

## Radiation Therapist

Radiation therapists deliver prescribed doses of radiation to patients for therapeutic purposes. In fulfilling this primary responsibility, radiation therapists provide appropriate patient care; apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills in the administration of treatment protocols, tumor localization, and dosimetry; and maintain appropriate patient records. Radiation therapists are particularly concerned with the principles of radiation protection for patients, themselves, and others.



### Career Description

Radiation therapists apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology, oncologic pathology, radiation biology, radiation oncology techniques, treatment planning procedures, and dosimetry in the performance of their duties. They must also communicate effectively with patients, health professionals, and the public.

The radiation therapist accepts responsibility for administering a radiation oncologist (physician)-prescribed course of radiation therapy, providing patient care during treatment, and maintaining treatment records. Radiation therapists also evaluate and assess treatment delivery components, evaluate and assess the daily physiologic and psychologic responsiveness of patients, and ensure quality care for patients undergoing radiation therapy. Additional duties may include tumor localization, dosimetry, patient follow-up, and patient education. Radiation therapists must display competence and compassion in meeting the special needs of the oncology patient.



### Employment Characteristics

Radiation therapists are employed in health care facilities, including hospitals, cancer centers and private offices; they are also employed in settings where their responsibilities focus on education, management, research, and sales.



### Salary

Salaries and benefits vary with experience and employment location. Data from the 2007 Wage and Salary Survey of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) indicate that the average salary for practitioners with less than 2 years of experience is \$57,658, the overall average is \$71,461, and the average salary of the top 5% of earners is \$101,959.

Some states require licensure as a condition of practice. For more information, refer to [www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary).



### Educational Programs

**Length.** Programs may be 1, 2, or 4 years, depending on program design, objectives, and the degree or certificate awarded.

**Curriculum.** The curriculum of an accredited program includes an extensive component of technical and professional courses, including an emphasis on structured, competency-based clinical education. Interested individuals should contact a particular program for information on specific courses and prerequisites.



### Inquiries

#### Careers/Curriculum

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
15000 Central Avenue SE

Albuquerque, NM 87123  
505 298-4500  
E-mail: [customerinfo@asrt.org](mailto:customerinfo@asrt.org)  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

#### Certification/Registration

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
1255 Northland Drive  
St Paul, MN 55120  
651 687-0048  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

#### Program Accreditation

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology  
20 N Wacker Drive, Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606-3182  
312 704-5300  
312 704-5304 Fax  
E-mail: [mail@jrcert.org](mailto:mail@jrcert.org)  
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