

# Radiation Oncology – Certificate (112)

**Purpose** The Radiation Oncology curriculum is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the allied health care team who provide a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic services under the supervision of qualified professionals. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be eligible to apply to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) registry examination leading to certification as a registered Radiation Therapist, RT-T.

**Voluntary Accreditation Status** The program has been accredited by the authority of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-2901. Phone (312) 704-5300.

**Occupational Objectives** Graduates may apply for employment in private offices, hospitals, cancer centers, education, management, government agencies, and marketing and research.

## Admissions Requirements

For application materials and additional program information, please see our Health Technology website at <http://www.virginiawestern.edu/ht/oncology>.

1. Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for admission to the college. High school diploma or equivalent.
2. Developmental courses are required for students with deficiencies in English and mathematics.
3. Completion of two units of high school or college laboratory science from the following: Biology, Chemistry, or Physics (preferred) with a “C” or better in each by the end of spring semester.
4. Completion of 3 units of high school or college mathematics—Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry or equivalent with a grade of “C” or better in each by end of spring semester.

Students who have not completed Algebra I in high school with a “C” or better will be required to take the placement test. Those who do not place above Algebra I (MTH 3) and into Algebra II (MTH 4) or higher on the placement test will be required to take developmental courses.

5. Current high school or cumulative college grade point average 2.5 or above. Cumulative college GPA is based on 12 or more credit hours in a 12-month timeframe. GPA is calculated at the end of fall semester prior to admission.
6. Applicants who are RTs must be certified by a nationally-recognized Radiologic Science credentialing agency. Applicants who are currently enrolled in an accredited Radiography program must submit current transcripts demonstrating good academic standing.
7. Other health care providers from nationally accredited agencies and other individuals meeting admissions criteria will also be considered for admission.
8. Due to the nature of the patient population, the student should demonstrate maturity and a desire to work with cancer patients.
9. Due to the nature of the curriculum, applicants should have a strong background in mathematics and science.

**Essential program functions** To successfully complete the clinical component of the Radiation Oncology program, the student must be able to perform certain tasks requiring specific physical abilities. The candidate must be able to perform all of the following essential functions of a Radiation Therapist:

- Communicate satisfactorily with the patients, physicians, peers, and ancillary staff.

- See and hear adequately to note slight changes in patient condition.
- Hear adequately to perceive and interpret various equipment signals.
- See adequately to read emergency monitor data.
- Work with arms fully extended overhead.
- Lift and move 50 pounds at waist level or below waist level.
- Stand in place for extended periods of time.
- Walk rapidly for a prolonged period from one area to another (20–100 feet) carrying up to 25 lbs.

Despite the foregoing, a qualified person with a disability who can perform these essential functions with reasonable accommodation will be considered for admission.

**Clinical Environment** Applicants should realize that students will be, by nature of the profession, exposed to ionizing radiation, infectious diseases, and difficult patients. Students will be exposed to stressful and demanding situations, as well as organizational and time pressures in the clinical setting.

**Admission Procedure** Upon completing an application to the College and Joint Venture site NOVA if applicable and a 2010 Radiation Oncology Application, students seeking admission to the Radiation Oncology program must have official transcripts from all schools and colleges attended forwarded to the VWCC Health Technology Information Office, including transcripts showing completion of a high school diploma or GED.

It is **required** that applicants submit official high school transcripts, GED scores, and **all** official college transcripts (if you have attended a community college in Virginia these transcripts are not necessary) in one envelope to the Virginia Western Health Technology Information Office with the Virginia Western application.

In addition, applicants need to submit a copy of their professional licensure or certification, if applicable, and two letters

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of recommendation from employers or professors. These letters should be mailed to the attention of the Health Technology Information Office at Virginia Western, P.O. Box 14007, Roanoke, VA 24038.

Applicants must also take the math COMPASS placement test at Virginia Western. Additional information regarding the math COMPASS evaluation procedures will be mailed to applicants upon receipt of the completed academic file.

