

Radiologic Technologists take x-rays and administer nonradioactive materials into patients' blood streams for diagnostic purposes. Some specialize in diagnostic imaging technologies such as computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Radiologic technologists also referred to as **Radiographers**, produce x-ray films (radiographs) of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. They prepare patients for radiologic examinations by explaining the procedure, removing articles such as jewelry, through which x-rays cannot pass, and positioning patients so that the parts of the body can be appropriately radiographed. To prevent unnecessary radiation exposure, they surround the exposed area with radiation protection devices, such as lead shields, or limit the size of the x-ray beam.

Radiographers position radiographic equipment at the correct angle and height over the appropriate area of a patient's body. Using instruments similar to a measuring tape, they may measure the thickness of the section to be radiographed and set controls on the x-ray machine to produce radiographs of the appropriate density, detail, and contrast. They place the x-ray film under the part of the patient's body to be examined and make the exposure. They then remove the film and develop it.

Experienced radiographers may perform more complex imaging procedures. For fluoroscopies, radiographers prepare a solution of contrast medium for the patient to drink, allowing the radiologist, a physician who interprets radiographs, to see soft tissues in the body. Some radiographers, called **CT Technologists**, operate computerized tomography scanners to produce cross sectional images of patients. Others operate machines using strong magnets and radio waves rather than radiation to create an image and are called **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologists**. Others who assist in diagnostic imaging procedures include **Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians**, **Diagnostic Medical Sonographers**, and **Nuclear Medicine Technologists**.

Salary Information:

- Radiologic Technology, Associate in Applied Science
\$35,000 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2008)
- Radiologic Technologist
\$54,180 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- **Radiologic Technologist for the Rochester, New York area:**
\$46,900 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Additional Information:

- American Society of Radiologic Technologists: www.asrt.org

