

2009 – 2010

RADIATION THERAPY PROGRAM

- Certificate of Completion



Julia Jacobs, MBA, RT (R)(T)
Program Director, Radiation Therapy
602.286.8483





108 N. 40th Street • Phoenix, AZ 85034 • www.gatewaycc.edu • (602) 286-8000

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Radiation Therapy Program at GateWay Community College (GWCC).

The attached Information and Application packet will provide information about the program structure and application procedures. This is a limited enrollment program and available class spaces will be filled on a “first come, first served basis.” Please be advised that the contents of this packet are subject to change throughout the year. It would be prudent to periodically check for more current versions.

The Radiation Therapy Program at GWCC is supported by the medical community, affiliate hospitals, and clinics. GateWay is committed to graduating students who can provide outstanding patient care while meeting the needs of employers in this growing profession. Application for programmatic accreditation through the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology has been submitted.

The deadline for applications for fall 2010 is Friday, May 6, 2010. Applications received after this date will be considered if spaces are available.

Please note that the curriculum and prerequisites for the program will be revised periodically. It is the applicant’s responsibility to remain aware of changes that occur.

Please feel free to contact an advisor at the Center for Health Education Careers, 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176 if you have further questions about the program.

Thank you for your interest in the program.

Sincerely,

Julia Jacobs, MBA, RT (R)(T)

Program Director for Radiation Therapy Technology

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CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the enclosed program material, please feel free to contact any of the following program contacts:

Julia Jacobs, Program Director / Phone 602.286.8483 /
Email: julia.jacobs@gwmail.maricopa.edu

Caroline Delgado, Health Sciences Academic Advisor / Phone: 602.286.8183 /
Email: carolyn.delgado@gwmail.maricopa.edu

Ruth Major, Health Sciences Academic Advisor / Phone: 602.286.8176 /
E-mail: ruth.major@gwmail.maricopa.edu

CAREER DESCRIPTION

Radiation Therapy is a vital part of the healthcare field in which radiant energy is processed and used to treat cancer and other benign diseases.

This high-tech, high-touch profession provides an opportunity to deliver high-quality patient care and comfort while working with technologically sophisticated equipment. Major responsibilities of a Radiation Therapist include:

- implementing a planned course of treatment
- constructing accessory devices
- providing patient education, care and comfort

- paying attention to detail
- taking the initiative to work independently or in team settings

Radiation Therapy is an excellent career choice for those wishing to help others while using critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Please Note: This is a 13-month certificate program, open only to individuals who are ARRT certified in Medical Radiography (X-Ray Technology).

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Career opportunities for Radiation Therapists can be found in university medical centers, community hospitals, free-standing centers and research centers. With experience and further education, areas for advancement include education, management, administration and commercial ventures.

With an aging population and increasing sophistication of radio therapeutic equipment, Radiation Therapists are expected to be in demand across the country over the next several years. In Arizona, Radiation Therapists have reported earning between \$21.55 to \$44.28 for an annual salary range of \$44,840 to \$92,110.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

If you are looking for a rewarding and challenging health care career that allows you to help others, radiation therapy may be the perfect choice. Radiation Therapy has been described as a “high touch–high tech” profession. Radiation therapists have the opportunity to work with the patients over a six- to seven- week period. This provides the time to develop a helping relationship to better support and educate the patient through their cancer treatment experience. The equipment used in radiation therapy is very advanced, computerized, and highly technical making precise and accurate treatments possible. The radiation therapist is an integral member of the cancer treatment team. The responsibilities of a therapist include tumor localization, delivering prescribed doses of radiation, educating the patient about their treatment and possible side effects, and providing supportive care to the patient and their families.

With a current shortage of skilled health care workers, career opportunities are readily available. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to take the national board examination for certification in Radiation Therapy, which is administered by The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. After passing the national board certification examination, radiation therapists are employed in hospitals, research centers, and a growing number of free-standing clinics. With additional experience a radiation therapist may advance to administration, dosimetry, education, research or commercial sales.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the GateWay Community College Radiation Therapy Program is to provide a comprehensive curriculum that prepares individuals to become competent, entry level radiation therapists who will meet the need for highly qualified practitioners in the profession.

