
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ...RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Nuclear Medicine

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#) explains, “Nuclear medicine technologists use a scanner to create images of various areas of a patient’s body. They prepare radioactive drugs and administer them to patients undergoing the scans. The radioactive drugs cause abnormal area of the body to appear different from normal areas in the images”.

Radiography

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#) states, “Radiologic technologists perform diagnostic imaging examinations, such as x rays, on patients. They specialize in x-ray, computed tomography (CT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment. They may be called CT technicians or MRI technicians, depending on the equipment they work with”.

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Nuclear Medicine

To become a Nuclear Medicine Technologist one, “typically needs an associate’s degree in nuclear medicine technology; there are also bachelor’s degree programs. Some technologists become qualified by completing an associate’s or a bachelor’s degree program in a related health field, such as radiologic technology or nursing, and then completing a 12-month certificate program in nuclear medicine technology” ([BLS, 2013](#)). Furthermore, “Nuclear medicine technology programs include clinical experience (practice under the supervision of a certified nuclear medicine technologist and a physician who specializes in nuclear medicine). In addition, these programs often include courses in human anatomy and physiology, physics, chemistry, radioactive drugs, and computer science” ([BLS, 2013](#)).

Radiography

To become a Radiologic Technologist, “there are formal training programs in radiography that lead to a certificate, an associate’s degree, or a bachelor’s degree. Associate’s degree programs are the most common. Certificate programs typically last 6 to 12 months, and include both classroom training and clinical training. Coursework includes anatomy, pathology, patient care, radiation physics and protection, and image evaluation. The [Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology \(JRCERT\)](#) accredits education training programs in radiography” ([BLS, 2013](#)).

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

[The UNM Department of Radiology website \(2013\)](#) offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiologic Sciences with a concentration in Radiography or Nuclear Medicine. The Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences is “a degree completion program for those students who would like to finish the last two years of education and gain a bachelor’s degree. The program is a part-time or full-time curriculum of classroom instruction. It is designed to accommodate those technologists who are working while finishing their bachelor’s degree” ([UNM Department of Radiology website, 2013](#)). Additionally, “eligible participants are registered radiographers, registered nuclear medicine technologists, students enrolled and completing an entry level radiography or nuclear medicine program, as well as any registered technologist in the field of diagnostic imaging” ([UNM Department of Radiology website, 2013](#)).

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Healthcare

Hospitals, clinics, out-patient, group or private practices

Public Health

Occupational health and safety, community health workers

Education/Research

Research laboratories and institutes, University/college teaching/administration

Management

Manager, director

Government

Federal, state and local health departments, armed services

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Shadow Nuclear Medicine Technologists or Radiologic Technicians of interest to gain further understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department's website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

Location	2013				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$37,100	\$44,500	\$54,600	\$66,500	\$77,200
New Mexico	\$40,400	\$46,300	\$54,200	\$62,900	\$74,600

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS

Location	2013				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$50,600	\$60,000	\$70,200	\$82,700	\$93,300
New Mexico	\$61,600	\$66,600	\$74,600	\$84,900	\$92,900

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Radiologic Sciences Program
The Joint Review Committee on Education Radiologic Technology

<http://www.asrt.org/>
<http://www.snm.org/>
raddpt@unm.edu
<http://www.jrcert.org/>

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

 <http://online.onetcenter.org>

 www.bls.gov/oco/

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