

Western Technical College
Health & Public Safety Division

RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM Online Program Overview

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a degree as a Radiographer! It is an excellent profession to pursue...one worth the hard work that the educational process requires. By completing this program overview, you are one step closer to reaching your career goal.

This program overview is to help you! Our goal is to:

- Provide specific program information
- Help to confirm your decision to enter the program
- Explain admission process for the program, and
- Provide you with forms necessary for completing the admission process.

As part of the admission process for the program, you are required to read through the material presented in this program overview. Please be aware that you must read ALL of the materials, complete the Intent to Enroll and return it to Western in order to fulfill the program requirements for admission to the program.

So let's get started!

A radiographer is a medical professional who performs diagnostic x-ray imaging examinations on patients, with the use of ionizing radiation. Radiographers are responsible for accurately positioning patients and making sure that a quality diagnostic image is produced. They work



closely with radiologists, the physicians who interpret medical images for diagnosis. Radiographers may perform radiologic images in the radiology department, emergency trauma center, intensive care, and surgery departments of hospitals and in clinics. We are employed in hospitals, clinics, and chiropractic offices.

It takes hard work and dedication to become a radiographer, as well as a sincere desire to help ill and injured people. You will need a strong background in math and science to handle the rigors of the curriculum and to grasp the theories and knowledge of the profession. You will be expected to handle stressful situations and make multiple decisions regarding patient care during the course of the workday. Radiographers must be in good emotional and physical health. This profession requires a significant amount of physical body movement in assisting patients and equipment set-up. If you have certain chronic health problems, you may face many challenges due to the physical demands of the profession and may be less successful in carrying out your duties.

The Radiography Program is two years long. The first year will consist of fall and spring semesters and an 8-week summer session. The second year will include the fall and spring

semesters and an 8-week summer session. If you become pregnant, program sequence may delay your graduation date.

Clinical Assignments for the Program



The Radiography Program does require travel to outlying hospitals/clinics throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota for clinical experience during the two years. You are responsible for your own transportation.

The first semester (fall) of the program includes 8 hours per week of clinical observation and participation. The second semester (spring) includes 16 hours of supervised clinical education per week. The summer session includes 16 hours of clinical assignment per week for 8 weeks.

The second year will include 16 hours per week of clinical education in the fall and 16 hours in the spring semester. The second summer session will consist of 16 hours per week for 8 weeks. You may be assigned to extended clinical sites, and you may be assigned during day, evening and night shifts with some weekend assignments. You will need to plan your part-time job and/or other life commitments around your educational responsibilities to the program's academic and clinical schedule. Your education should be your primary priority.

Student Accident Insurance:

Student Accident Insurance: All students involved in a clinical course as part of their program will be automatically enrolled in Western Technical College's Accident Only Insurance Plan.

This insurance covers injuries that you may incur on the way *to or from* any clinical experience, and any injury that you may sustain *at the clinical site while performing your clinical duties as a Western Technical College student*. This insurance ONLY covers you for injuries related to these student experiences; your choice of insurance for other portions of your life remains your responsibility. This insurance is considered a secondary insurance to any primary insurance you may have. There is no deductible for this coverage at this time. Once you are enrolled in your clinical course, your instructor will provide further information and details on how to obtain your insurance card. Answers to questions can be found at this [website](#).

Field Trips

Field trips will be planned. The cost of these educational activities will be the students' responsibility and/or through the Radiography Club.

Curriculum:

The program is 6 semesters long in which courses are sequenced for your success. See the program course outline at the [Radiography Curriculum Guidelines](#)



Job Market / Advancement Opportunities

Radiographers continue to be in demand throughout the United States. Advancement opportunities in areas of specialization in Radiology include: Mammography, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Quality Management, Bone Densitometry, and Interventional Procedures. Medical Sonography, Nuclear Medicine, Radiologist Assistant, and Radiation Therapy are post graduate technologies, and will require an additional 1-4 years of school.

Certification Requirements

Upon completion of graduation requirements, you will be eligible to take the national board certification examination through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). This certification is recognized in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Many states have state licensing requirements but success on this national exam (ARRT) will assist in meeting those requirements. The radiography program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) www.jrcert.org.

