



Careers in Radiology



Imaging professionals help to give the healthcare team a better look inside a patient's body to screen for, investigate or treat a problem. Most of these careers work under the direction of a radiologist and apply the prescribed diagnostic imaging equipment for production of high-quality images.

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic radiologic imaging (X-rays) to evaluate for fractures, gastrointestinal issues, medical device placement, etc.

Education: ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) certification

Length of School: Two years (includes clinical and didactic education) in a certificate or associate degree program

MAMMOGRAPHY

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic and screening mammography images to evaluate for breast cancer or abnormalities

Education: ARRT certification and mammography certification

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification, plus approximately six months for mammography certification

BONE DENSITY

Job Summary: Perform bone density imaging, which measures the probability of osteoporosis in patients

Education: ARRT certification

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification, with on-the-job training for bone density

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT a.k.a. "CAT SCAN")

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic CT images to evaluate for fractures, strokes, internal bleeding, cancer, anatomical abnormalities, etc. The job also involves administering IV contrast to patients for certain studies.

Education: ARRT certification

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification, with on-the-job training for CT. They may complete continuing education and registry to obtain an additional license in computed tomography.

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY AND RADIOLOGY

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic interventional imaging procedures by aiding an interventional radiologist or cardiologist. This includes heart catheter procedures for heart attack patients; imaging procedures to stop internal bleeding; insertion of medical devices for the heart or for medication administration; or to diagnose other cardiac, bone or spinal abnormalities.

Education: ARRT certification

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification, with on-the-job training for both categories. They may complete continuing education and registry to obtain a cardiac or interventional technologist licensure.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic MRI imaging studies to evaluate for stroke, spinal abnormalities, muscular injuries or breast cancer. This involves administering IV contrast to patients for certain studies.

Education: ARRT certification or a bachelor's degree in MRI

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification, with on-the-job training for MRI (they may complete continuing education and registry to obtain an MRI certification), or four years for bachelor's degree program completion.

ULTRASOUND

Job Summary: Perform diagnostic sonographic imaging to evaluate for abdominal or breast abnormalities, scan for obstetrical evaluation or for vascular abnormalities

Education: ARRT certification or a bachelor's degree in sonography.

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification plus a one-year sonography program to obtain a sonography license or four years for bachelor's degree program completion.

RADIATION THERAPY

Job Summary: Administer radiation to cancer patients under the guidance of a dosimetrist, radiation physicist and a radiation oncologist.

Education: ARRT certification or a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification plus a one-year radiation therapy program to obtain therapist license or four years for bachelor's degree program completion.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET)

Job Summary: Perform nuclear medicine and/or PET imaging studies using radioactive pharmaceuticals to evaluate and diagnose bodily functions, anatomical abnormalities, infections, cardiac disease or cancers.

Education: ARRT certification or a bachelor's degree in nuclear medicine

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification plus a one-year nuclear medicine program to obtain NM license or four years for bachelor's degree program completion.

ADMINISTRATION

Job Summary: Supervise and/or manage the departments within radiology including daily operations, budget, key performance indicators and collaboration with other hospital units for operations.

Education: ARRT certification or a bachelor's degree

Length of School: Two years for ARRT certification or four years for bachelor's degree program completion. A person's years of experience are taken into account for this category.

RADIOLOGY IT

Job Summary: Provides technical oversight, maintenance and management of the computer software systems used by all radiology modalities. They work closely with the radiology staff and physicians to maintain system effectiveness.

Education: Dependent on facility requirements and may include ARRT certification, IT experience, a degree in IT and on-the-job training.

Length of School: Variable