Applicants must see the Health Technology Information Specialist for information, evaluation, and advising regarding the program. Early application is advisable due to constraints in the number of clinical positions available.

Upon receipt of the qualified student's completed file, the applicant will be contacted for an interview appointment during the spring semester. Early application is encouraged for advising purposes.

Applicants whose credentials are completed by March 15 will be considered by the Radiation Oncology Admissions Committee.

Applicants will be notified in writing of the action taken by the committee. If the number of qualified applicants falls below the maximum enrollment, the application deadline may be extended.

**Readmission** Students who have withdrawn for any reason from the Radiation Oncology program are required to petition the Program Director for readmission by March 15 for the fall semester and by July 1 for the spring semester. Readmission is not guaranteed.

### Curriculum and Other Requirements

		<b>Credits</b>
ENG 111	College Composition I	3
ITE 102	Computers and Information Systems	1
MTH 163*	Pre-Calculus I	3
ROC 110 <sup>1</sup>	Introduction to Radiation Oncology	2
ROC 120	Radiation Oncology/Pathology I	3
ROC 121*	Radiation Oncology/Pathology II	3
ROC 125	Pre-Clinical Techniques (2,0)	2
ROC 131	Clinical Clerkship I	4
ROC 132*	Clinical Clerkship II	5
ROC 141*	Therapy Physics I	2
ROC 142	Patient Care in Oncology	1
ROC 145*	Quality Improvement	2
ROC 151*	Cross-Sectional Anatomy	2
ROC 225	Emerging Technology in Radiation Oncology (1)	1
ROC 231*	Clinical Clerkship III	5
ROC 232*	Clinical Clerkship IV	5
ROC 241*	Therapy Physics II	2
ROC 242*	Clinical Radiobiology	2
ROC 243*	Dosimetry	2
ROC 244*	Professional Seminar	2
SDV 100	College Success Skills (or SDV 108)	1

#### Total Minimum Credits for Degree

**53**

<sup>1</sup> Health and wellness are an integral part of the Radiation Oncology curriculum.

\* This course has a prerequisite. Prerequisites for all courses are listed in the course description section at the back of the catalog.

#### Required Course Sequence\*

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
ENG 111	ITE 102	ROC 132
MTH 163	ROC 120	
ROC 110	ROC 131	
ROC 125	ROC 145	
ROC 142	ROC 151	
SDV 100		
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	
ROC 121	ROC 225	
ROC 141	ROC 232	
ROC 231	ROC 241	
ROC 243	ROC 242	
	ROC 244	

\* Support courses (non-ROC courses) may be taken prior to entry.

**Note:** Completion of HLT 143 (Medical Terminology), BIO 141 (Anatomy and Physiology I), BIO 142 (Anatomy and Physiology II) within five years prior to beginning the program is strongly recommended.

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## **Student responsibilities**

1. All students admitted to the Radiation Oncology program must attend orientation, register for all classes, and pay tuition prior to August 1. Final admission is contingent upon a satisfactory medical examination. Results must be returned to the Radiation Oncology Program Director 30 days before fall classes begin. This medical examination must include evidence of rubella (German measles) screening and/or vaccine, tuberculin skin test (or chest x-ray), and Hepatitis B vaccination.
2. The student is responsible for transportation to and from agencies utilized for clinical experience and the purchase of student uniforms and accessories.
3. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon a satisfactory criminal background check and negative drug screening test at the student's expense.
4. Verification of current CPR certification will be required prior to the beginning of classes and must be kept current through enrollment in the program.

**Retention policies** Successful completion of the program requires students to maintain a “C” or better in all Radiation Oncology courses and MTH 163. MTH 163 must be successfully completed by the end of the first Fall semester. A complete statement of the above policies is outlined in the Radiation Oncology Student Handbook, which is available in the Health Technology Division Office