For the American Registry of Radiography Technologist first time examine pass rates for the most recent 6 year (2005-2011)

Year	Pass Rate
2011	100%
2010	100%
2009	94%
2008	100%
2007	96%
2006	100%
2005	100%

Annual Program Completion Rate

Year	Completion Rate
2011	69%
2010	56.3%
2009	67.9%
2008	68.8%
2007	73.2%
2006	81.3%
2005	62.1%

The Admission Process

Review the **Intent to Enroll** form to identify and complete the admission requirements for your program: [Intent to Enroll Form](#)

Step I

Application to the college: Complete and submit the Wisconsin Technical College System application. If you are interested in more than one program, you must complete an application for each program. A onetime \$30.00 application fee (made payable to Western) must be submitted with the application. Applications are available at Western in Room 160 of the Welcome Center (La Crosse campus) or any Regional learning location. Applications are also available online at <http://www.westerntc.edu/admissions>

1. Submit **official transcripts** from high school and, if applicable, college. If submitting college transcripts, it is possible that you may have taken courses that can be applied towards your chosen program. To have your transcript evaluated for transfer of credit, complete the form found at <http://www.westerntc.edu/transfer>.
2. **Placement tests** (COMPASS, ASSET, ACT) You are required to take a placement test and meet the minimum scores unless the following applies:
 - If you have a bachelors or masters degree, you are not required to take placement tests.
 - If you have successfully completed (C grade or better) college level Written Communication or Beginning Composition, you are not required to take the Writing placement test.
 - If you have successfully completed (C grade or better) college level or College Mathematics, you are not required to take the Math placement test.

Satisfactory placement scores for the Health Information Technician program can be obtained online at:

http://www.westerntc.edu/programs/program.aspx?PROGRAM_NBR=105261 under Admission Requirements.

Testing is available in La Crosse at the Western Technical College Campus Assessment Center or at the Regional Learning Centers in Independence, Black River Falls, Tomah, Mauston, or Viroqua. For more information on placement tests, visit the assessment website at <http://www.westerntc.edu/admissions/assessment.asp>. If you take a placement test at another location, you must request that your scores be sent to Western.

Remediation courses are available if you do not meet the placement scores for the program. All remediation coursework must be completed prior to being accepted to the program. Students must test after remediation.

Step II

1. **Complete this Program Overview:** You are doing this right now and are almost done. You must complete the **Intent to Enroll** ([Intent to Enroll Form](#)) form when you are prepared to begin your program of choice. Review the form to identify and complete the admission requirements specific to your program.

Please assure that all items have been completed, attached, and/or turned in to: Enrollment Services located in the Welcome Center. **You are only allowed to submit the Intent to Enroll form at your mandatory Enrollment Services Advisor meeting.** Bring the Intent to Enroll form to your appointment with any un-submitted documentation. At this appointment, the enrollment services advisor will finalize the admission process and provide you with an estimated start date. At this time you will sign the second page of the Intent to Enroll verifying that you have completed the requirements to enter the program and have been assigned an estimated start date.

If you are unable to begin the program on the assigned start date, you will need to re-submit the Intent to Enroll form and schedule another appointment. Students are unable to request a pass on their assigned date. They will be assigned a later start date upon resubmission of the Intent to Enroll form.

2. Meet **reading, math and writing requirement** as noted in Step I item 3.
3. Read **Essential Functions** for your program. Essential Functions are a listing of the physical, cognitive, and mental abilities that you will need in order to complete the program. You must read the Essential Functions and complete the appropriate section on page two of the Intent to Enroll form. If you have a documented disability, there may be accommodations that can be made to assist in your successful completion of the program. Please contact Disability Services at Western (608-785-9875) if you are in need of more information. The Essential Functions and is available on the program overview webpage [Essential Functions](#)
4. Complete **Immunization Form**: The immunization information can usually be obtained from your personal physician. The immunization form is available at [Immunization Form](#). **IMPORTANT:** The immunization form **MUST** be signed by a physician, physician assistant, nurse, or nurse practitioner.