GOALS

1. Students will build on a strong radiography foundation to develop the necessary knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills appropriate to be successful in the Clinical Radiation Therapy Setting.
2. Students will develop the attitudes, behaviors, and communication skills necessary to achieve success as a practitioner in Radiation Therapy.
3. The students will demonstrate a high level of clinical competency in all stages of the clinical radiotherapeutic process.
4. The program’s comprehensive Education will promote professional growth and lifelong learning.

Mental & Physical Demands

It is essential that Radiation Therapy students be able to perform a number of physical activities in the clinical portion of the program. At a minimum, students will be required to lift patients, stand for several hours at a time and perform bending activities. The students must have the ability to differentiate various colors and have adequate hearing capacities. Radiation therapy education also places students under considerable mental and emotional stress as they undertake responsibilities and duties impacting patients' lives. Students must be able to demonstrate rational and appropriate behavior under stressful conditions. Individuals should give careful consideration to the mental and physical demands of the program prior to completing an application.

Use of Confidential Information

Students enrolled in program pathways of the Health Care Integrated Educational System (HCIES) will have learning experiences in a health care setting where they will have access to confidential information. Prior to beginning any clinical studies, the students will be asked to sign an agreement to adhere to the requirements of those clinical sites and applicable law, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program is based on 40 hours per week in classes at the college and clinical practice at affiliated hospitals in the Valley. Limited personal leave will be granted for sickness and vacations.

The program is academically rigorous in nature, involving science, math, and technical aspects of Radiation Therapy.

Drug screening is required for all allied health students. The cost of this test is approximately \$45.00 and will be the responsibility of the student. The urine drug screen will test for alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or drugs which may impair judgment while in the clinical setting. If a drug test is positive, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Criminal background checks/finger printing are required to participate in educational activities at the clinical sites. The cost of this process is approximately \$95.00 and is the responsibility of the student.

Program graduates must comply with the ARRT "Rules of Ethics." One issue addressed by the Rules of Ethics is the **conviction of a crime**, including a felony, a gross misdemeanor, or a misdemeanor with the sole exception of speeding and parking violations. All alcohol and/or drug related violations must be reported. Conviction, as used in this provision, includes a criminal proceeding where a finding or verdict of guilt is made or returned but the adjunction of guilt is either withheld or not entered, or a criminal proceeding where the individual enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. Individuals who have violated the Rules of Ethics may request a review by the ARRT of the violation in order to obtain a ruling of the impact on their eligibility for the post-graduate ARRT examination. This review may be done either before or after entry into Gateway's program. Contact: American Registry of Radiologic Technologists at 651.687.0048.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

GateWay Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The GateWay Community College Radiation Therapy Program has independently received programmatic accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

The program is currently 13 months long. Courses begin in mid July and continue through August of the following year. Clinicals begin at the end of August and continue through August of the following year.

IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF AN EVENING OR PART-TIME PROGRAM?

The program includes classes that are only offered during the day. The curriculum is sequential and competency-based meaning that one semester builds on the next semester and must be completed before the student can enroll for the next semester. The student can expect to spend a minimum of thirty-two to forty (32-40) clock hours per week in the program between didactic and clinical courses.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?

During the fall and spring semesters classes are held on Thursdays and Fridays while clinical hours are completed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. During the summer classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays while clinicals are on Wednesdays Thursdays and Fridays.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO WORK WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?

Yes, but it is recommended that you only work between 16 and 20 hours per week due to the study time necessary to be successful in the program.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROFESSION?

WWW.ASRT.ORG – American Society of Radiologic Technologists

WWW.ARRT.ORG – American Registry Radiologic Technologists

If I have a criminal record, will that prohibit me from being successful in this career?

Possibly, our clinical agreements with the healthcare facilities require that our students receive a Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Additionally, a student must not be listed on the Federal Government’s Office of the Inspector General’s Exclusion List. Students that are unable to obtain either of these clearances will be prohibited from attending their clinical experience.

