General Information

The DCH Regional Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology is committed to assist in improving the physical, emotional and spiritual well being of its enrolled students and members of the communities it serves through the delivery of quality instruction provided within a framework of fiscal responsibility. The faculty and staff are dedicated to provide the best possible educational environment and instruction to assure competency in all areas of the established curriculum. The program is committed to providing high quality healthcare professionals to any medical community.

The Radiography Program was established in 1955 and continues to enroll and graduate students into the Radiography Field as entry-level radiographers. To date, our program has graduated 464 students and we have a 92% first time pass rate on the ARRT exam.

Students receive a minimum of 800 contact hours of scheduled classroom experience and at least 2,500 contact hours of clinical experience during the 24-month program. Students will be assigned various clinical hours in order to supply students with clinical experiences to prepare them to competently perform duties of the entry-level radiographer. Shifts can include the following:

- Monday - Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Evenings: 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Evenings - Friday only: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Monday - Sunday
5:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fridays only
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

• Classes begin in September/October. Clinical experience includes rotations through DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center and all other program’s educational centers. Evening and weekend rotations are required. The program curriculum is on the quarter system.

• The average school day consists of eight hours with the student being involved in a combination of didactic, laboratory, and clinical education activities. Classes are conducted Monday – Friday according to quarterly schedules. Total school time will not exceed forty (40) hours per week.

• First year students in the School of Radiologic Technology are on probation for the first three months of the program.

• Hospitalization insurance coverage is to be supplied by the student.

• A copy of the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiologic Sciences is available in the office of the Program Director for your information. They are also available online at www.jrcert.org.

• The radiation protection measures practiced at the DCH Regional Medical Center are established at levels below Federal Regulations. The medical center has a functional radiation safety department. Students will adhere to the medical center’s radiation protection policies and practices.

Goals and Purpose

The purpose of the program is to provide educational opportunities in the Radiologic sciences to members of the communities supported by the sponsor. To that end, the goals of the program and its curriculum are designed to:

• Graduate students with the professional skills necessary to perform competently in the clinical setting.
• Provide students with opportunities to develop and then acquire problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
• Program graduates will demonstrate values and ethical behaviors of a radiographer.
• Graduate students that will practice effective communication skills.
• The School of Radiologic Technology will provide the healthcare community with entry-level competent radiographers.
**Program of Instruction**

The DCH Regional Medical Center offers a 24-month full-time program of instruction leading to certification in this field. The curriculum follows the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) curriculum guidelines. The curriculum provides a sequence of study in the science of radiology to prepare the student to become an efficient and capable assistant to the radiologist. Students will be responsible for the production and technical quality of computed and digital radiographic images to permit accurate diagnosis of the various systems of the body. The program also provides students with education in ethical behaviors, effective communication, patient care and critical thinking skills. The program strives to provide the stimulation and encouragement conducive to a good learning environment.

The Radiography Program is under direction of the Director of Imaging Services and the Medical Advisor of the Program. The program faculty includes a full-time Program director, clinical coordinator and didactic instructor. The program also has clinical instructors assigned to each clinical education center. The professional staff of the Department of Radiology, including the radiologists and registered technologists also provides instruction.

**Advanced Placement/Transfer Credit Policy**

DCH School of Radiologic Technology does not offer an Advanced Placement classification for students applying to the program. The components of the didactic and clinical education are very structured and coordinated; therefore, advanced placement would be detrimental to the goals and objectives of the program.

The acceptance of a student transferring from another radiography program is based on whether or not the candidate meets the standards set forth by the school, if the class enrollment is not at maximum capacity and if the time of entrance coincides with first year class starting date. The program will accept transfer credits from colleges, universities and other accredited radiography programs. Students requesting transfer credit must do so upon application to the program. The Program Director along with the Advisory Committee will assess the student's transcripts and make a final determination of what credits will transfer. Students who are not required to take specific courses due to credit transfer will remain in clinic until their next scheduled class.

The student must meet the following standards:

1. Prior attendance at a program accredited by the JRCERT.
2. The combined length of both previous and present programs, including all transferred credit, must equal no less than 24 months.
3. An agreement between the student and the PD will be developed which specifies the credit and previous achievement of the transfer student, courses, including clinical education, which remain to be taken by the transfer student, the date the student is to begin the program and the anticipated date of graduation if the student's performance is satisfactory.
4. All transcripts may be forwarded from previous programs only on the expressed written request of the student. The transcripts are accepted as official when received directly from the previous program.
5. The student requesting transfer must not have any prior disciplinary actions including but not limited to dismissals, suspensions and probation for any reason.
6. The student will be required to demonstrate competency in all required competencies, even if they have proof of competency from the program they previously attended.
Clinical Education

Applying the knowledge obtained in the classroom in a radiology department is essential. Each student's performance of clinical procedures outlined in his or her assignment is supervised by Radiologic technologists and evaluated periodically by the clinical instructors. Students rotate through all areas of the radiology department and outpatient center at DCH Regional Medical Center and at Northport Medical Center, but they are not expected to develop proficiency in specialty areas. Students also rotate through all program educational centers.