You must have documentation of a negative TB test for the past two years. If you do not have two consecutive years of TB testing, you must have a “two-step” TB test done. TB tests are done at your local physician’s office, county health departments or (for current Western students) at the UW-L Student Health Center located at the Health Science Center in La Crosse. You are required to maintain current TB tests until you graduate from the program. (i.e., renewed annually)

It is your responsibility to submit immunization records including TB tests prior to or with the Intent to Enroll form to Enrollment Services located in the Welcome Center so the documentation can be entered into your official student health record here at Western.

Hepatitis B series: It is your choice whether or not to have the series. If you elect to do the Hepatitis B series, you need to *start* the series, but do not have to *complete* the series in order to submit the immunization form. You must submit the remaining dates when the series is complete.

It is strongly recommended that you **maintain a copy** of all forms/verifications for your own personal record.

5. Complete the **Background Information Disclosure** form. Individuals who will be working with vulnerable adults and/or children undergo a criminal background check. You must complete the form and submit the \$20 fee (made payable to Western Technical College) in order to meet this admission requirement. **Western does not accept background checks conducted by third parties (i.e. your employer).** You are required to disclose *all* past experiences with the law. Any arrests or new charges must be reported to Doreen Olson (608 -789-4757), Associate Dean of Health and Public Safety within five (5) working days. Failure to do so may result in program dismissal. In addition, if you have resided outside of Wisconsin in the past 3 years, you will be informed of how to obtain an out of state background check at your own expense.

Although the form itself refers to crimes, criminal convictions, and pending criminal charges, the information that comes back from the background check does include all contacts with law enforcement whether or not a criminal conviction occurred. Therefore, include contacts such as non-criminal traffic matters, arrests, charges for which you were acquitted, and charges that were pled down to an ordinance violation or forfeiture. This form is found [Background Information Form](#)

If your background check reveals past experience with the law, two clinical sites will be contacted to determine the likelihood of your being able to complete a clinical experience at those sites. **Clinical sites have the right to refuse clinical placement to any student based on the background check results.** This information will assist you in understanding the likelihood of being able to complete the clinical courses for the program. If you have charges on your background check, we are unable to guarantee that you will be able to be placed for the multiple clinical experiences that most programs require. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at clinical sites. Also, conviction of a crime will affect an individual's eligibility for American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification. See Frequently Asked Questions for more information on the impact of a positive background check.

6. Attain **CPR certification**: You are required to complete the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider certification and provide a copy (front and back) of your card. Note: there are many different levels of CPR; be sure to register for "Healthcare Provider". You are required to maintain your CPR certification until you graduate. This may mean that you may have to take a renewal class during your time at Western.
7. **Chemistry and Biology**: You must successfully complete (C grade or better) high school or college biology and chemistry. If you have not previously taken biology or chemistry, you can fulfill this requirement by taking the courses at Western. These requirements must be completed prior to taking General Anatomy and Physiology.
8. **General Anatomy & Physiology**: You must successfully complete (C grade or better) college level General Anatomy & Physiology. This can be taken at Western or may be able to transfer in from another college if the course material is same.

Acceptance to a Program

Students will be admitted to this program once the student has completed the Intent to Enroll, met the program requirements and met with an Enrollment Services advisor. Program admission

is based upon a first come, first served basis. Once the program is filled, students will be admitted to the next term. If an opening occurs in an earlier term, you may be contacted.

In the event that the program is not full, applications will continue to be accepted until 3 weeks prior to the start of the program. Applicants who meet all admission requirements will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until the program is full.

- ❖ It is to your advantage to complete the admission requirements as soon as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What happens if there is something on my background check?**

First of all, it is very important that you be honest when completing the background check form. Some facilities will automatically refuse a student who is less than truthful on the form. If a student has a positive background check (meaning that there is something in your background), a representative from the program will randomly select two clinical sites and see if the sites would be willing to accept you for clinical placement. The program representative will then meet with you to let you know the response of the clinical sites. This is not a guarantee of being able to place you at every clinical site but will give you an indication of the likelihood of being able to be placed at some clinical site. It does not guarantee what will actually happen once you are in the program. Also be advised that any positive background check will be investigated by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist and it may/will have an effect on your ability to become certified to obtain employment in radiography. It is your decision as to whether or not you want to enter the program.