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A negative urine drug screen, two TB skin tests, a fingerprint clearance card and an updated immunization record is required prior to clinical placement. The cost for these tests will be the responsibility of the student. If the drug test is positive for illegal or undocumented prescription drugs, the student will be dropped from the program. For consideration for readmission to the program, contact the Program Director for the process.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS

The estimated cost for the program is outlined in the chart below. The student is responsible for providing transportation, housing, and uniforms.

Tuition * (May be as much as 55 credit hrs @ \$71 a credit hr effective 07/01/08)	\$	3,905.00
Book/Online Materials		670.00
Uniforms		165.00
Shoes		107.00
License/Certification fees		210.00
Graduation fee*		25.00
Course fees (\$50 per semester)		150.00
Registration Fee per Semester (\$15 per semester *)		45.00
DPS Fingerprint Clearance Card Process		95.00
Drug Testing		45.00
Clinical Health Requirements - Immunization and Testing [#]		330.00
	\$	5,747.00

*Tuition and fees are set by the Maricopa Community College District Governing Board and subject to change. All other fees are also subject to change. All Tuition and fees are the responsibility of the student

** Book cost may change without notice

Costs may be less or more than listed based on a student's individual health record in respect to being in compliance with the immunization requirements for the clinical experience.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Formal application and admission to the program is required.
- Graduate of postsecondary higher learning institution program in Medical Radiography accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT); or an accrediting agency recognized by the US Secretary of Education and the JRCERT.
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification in Radiologic Technology by June 15th of the applicant academic year.
- Current Health Care Provider CPR card.
- Valid and unrestricted Arizona DPS finger print clearance card

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students with other related health care experiences, not listed on the following Program Pre-requisites/Co-requisite options, may request an evaluation for course competency equivalence through the Integrated Competency Assessment Network (ICAN) by calling 480.731.8924.

SAMPLE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<i>Course Prefix</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Advisor Notes</i>
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Summer Session II

RTT 101	Foundations of Radiation Therapy	2.0	
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Fall Semester

DMI 220	Cross Sectional Anatomy*	3.0	
RTT 110	Radiation Therapy Patient Care	3.0	
RTT 121	Radiation Therapy I: Physics and Calculations	3.0	
RTT 130	Clinical Internship I	5.0	
RTT 133	Internship Seminar	2.0	
RTT 145	Radiation Oncology	4.0	

Spring Semester

RTT 115	Radiobiology for Radiation Therapy	2.0	
RTT 122	Radiation Therapy II: Physics and Calculations	3.0	
RTT 131	Clinical Internship II	5.0	
RTT 134	Internship Seminar II	2.0	
RTT 150	Clinical Radiation Therapy I	3.0	
RTT 155	Professional Issues in Radiation Therapy	2.0	

Summer Session I

RTT 132	Clinical Internship III	5.0	
RTT 135	Internship Seminar III	2.0	
RTT 141	Dosimetry/Treatment Planning	3.0	
RTT 151	Clinical Radiation Therapy II	2.0	
RTT 156	Quality Control/Organizational Issues	2.0	
RTT 160	Seminar in Radiation Therapy	2.0	

* Classes may be taken outside of the semester where listed but must be completed to graduate.

Please see the college catalog for full description of program requirements.

ACCREDITATION(S)

The college is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The program is accredited by the [Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Radiologic Technology \(JRCERT\)](#), the nationally recognized accrediting agency for educational programs for nuclear medicine technologists.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Students enrolled in program pathways of the HCIES will have learning experiences in a health care setting where they will have access to confidential information. Prior to beginning any clinical studies, the students will be asked to sign an agreement to adhere to the requirements of those clinical sites and applicable law, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA).

STUDENT SERVICES

The following are some of the services available to students.

Advising – contact a Health Sciences Academic Advisor at the Center for Health Careers Education (CHCE) at 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176.

Bookstore – Available are textbooks and supplies for classes, call 602.286.8400. You may visit their website at: www.efollett.com and selecting “College Textbooks”.

Counseling – Academic, personal, or career counseling available. Call 602.286.8900.

Employment – Upon completion of the Health Unit Coordinator Program, contact the Career & Re-Entry Services, at 602.286.8500 for assistance.

