Radiologic Technologist/Technician

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 257,000 registered radiologic technologists in the United States.

According to a recent survey of radiologic technologists, the top 3 reasons current professionals entered this field are:

- They wanted an interesting career;
- They wanted a profession that helps people; and
- They wanted a profession with plenty of jobs.

For more information on what current radiologic techs think about the career, see the American Society for Radiologic Technology Website.

To meet a radiologic technologist and find out what it’s like to work in this field, see the NIH “Lifeworks” website.

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 and technicians 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 2007 was approximately $47,000 per year. Incomes for entry-level radiographers (those with less than 2 years’ experience) averaged almost $42,000 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 $58,700 in 2007.

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).

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 and technicians, prefer to hire those with formal training.

Professional Associations

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
Funding Opportunities
Search for funding opportunities in this field (http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

Enrichment Programs
Search for enrichment programs in this field (http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

Source
www.asrt.org

Learn more about this field:
Allied Health Professions (http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field.1.aspx)

Salary: $42,000 - $65,000
Years in school: 1 - 4 *
Job outlook: Excellent
* after high school graduation