The student's purpose during his or her clinical rotation is to develop skills needed to practice general diagnostic radiography, supervised by a qualified physician. The clinical portion of the program is a competency based-sequencing curriculum. The clinical education assignments are correlated with classroom activities and students pass off exams to become competent and proficient. All relevant diagnostic equipment in DCH Regional Medical Center's Radiology Department is incorporated into the student's clinical practice.

Accreditation

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology accredits the DCH Radiography Program. Their address is: 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-2901. Email: mail@jrcert.org or phone 312.704.5300.

The DCH Radiography Program is located at 408-C Bryant Drive East, across from DCH Regional Medical Center, a 620-bed referral hospital serving a 10 county area in West Alabama.

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$900 per quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$7,200 total for 2 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>$1,000 approximately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms (scrubs) - students in the DCH Radiology Program wear Royal Blue scrubs.</td>
<td>$250 approximate</td>
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</tbody>
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Refunds

There are no refunds available.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

The DCH School of Radiologic Technology is not a federally funded program; we are a hospital based program. Therefore, we do not qualify for a school code as required for pell grants, etc. However, once accepted into the program, there are several scholarship opportunities that can be applied for.
Admission Requirements:

Falsification of any information on the application will result in dismissal of the application.

The following are the guidelines for application into the Radiology Program. However, current college coursework will supersede these scores. You are still required to have either a HS diploma or a GED.

Thank you for your interest in the Radiography Program at DCH Regional Medical Center. Due to the restrictions of class size, application to the program does not guarantee acceptance. We are currently accepting 20 students.

1. Deadline is May 1 of each year.
2. Transcripts from high school and college(s). Minimum GPA is a 2.5 for both high school and college.
3. MANDATORY: A minimum of 15 hours of college classes. These are the required courses.

   College Algebra
   Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3 hour class)
   English Composition I
   Anatomy & Physiology I
   Anatomy & Physiology II

A minimum grade of “C” must be made on each course listed. These courses are to be completed prior to a deadline provided that all other requirements are completed by application deadline of May 1.

4. If an applicant took an advanced placement class in high school and has taken the AP test at the end of the year, and has a score of three or higher; this will replace the corresponding college class from the above list.

5. GPA:
   A. The applicant must have a minimal high school GPA of 2.5
   B. The applicant with a GED certificate must have a 50 overall score with a score of 50 on all sections.
   C. If the GPA or the GED scores do not meet the requirements listed above, then the applicant must have a college cumulative GPA of 3.0.

6. ACT score
   A. Our requirement is a score of 18.
   B. The ACT is not required if the applicant has a BS degree in any subject with a minimal final cumulative GPA of 2.5.
   C. If an applicant has a score of 15 – 17, then they must have a college GPA of 3.0 or higher.
   D. Cannot be older than 10 years.
   E. If you have not taken the ACT test, you may call any post secondary school for more information about the test. Most applicants took the ACT in High School; however, if you did not, you should take the National ACT. Please be sure to allow at least 4 weeks to receive your scores from the National ACT.
7. Reference letters

A. We require three reference letters from the three individuals that are written on your application. We will mail specific letters to those listed on your application.

B. These letters are to be postmarked or received no later than May 1 for you to be eligible for consideration into our program.

8. 8-hour observation visit. An observation visit is where the applicant will be toured to some of the clinical educational sites where training will occur. This is their chance to see what a Radiologic Technologist does throughout the day.

***Dress for the observation appointment and/or interview MUST NOT be too casual. **DCH Health System Dress Code policy states that all students and employees should refrain from ALL use of excessive cologne, aftershave, perfume, scented lotions and scented makeup.** The following is NOT appropriate attire: Sweats, jeans, excessively baggy pants, hip huggers, cropped tees, anything showing midriff or excessive cleavage and sandals. Please dress appropriately and professionally.

Anyone wearing revealing clothing or something deemed inappropriate WILL BE SENT HOME. Observers should wear comfortable shoes, since walking and/or standing will be required.

9. Must be 18 years of age prior to the program’s start date.

10. If offered a position for admission, applicant must complete the DCH Regional Medical Center pre-employment physical examination.