Financial Aid – Available for qualified students. Contact the Financial Aid Office at 602.286.8300 or visit website: <http://enroll.gatewaycc.edu/FinancialAid/ApplyForFinancialAid/default.htm>

Pregnancy – The student has the option of remaining in the program and continuing her education without notification or interruption. This decision should be made in consultation with her physician. If the student chooses to take a leave of absence from the program during the pregnancy, she will be allowed to re-enter the program once the period of convalescence is complete. Based upon the length of absence from training, the student may be required to re-certify in specific clinical competencies prior to graduation. Placement into the original clinical site is not guaranteed, but another training site will be provided for the student. The student must complete all program and institutional graduation requirements prior to graduation as outlined in the college catalog. (See program policies for more details).

Student Assessment Center – Services include instructor makeup exams, the English, Math, and Reading ASSET or COMPASS placement tests, and selected instruments required for acceptance into the Health Science or Nursing programs. Call 602.286.8160 for specific days and times tests are available.

Tutoring Assistance – Available through the Learning Center, 602.286.8800.

For a complete listing of student services, please refer to the college catalog, or visit GateWay's website: www.gatewaycc.edu or call college information at 602.286.8000.

POLICIES, RULES, REQUIREMENTS, AND REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE
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Policies, courses, programs, fees, and requirements may be suspended, deleted, restricted, supplemented, or changed through action of the Governing Board of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

The Maricopa Community Colleges reserves the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements, and regulations.

Admission or graduation from any Allied Health program at GateWay Community College does not guarantee the student's professional certification, licensure, or employability. The student must comply with legal requirements of the profession. This may include provisions from Arizona Revised Statutes 41-1758.03 (sections B and C) regarding the denial of a fingerprint clearance card or being listed on the US government's Office of Inspector General's Exclusion List.

INFORMATION & CHECK SHEET RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

- _____ 1. Obtain and carefully read all the information about the Radiation Therapy Program (brochure, catalog, information and application packet) also note any questions. Become as well informed as you can about the program. A counselor, program advisor, or program faculty member will assist you if you have any questions.
- _____ 2. Complete the Student Information Form (for first time visitors only) obtained at Information Desk
 - a. Return to Admissions and Records.
- _____ 3. Transcripts
 - a. Request **ALL** official college transcripts be sent to the Admissions and Records Office.
 - b. Official transcripts must be sent from institution to institution, allow 2-4 weeks for receipt. Please request institution to include current name and student ID number used at GateWay Community College.
 - c. Evaluations of Official College Transcripts **must be requested** by the student after their arrival at the college. To **verify** receipt of transcripts and evaluation, a **request for transcript evaluation** form must be filled out and submitted to Admissions and Records. This form can be obtained from any GateWay Community College Advisor.
 - d. Students who wish to get prior learning or achievement assessed for possible credit contact Steve Schroeder the Director of Integrated Competency Assessment Network (ICAN). You may contact him at 480.731.8924 or email steve.Schroeder@domail.maricopa.edu.
- _____ 4. See a program advisor available in the Center for Health Education Careers, 602.286.8183 or 602.286.8176. Develop a personal step-by-step Action Plan for admittance into the program.
- _____ 5. Schedule any necessary assessment testing.
- _____ 6. **Program Prerequisites / A completed program application for Radiation Therapy Technology consists of:**
 - Associates Degree
 - American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certified.
 - CPR Certification
 - Official Transcripts from Medical Radiography Program
 - Completed "Observation Experience Forms"***

_____ 7. **Application to the PROGRAM**

To place your name on the List of Applicants you must submit a completed application form. The number of applicants admitted to this program varies according to clinical positions available at each site. Completed applications to the program will be accepted in the order in which they are received on a first-come, first-served basis.

* The only official prerequisite is that students be ARRT certified to enter the program. However, it is **strongly** recommended that students have a current knowledge of general physics, basic anatomy and physiology and college algebra.

** No Observation is officially required. However, it is **strongly** recommended that students complete 40 hours of observation in one facility to get a thorough perspective of the therapist's responsibilities and daily work as it is significantly different than a radiographer's.

