come from their current supervisor. It is strongly preferred that the second one come from the program director or other faculty member from the applicant's nuclear medicine technology program.
9. **Preceptor and Affiliate Agreement Forms:** Each applicant must submit at least one Preceptor Agreement Form completed by a physician who is willing to serve as the applicant's clinical preceptor. An Affiliate Agreement form to be completed by the clinical facility will be provided to the applicant upon receipt of the signed preceptor form.
10. **Letter of Interest:** Applicants are requested to provide a personal statement or letter of interest, including their professional goals, to the NMAA program. The letter should be approximately 250-500 words in length.
11. **Interview:** Qualified applicants must present themselves in person at UAMS, UMC, or SLU, or participate by telephone or audio conferencing.
12. **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/>.

Applicants are considered without regard to race, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, or sex. Qualified handicapped persons, capable of meeting academic standards essential to participation in the program, receive equal consideration.

Fees

Shown below are fees for 2008-2009. Because fees are subject to change without notice by action of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, contact the program director prior to registration to learn the exact fees. Note that all fees are due upon registration.

Tuition for all students:

Arkansas and Missouri residents	\$295.00 per semester credit
Others	\$633.00 per semester credit

Other fees (laboratory, liability insurance premiums, etc.)	
\$150.00	Laboratory fee per year
\$42.00	Technology fee per semester (fall/spring)
\$13.00	Student Liability insurance per year

Additional fees may apply; contact the program director prior to registration for exact fees.

Financial aid may be available from both the UAMS Student Financial Services Office and the College of Health Related Professions. Please contact the program for eligibility requirements.

This brochure describes the program requirements for the 2009-2010 academic year. While it is expected that most of the requirements will apply to 2010-2011 as well, some changes are likely. You are strongly advised to contact the department/program office to receive the latest information.

Telephone (501) 686-8580

FAX (501) 526-7975

www.uams.edu/chrp/nuclearadvanced

Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate Program

Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences

College of Health Related Professions

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Master of Imaging Sciences Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate

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UAMS

COLLEGE OF
HEALTH RELATED
PROFESSIONS

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

2009-2010

College of Health Related Professions
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
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