2. **What about Body Art or Piercings?**

In the Health and Public Safety Division, you may display no **Body Art or Piercing** that might be considered offensive. Most employment settings have policies that are generally broad, however they do reserve the right to deny employment and student clinical/practicum/fieldwork placement if body art or piercings are found to be offensive to those in that setting. The wearing and displaying of jewelry in the health care or public safety setting is generally limited to wrist watches and wedding rings or small non-dangling earrings. The purpose of this limitation is related to infection control, safety and public perception of the employees while they are on duty.

3. **Where can I go to get certified in CPR?**

First of all, be very careful that you are signing up for the correct course. You need to complete **American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR**. Western offers many sections of American Heart Association Healthcare Provider.

4. **I didn't get in for next fall; do I really have to wait a year to get in?**

Yes and no. If another student would not be able to start at their assigned time, we would contact the next applicant on the list. For this reason, it is VERY important that Western have your most current address and phone number so that we are able to contact you.

If you don't get in to the program, you are strongly encouraged to complete your general studies prior to entering the program.

5. **I didn't get in for next fall, is there anything I have to do in order to keep my application current?**

Yes, students are required to submit updated TB results, maintain CPR certification and

repeat the criminal background check if there has been a change.

6. **I've changed my mind about entering the program and want to enter a different Health & Public Safety Division program. What do I do?**

If you change your mind on which program you would like to enter, complete a change of program form (available from Enrollment Services www.westerntc.edu/currentstudents/pdf/ReEntryChangeProgram.pdf). The good news is that if you are interested in another Health & Public Safety Division program many of the admission requirements (e.g. background check, immunization, etc) are applicable for other programs. However, you will be required to complete a program overview session specific for the program as well as the Intent to Enroll form.

7. **I've taken some courses at a different college. Do I have to retake them?**

Most students receive some credit for the courses that they have taken previously. Students who have previous college coursework should complete a transfer of credit form (available from the Registrar). You will be notified if the other college credits will be placed on your WTC transcripts.

8. **What if I'm trying to decide between more than one program?**

Counselors and Enrollment Services Advisors at Western are also available to discuss career planning with you.

9. **Who do I contact if I have questions?**

Questions specific to the program:

Gary Heintz
(608) 785-9255

heintzg@westerntc.edu

*Gary will be available until
May 14, 2012

Patty Hiddinga
(608) 789-4738

hiddingap@westerntc.edu

Tricia Pedretti
(608) 785-9256

pedrettit@westerntc.edu

Questions related to career decisions: contact a counselor through the Call Center (608) 785-9553.

Questions on your admission status: Contact through email (include your name, ID # or birth date) and your specific question to:

Sandy Peterson
Barb Kelsey
Stacey Nelson

petersons@westerntc.edu

kelseyb@westerntc.edu

nelsons@westerntc.edu

Last Thoughts

- You are responsible to make sure that you keep your contact information (address and phone number) current. Contact the Enrollment Services to let the College know of any changes.
- Pay close attention to the deadlines for completing admission requirements for the program. The CPR requirement takes the most time to complete (and classes fill quickly!). If you have not completed CPR, then your first order of business should be to find a CPR class and get

signed up. The second most time consuming admission requirement is immunizations. Start working on the form immediately.

- Students in a Health or Public Safety program are required to have a C grade or better in all general studies and program courses. Students who have less than a C grade in General Anatomy and Physiology are required to take a remedial course before being allowed to retake General Anatomy and Physiology. Please see the student handbook, [Student Handbook](#) for more information on college and division policies.
- To learn more about the various requirements and policies in the Radiography program please go to the [Student Success Manual Link](#)

Best wishes as you continue your journey towards entering a Health and Public Safety program at Western Technical College. We look forward to working with you as you pursue a career in Health and Public Safety.