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

**GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
108 N 40th Street / Phoenix, AZ 85034-1704 / 602.286.8000
Application Deadline is May 7, 2010**

Page 1 of 2

Please print clearly

An official transcript must be sent to GWCC Admission and Records Office from each attended college or your application cannot be processed.

LEGAL NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)

ADDRESS (STREET)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

FORMER NAME(S) which may appear on transcript(s)

HOME PHONE NUMBER WORK / CELL PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH

PERSON TO NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PHONE

ADDRESS

Are you currently enrolled in college? Yes No

If "YES", where? _____

What classes are you enrolled in? _____

STARTING WITH MOST RECENT AND WORKING BACK, LIST EMPLOYERS:

OCCUPATION _____
 EMPLOYER _____ FROM _____ TO _____
 ADDRESS _____
 NAME OF SUPERVISOR _____
 REASON FOR LEAVING _____

OCCUPATION _____
 EMPLOYER _____ FROM _____ TO _____
 ADDRESS _____
 NAME OF SUPERVISOR _____
 REASON FOR LEAVING _____

PREVIOUS COLLEGES OR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

NAME OF INSTITUTION _____
 CITY AND STATE _____
 DATE OF ENTRANCE _____ DATE OF LEAVING _____
 DIPLOMA OR DEGREE RECEIVED _____ COLLEGE MAJOR _____

NAME OF INSTITUTION _____
 CITY AND STATE _____
 DATE OF ENTRANCE _____ DATE OF LEAVING _____
 DIPLOMA OR DEGREE RECEIVED _____ COLLEGE MAJOR _____

NAME OF INSTITUTION _____
 CITY AND STATE _____
 DATE OF ENTRANCE _____ DATE OF LEAVING _____
 DIPLOMA OR DEGREE RECEIVED _____ COLLEGE MAJOR _____

Attach separate sheet if additional space is needed

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above answers are true, correct and complete. I understand that any falsification or intentional misrepresentation of information on this application may be cause for dismissal from the Radiation Therapy Technology Program and from the college. I understand that it is my responsibility to keep the Admissions/Selective Admissions Office notified of any changes of information stated on this application

Signature

Date

RETURN APPLICATION AND THE ADMISSION APPLICATION DISCLAIMER TO:
 Admissions & Records/Selective Admissions
 GateWay Community College
 108 N 40th Street / Phoenix, Arizona 85034-1704

ADMISSION APPLICATION DISCLAIMER

Your admission to the GateWay Community College Radiation Therapy Technology Program is not the sole criterion for obtaining a license to practice in Arizona. You must also meet the licensing requirements of the Medical Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners (MRTBE) 602.255.4845. Certification requirements are the sole exclusive responsibility of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist ARRT 651.687.0048, and you must satisfy those requirements independently of graduation requirements for the college. Both organizations, ARRT and the MRTBE, review (among other criteria) educational qualifications and issues of moral turpitude.

I have read and understand the Admissions Application Disclaimer.

Signature

Date

Social Security Number

This disclaimer will become a part of your permanent Radiation Therapy Program record.

VERIFICATION OF OBSERVATIONAL EXPERIENCE RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
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The Radiation Therapy Program **requires** that all program applicants complete a total of forty (40) hours of observational experience in a radiation therapy department prior to beginning the program.

Observation Experience

I, _____
Radiation Therapy Clinical Supervisor (Print)

certify that _____
Applicant Name (Print)

has satisfactorily completed _____ hours of observational experience in Radiation Therapy at
Facility Name

Areas/Procedures Observed

Treatment:

Linear Accelerator _____	TBI _____	Gamma Knife _____
Cyberknife _____	Stereotactic _____	TBE _____
Brachytherapy: Seeds _____	Mammosite _____	Catheter _____
		Tandem/Ovoids _____

Simulation:

CT _____ Conventional _____

Dosimetry:

IMRT _____	Static _____
Computer Plans _____	Hand Calculations _____

Nursing:

Consults _____	Follow-ups _____
Weeklies _____	

Signature

Date