Radiation Sciences, BS

Career Advancement

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.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

A sonographer is a healthcare professional who specializes in the imaging and assessment of human anatomy for diagnosis and treatment. Sonographers prepare patients for the imaging exams, move patients into correct positions for their imaging, and create images by scanning the patient with a transducer that emits high frequency sound waves. Sonographers work in many different settings including hospitals, medical labs, doctor offices, and outpatient centers.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers can image many different parts of the body, including:

- Heart
- Abdomen
- Blood vessels
- Developing fetus
- Pediatric brains

Radiologic Technology

A radiologic technologist is a healthcare professional who specializes in the imaging of human anatomy for diagnosis and treatment. Radiographers prepare patients for the imaging exams, move patients into the correct position for their imaging, and operate specialized equipment. Radiographers work in many different settings including hospitals, medical labs, doctor offices, and outpatient centers. Areas of specialization include bone densitometry, cardiac interventional radiography (CVI), computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), mammography, radiography, and vascular interventional radiography (IR).

Radiation Therapy

A radiation therapist is a healthcare professional specializing in administering ~~of~~ radiation treatments to patients with cancer and certain benign conditions. As part of a multidisciplinary team, they work closely with radiation oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, and oncology nurses. Their primary duties include:

- **Treatment Delivery:** Administer daily radiation treatments as prescribed by the radiation oncologist.
- **Patient Care:** Monitor and assess patient health and response to treatment, providing necessary care and support.
- **Equipment Operation:** Utilize and maintain sophisticated radiation therapy equipment, ensuring accurate and safe delivery of radiation.
- **Treatment Planning:** Collaborate with the medical team to implement treatment plans, considering patient positioning, dosage, and tumor targeting.

Radiation therapists play a critical role in cancer care, combining technical expertise with patient-centered care to improve treatment outcomes. They typically work in hospitals, cancer treatment centers, and freestanding clinics. With additional education and experience, radiation therapists can advance to roles such as dosimetrists, educators, researchers, or leadership and administrative positions