MISSION STATEMENT

The Radiologic Technology Program is a comprehensive competency-based program of study that prepares students to sit for the National Registry Examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) allowing successful students to graduate with expertise at the entry level in the field of Radiologic Technology and to be eligible for education and training in other specialized diagnostic imaging fields.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Radiologic Technology Program at Arizona Western College serves its communities of interest and its students through meeting and maintaining the following goals:

1. Students will demonstrate competency at the entry level of the field of Radiologic Technology.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills.
3. Students will communicate effectively.
4. Students will apply technical concepts to clinical practice.
5. Students will display the positive affective behaviors of teamwork and professionalism.
6. The Program will monitor its effectiveness.

WHAT IS RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY?

Radiologic Technology is the use of ionizing radiation to produce images of the body for the purpose of assisting the physician in diagnosing diseases. Routine examinations are done on all bony structures, but also on the following systems: Respiratory, Digestive, Urinary, and Reproductive.

Most people are familiar with chest x-rays and also know that x-rays are the best way to diagnose broken bones. The radiographer performs routine procedures, as well as procedures that require the use of contrast agents which make it possible to study organs that cannot otherwise be seen. Radiologic Technologists are valued members of the healthcare team. Through combination of classroom and clinical training, students learn radiographic equipment operations, patient positioning techniques, radiation safety and patient care skills. If you enjoy the latest in computer technology, helping others in need of medical care and learning in a rapidly changing environment – THIS IS THE PROFESSION TO CHOOSE!

THE ROLE OF THE RADIOGRAPHER ON THE HEALTHCARE TEAM

The Radiologic Technologist plays an important role on the medical team as the technical assistant to the radiologist, a physician who has specialized in the use of x-rays for diagnosis and treatment. A Radiologic Technologist is qualified to work in hospitals, doctors’ offices, public health projects, industrial medical clinics, veterans and military hospitals. A skilled Radiologic Technologist assists the radiologist in examining for broken bones, ulcers, tumors, diseases or malfunction of organs.

The technologist adjusts x-ray equipment to the correct setting for specific examinations, puts the patient into the correct position, makes the required x-ray exposure, and evaluates digitized images. Technologists also use mobile x-ray equipment in the emergency room, in surgery or at a patient’s bedside. Other responsibilities may include maintaining x-ray equipment in efficient operating condition except for major repairs, keeping records of patient’s images and reports, ordering supplies, updating and maintaining patient data on the computer. Technologists are responsible for the mental and physical comfort of patients while they are in their care, as well as protecting themselves and the patient from harmful radiation.

Successful completion of the Radiologic Technology Program at Arizona Western College is based on achievement of clinical competency which involves clinical practice gained from emergency room rotations, rotations through routine diagnostic areas and scheduled weekend and evening rotations, which are designed to help students achieve clinical competency.
WHAT TYPE OF PERSON IS SUCCESSFUL IN THIS PROGRAM?
Successful students are those who want to help people, enjoy a rapidly changing environment, can adapt to changing technology, can think and respond quickly to changing situations and can tolerate the stress of being a member of the health care team. This profession is one that has had tremendous changes since the discovery of x-ray in 1895. New procedures for detecting and diagnosing disease are being invented each day. Diagnostic Imaging and all of its other imaging modalities are used in these new procedures. If you like to be in an environment that is changing, growing and action packed, this is the profession to choose!!!

TECHNICAL STANDARDS
(Physical, cognitive, and behavioral requirements for students in the Radiologic Technology Program)

Requirements:
Radiologic Technology students must be able to gain experience in many settings, e.g., hospital, public health offices, doctor’s offices, and clinics. Some of the physically demanding settings include the hospital, and various clinical sites. The work terrain often varies and students are expected to walk long distances. Training in Radiologic Technology includes active, complex experiences, requiring the ability to keep track of a large number of activities at a time. Transportation to health care facilities and clinics is the responsibility of the student.

Standard 1:
In order to provide safe care in the Radiologic Technology Program, the students must be able to satisfy, with or without reasonable accommodation, physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum. The essential abilities required by the curriculum are in the following areas: motor, sensory, communication, intellectual (conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities for problem solving and patient assessment) and the behavioral and social aspects that impact the performance of a Radiologic Technology student. Any change in physical, cognitive and/or behavioral status of the student requires a new student medical history form to be placed in the student’s file.

Standard 2:
The Program requires the use of comprehensive speech, memory, reading and writing to communicate with clients, families and other health professionals. The student must be able to quickly and efficiently provide direct care functions, engage in therapeutic communication and function effectively in stressful situations.

Standard 3:
Essential functions for patient care include the use of senses to gather information, i.e. color changes in the skin, hearing heart and lung sounds through a stethoscope, feeling pulses and feeling hot/cold skin, etc. patient care requires the ability to synthesize information from a variety of sources and apply it in making decisions regarding safe patient care. The student must be focused and alert to maintain patient care safety. This includes the ability to place the patient care’s needs first.

Standard 4:
During clinical training, the student must be able to accomplish tasks that ordinarily require the student to stoop/bend, squat, kneel, climb, push/pull, grasp/handle, reach over shoulders, reach at waist, reach below waist, lift, hear, see, smell, touch, stand and walk during most of the entire clinical day (between 4 and 10 hours). Physical agility is required while working. There is pushing and pulling of various medical equipment and items required for patient care. There may be a need to lift patient with and without mechanical devices.
Note: AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS)
The AccessABILITY Resource Services office works in partnership with students with disabilities, faculty and staff to remove barriers in the educational process through design and accommodation. We recognize disability as an aspect of diversity and promote a culture of inclusion for all diverse groups.

Goals for students:

- Become effective self-advocates, independent and self-sufficient
- Build self-awareness, self-esteem and self-identity
- Work through personal obstacles and obtain academic success

Requesting Accommodations

- Students must self-identify with AccessABILITY Resource Services and submit documentation on the disability/(ies).
  - The eligibility determination process is not a same day process. Once documentation is received, it will be reviewed in order of receipt; therefore, it is recommended that documentation be submitted well in advance of any accommodation related needs (e.g. exam accommodations and alternative media services).
- Students must make an appointment with the ARS Coordinator; located on the second floor of the 3C building at (928) 344-7629 (V) Students must meet with the coordinator each semester to develop the accommodation letter.
  - Be prepared to speak to the Coordinator about their disability and the barriers they feel they may encounter in the classroom, as well as, accommodations or design modifications needed to ensure equal access.
  - The ARS Coordinator works with students to determine which design modifications or accommodations are appropriate for each class.
  - We encourage all students to contact instructors two weeks before the start of classes to discuss accommodations and success strategies for the semester. This not only gives the instructor time to consider the changes that will be needed to ensure access to materials, but also breaks the ice and encourages more effective communication.

Note: Services can be requested at any time during the semester; however, requesting services well in advance will help ensure resources are available when needed.

Equal Opportunity Policy and Students with Disabilities
Arizona Western College does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age (40+), or disability, in compliance with the laws of the United States and the State of Arizona. Any questions regarding that applicability of state and federal anti-Discrimination laws to Arizona Western College and its services, programs or activities, and any grievances or claims of violation of such laws, should be directed to its compliance officer: the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, P.O. Box 929, Yuma, AZ, 85366-0929, (928) 344-7522.