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Radiologic Technologist

Overview

Radiologic technologists are the health care professionals who perform diagnostic imaging procedures, such as X-ray examinations, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans, and Computed Tomography (CT) scans.

According to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, there are 300,000 registered radiologic technologists in the United States. A 2005 survey of radiologic technologists reports the top reasons professionals entered this field: they wanted an interesting career and they wanted to work in a profession that helps people.

For more information on what current radiologic technologists think about the career, see the **American Society of Radiologic Technologists** Website.

To **meet a radiologic technologist** and find out what it's like to work in this field, see the NIH "Lifeworks" website. To learn more about this career, watch the **video profile of "Radiologic Technologists."**

During a diagnostic imaging examination, the bones, vessels, tissues and organs of the body are captured on film, on videotape or as a digital file. A physician then evaluates the images to detect injury, diagnose disease, or evaluate the progress of a treatment or therapy.

Working Conditions

Most full-time radiologic technologists work about 40 hours a week; they may have evening, weekend, or on-call hours. Opportunities for part-time and shift work are also available. According to a recent survey by the **American Society of Radiologic Technologists**, the **average national wage** for radiographers in 2010 was approximately $54,000 per year. Incomes for entry-level radiographers (those with less than 2 years' experience) averaged almost $44,450 per year. Technologists who work in specialty areas such as CT or MRI typically earn more. The national average for all types of radiologic technologists was $61,733 in 2010.

Academic Requirements

Radiologic technologists are educated in anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety, radiation protection and basic patient care. Many radiologic technologists specialize in a particular area of medical imaging, such as mammography or Computed Tomography (CT scans). **Search for schools that provide training for this career**.

Preparation for this profession is offered in hospitals, colleges and universities, vocational-technical institutes, and the U.S. Armed Forces. Hospitals, which employ most radiologic technologists, prefer to hire those with formal training and national certification.

Professional Associations

- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

Funding Opportunities

- Search for funding opportunities in this field

Enrichment Programs

- Search for enrichment programs in this field

Schools and Academic Programs

- Search for academic degree and certificate programs in this field

Source

- www.asrt.org

Learn more about this field:

- Allied Health Professions