Education Requirements

Radiologic Technologist
Technologists typically hold associate's degrees in radiography, though some hold certificates or bachelor's degrees. Most states mandate licensure, which often requires graduating from a formal training program and earning certification.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
The associate's degree program in diagnostic medical sonography qualifies graduates for entry-level diagnostic sonographer positions. Unlike bachelor's degree programs that offer various areas of concentration, a two-year associate's degree program primarily focuses on general sonography.

Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Aspiring nuclear medicine technologists must complete an accredited nuclear medicine technologist program, which is offered at community or technical colleges.

Radiation Therapist
An associate degree or bachelor's degree is typically required to work as a radiation therapist who treats cancer patients using radiation therapies.

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key

SALARY

$ $ $ $ $	$25,000 or lower
$ $ $ $ $	$25,001 to $39,999
$ $ $ $ $	$40,000 to $59,999
$ $ $ $ $	$60,000 to $99,999
$ $ $ $ $	$100,000 or higher

JOB OUTLOOK

★ ★ ★ ★ ★	4.9% increase or lower
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	5% - 9.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	10% - 14.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	15% - 19.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	20% increase or higher

EDUCATION

	High school diploma or equivalent
	Postsecondary non-degree award or Associate's degree
	Bachelor's degree
	Master's degree
	Doctoral or professional degree

Data for salary, job outlook and education infographics were compiled from Missouri 2012-2022 Occupational Projections, published online by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. When positions in this publication were not directly comparable to a position in MERIC's data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data for salary, job outlook, and education were used.

diagnostic imaging services

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diagnostic imaging services

Diagnostic imaging techniques help narrow the causes of an injury or illness and ensure that the diagnosis is accurate. These techniques include X-rays, computed tomography scans and magnetic resonance imaging.

These imaging tools allow doctors to "see" inside the body to get a "picture" of the patient's bones, organs, muscles, tendons, nerves and cartilage. Imaging is a way the doctor can determine if there are any abnormalities.

There are a number of specialties within radiologic technology. Some technicians or technologists perform X-rays, scans, or administer nonradioactive materials into the patient's blood stream to diagnose health problems.

There are several different types of technologists.

- *Radiographers work primarily with X-rays or radiographs. X-rays are the most common and widely available diagnostic imaging technique.*
- *Computed tomography technologists are radiologic technicians who specialize in taking cross-sectional X-ray images of tissues, bones, organs and blood vessels. The X-rays are used to create a three-dimensional image. The scans that a CT technologist produces help doctors diagnose and treat patients with internal diseases or injuries.*
- *Magnetic resonance imaging technologists are specialized radiologic technicians who operate MRI equipment to create detailed pictures of internal body structures. They are responsible for preparing patients for scans and safely using the equipment.*

Key is located on reverse.

radiologic technicians

- *perform X-rays and CAT scans to administer nonradioactive materials into the blood stream to assist physicians in diagnosing medical ailments*
- *prepare patients for procedures, adjust imaging equipment and position and shield patients from excess radiation*

diagnostic medical sonographers

- *use ultrasound equipment to direct sound waves into the body to produce an image or video used for detecting abnormalities*
- *observe and care for patients throughout an exam*
- *obtain and record patient history and maintain records and files*
- *aid in the diagnosis of diseases, injuries or other conditions*

nuclear medicine technologists

- *assist physicians and work directly with patients to explain nuclear medicine procedures*
- *administer and oversee nuclear medicine and radioactive procedures and substances*
- *use unstable atoms to help find and treat disease by administering them into patients, later monitoring how patients' tissues and organs respond*

radiation therapists

- *provide radiation therapy to patients as prescribed by a radiologist according to established practices and standards*
- *review prescription and diagnosis*
- *act as a liaison with physician and supportive care personnel*
- *prepare equipment, such as immobilization, treatment, and protection devices*
- *maintain records, reports and files, and may assist in dosimetry procedures and tumor localization*

career spotlight

AUSTIN, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/
LEAD TECHNOLOGIST

It sounds cliché, but the feeling that you have had an impact on the health and well-being of another is one of the best feelings in the world. Anyone working in a medical profession can make the claim, but there have been a handful of times when I have seen people who I know are alive today because of something I did. I have helped prevent heart attacks, find broken bones and discover and treat cancers. When those patients come back to you later and thank you, it makes it all worthwhile.