

# Radiation Sciences

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**Undergraduate major:** radiation sciences (BS)

**Undergraduate certificate:** radiation sciences

**Website:** <https://radsci.medicine.uiowa.edu/>

## Program Information

Radiation sciences professionals work with physicians to gather accurate patient information for diagnosis, treatment, and/or research of disease and injury. They provide direct patient care, produce quality images, and deliver treatment using a variety of radiation sources. The radiation sciences professional must apply knowledge, skill, and mature judgment while operating complex equipment safely and efficiently. Strong communication, organizational, and patient care skills are essential for a successful career in radiation sciences.

The University of Iowa's radiation sciences educational programs are designed to provide students with opportunities for intellectual, professional, and social growth. Students learn with faculty members and instructors who are committed to radiation sciences education.

Radiation sciences is one of two undergraduate majors in the field of medical imaging offered by the Carver College of Medicine. This program of study encompasses radiologic technology, breast imaging, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, cardiovascular interventional, diagnostic medical sonography, and radiation therapy programs. The other undergraduate major in medical imaging is nuclear medicine technology; see Nuclear Medicine Technology in the catalog. The Radiation Sciences program also offers a Certificate in Radiation Sciences with five subprograms: breast imaging, cardiac interventional radiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and vascular interventional radiography.

The Carver College of Medicine is located on the University of Iowa health sciences campus, and is integrated within University of Iowa Health Care, which includes one of the nation's largest university-owned teaching hospitals. For information about the college's academic programs and resources, see Carver College of Medicine in the catalog.

UI Health Care and the Carver College of Medicine have a proud academic tradition of preparing students for successful careers in the radiation sciences. Today, that tradition continues through its strong curriculum, quality clinical experience, and commitment to undergraduate education in

the creation of images and treatment of patients using highly sophisticated equipment and techniques.

## Career Information

The majority of radiation sciences graduates are employed upon graduation. Graduates generally find jobs in hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, and physicians' offices. With experience, and sometimes additional education, they may find related jobs in management, sales, education, or as application specialists. Some students choose to continue their education in a master's, physician assistant, or other related medical program.

Most radiation sciences professionals with full-time jobs work 40 hours a week and may have holiday, weekend, evening, night, and on-call hours.

Students who complete Iowa's professional radiation sciences programs are eligible to apply for national certification exams administered by the appropriate agency in order to practice.

Licensure laws for radiographers, sonographers, and radiation therapists vary from state to state. Iowa is a licensing state, requiring radiographers and radiation therapists to have a permit to practice. Passing the national exam is a criterion used to issue a permit to practice.

More information on radiation sciences careers and outcomes may be found on the Radiation Sciences Program website. The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find jobs. More detailed career information for radiation sciences can be found in the career advancement section of the catalog.