

## Radiologic Technologist (Radiographer)

### ■ Job Description

The role of a radiologic technologist is to obtain quality radiographs (photographic images made by passing x-rays through an area of the body) for the physician, while providing a high standard of patient care. Radiologic technologists must have a thorough understanding of anatomy, positioning, radiographic exposure, patient care, and radiation protection. Additional duties may include processing film, evaluating radiologic equipment, managing a radiographic quality assurance program, and providing relevant patient education.

### ■ Job Settings

Most radiologic technologists are employed by hospitals and clinics, but others find employment in medical laboratories, physician offices, and government agencies. A few are employed as advisors or sales and service representatives for x-ray equipment manufacturers.

### ■ Projected Need

Nationally, employment of radiologic technologists is expected to grow faster than average through 2010. In Illinois, average employment growth is expected for this occupation. Employment will grow most rapidly in medical offices, clinics, and diagnostic imaging centers. These jobs will open up as part of a trend to lower health care costs by doing procedures outside the hospital setting. In addition, a significant part of the population is getting older. They will require more medical testing.

Some employers report shortages of radiologic technologists and technicians. In an effort to attract and retain qualified workers, employers may provide more flexible training programs or improve compensation and working conditions.

In Illinois, there were about 6,150 people employed in this small occupation in 2000.

### ■ Salaries

Nationally, the median wage for radiologic technologists is \$18.12 per hour. Half of all

radiologic technologists earn between \$15.09 and \$21.71 per hour.

In Illinois, wages range from \$13.36 per hour for entry-level technologists to \$20.47 per hour for experienced workers. The median hourly wage is \$17.54. Wages in selected cities are given below:

City	Median Hourly Wage
Bloomington-Normal	\$15.13
Champaign-Urbana	\$16.36
Chicago	\$19.03
Decatur	\$18.21
Moline-Rock Island	\$15.42
Peoria-Pekin	\$16.43
Rockford	\$16.60
Springfield	\$16.54
St. Louis	\$17.79

### ■ Related Careers

Possible careers for those who like working with electronic equipment are EEG or EKG technician, perfusionist (cardiopulmonary technician), respiratory therapist, medical laboratory technician, and biomedical equipment technician. Those interested in photography may want to consider biomedical photography.

### ■ Differences in Training

Schools of radiologic technology can be hospital-based or college-based programs. There are 11 hospital-based and 22 college-based programs in Illinois. Both programs are two years in length.

The following colleges in Illinois offer radiologic technology programs:

Black Hawk College - Moline  
Carl Sandburg College - Galesburg  
College of DuPage - Glen Ellyn  
College of Lake County - Grayslake  
Danville Area Community College - Danville  
Heartland Community College - Normal  
Illinois Central College - East Peoria  
John Wood Community College - Quincy  
Kankakee Community College - Kankakee  
Kaskaskia College - Centralia

Kishwaukee College - Malta  
Lincoln Land Community College - Springfield  
Malcolm X College - Chicago  
Moraine Valley Community College - Palos Hills  
Olney Central College - Olney  
Parkland College - Champaign  
Richland Community College - Decatur  
Sauk Valley Community College - Dixon  
South Suburban College - South Holland  
Southwestern Illinois College - Belleville  
Triton College - River Grove  
Wilbur Wright College - Chicago

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.*

### [Medical Imaging Technology](#)

### ■ Credentials

Voluntary registration is offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). To become registered, technologists must be graduates of an accredited program and have passed an exam. Many employers prefer to hire registered technologists.

In Illinois, radiologic technologists must be accredited by the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety. Accreditation requirements include completion of an approved program, and the passing of an exam.

### ■ Advanced Training

Nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy technology require an additional year of training at an accredited school and are certified specialties. Another area of radiologic technology that requires advanced training, but is not a certified specialty, is "special procedures technology." Individuals in this

field spend a year in training learning special procedures, which are uniformly defined in all hospitals throughout the state. Special procedures technologists assist in angiography (blood vessel tracings using radio-opaque dye) and cardiac catheterizations used in the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease. Other certified specialties include mammography, computerized tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging.

The advanced training listed above may also open up job opportunities as supervisors, administrators, or instructors in schools of radiologic technology.

A newly emerging allied health care occupation, radiologic assistant, will provide an advanced clinical role for experienced radiologic technologists. Baccalaureate-level training programs are being developed at four universities in the country. (See the radiologic assistant description for more information.)

### ■ Resources

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
15000 Central Avenue, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3917  
Phone: 800.444.2778  
E-mail: [communication@asrt.org](mailto:communication@asrt.org)  
<http://www.asrt.org>  
Select "Patients & the Public" then "Who Are RTs?"

The society offers scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$4,000 to students attending an entry-level radiologic sciences program. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55120-1155  
Phone: 651.687.0048  
<http://www.rrt.org>