Application Process

1. Application fee - $25

2. Application – must be completely filled out. Please print legibly with black ink or type. References must have complete and accurate addresses.

3 ACT scores (if required) – must be an official copy from within the last ten years.

4. Transcripts - must be an official copy sent from the school.
   High School – GPA should be prominently displayed on the transcript.
   College - GPA should be prominently displayed

5. GED scores, if applicable (official copy)

6. Must complete a scheduled 8-hour observation visit to the Radiology department at DCH Regional Medical Center prior to the deadline date of May 1. The applicant may call (205) 750-5169 beginning the second Monday in January to schedule. The completed application, high school and college transcripts with GPA prominently seen, AP test scores (if applicable), GED scores (if applicable) and ACT score must be on file with the school before the observation visit can be scheduled.

Observation visits can be scheduled as the full eight hours or can be split into two 4-hour sessions. Observers will be required to complete an observation sheet that will be turned in as part of their application.
7. Return the completed application and required transcripts to:

DCH Radiography Program  
ATTN: Kim Wiggins  
809 University Blvd. E  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

**Personal Qualifications**

1. Physical - Because of the nature of our work and the services and responsibility to our patients, we must require certain physical abilities of our applicants:

   a. Hearing - Must be able to hear and answer phone, hear appropriate equipment sounds and hear patient distress symptoms. Corrected hearing accepted.

   b. Sight - Students must be able to read requests, monitors, charts, equipment operating controls and observe patient responses. Corrective lenses accepted.

   c. Mobility - Students must be able to move wheelchair/stretcher patients, and assist patients walking. Appreciable physical effort with medium to medium heavy lifting of 75 pounds. May include climbing, kneeling, crouching, handling and reaching positions in assisting patients on and off X-ray tables. Coordination skills require good motor coordination, finger and manual dexterity. Students must be able to move quickly throughout the hospital, to include moving mobile X-ray equipment, and the transfer of patients to and from stretcher to X-ray tables,

2. Communication - Must be able to communicate with patients, co-workers, radiologists and referring physicians. Must write legibly, and speak and read English.

**Selection Procedure**

- For those applicants who meet the entrance requirements, an interview will be scheduled in mid June.

- This interview will allow applicants to ask questions and give the program personnel a chance to weigh such factors as your motivation and interpersonal skills.

- Point values will be assigned to:
  - Academic performance in general Math and Science courses
  - Overall academic performance
  - References recommendations
  - Communication skills
  - Comments on observational form
  - Admissions Committee Evaluations from interview

- Acceptance into the program will be in accordance with the applicant’s ranked point value.

*A letter with your assigned interview date and time will be sent after the deadline. Interviews will take place at the Radiography School. Those accepted into the program will be notified by mid-July via a phone call and an acceptance letter.*
DCH RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The program reserves the right to change attendance hours (clinic or class) for the benefit of the student’s education.

Class Schedule

Monday & Wednesday for seniors (2nd year)  Tuesday & Thursday for juniors (1st year)

Clinic Schedule

Monday & Wednesday – all day    Friday morning
Weekend and evening rotations as outlined in Clinical Educational Plan

Tuesday & Thursday – all day    Friday afternoon

Senior and Junior students will be assigned a class and clinic schedule from the above outline as deemed necessary to the benefit of the student’s education.

First Quarter

RAD 100    Fundamentals of Radiologic Sciences and Healthcare
RAD 101    Patient Care & Medical Ethics
RAD 102    Medical Terminology & Introduction to Computers
RAD 105    Human Anatomy & Physiology I
RAD 110    Radiographic Procedures
CLN 100    Clinical Education I

Second Quarter

RAD 205    Human Anatomy & Physiology II
RAD 206    Radiation Protection and Radiobiology
RAD 207    Radiologic Physics
RAD 210    Radiographic Procedures II
CLN 200    Clinical Education II

Third Quarter

RAD 305    Human Anatomy & Physiology III
RAD 307    Radiographic Imaging I
RAD 310    Radiographic Procedures III
CLN 300    Clinical Education III

Fourth Quarter

RAD 405    Human Anatomy & Physiology IV
RAD 407    Radiographic Imaging II
RAD 410    Radiographic Procedures IV
CLN 400    Clinical Education IV
Fifth Quarter
RAD 505 Human Anatomy & Physiology V
RAD 507 Special Imaging Systems & Equipment
RAD 510 Radiographic Procedures V
CLN 500 Clinical Education V

Sixth Quarter
RAD 601 Radiographic Pathology
RAD 605 Cross-Sectional Anatomy
RAD 607 Radiographic Quality Assurance & Quality Control
RAD 610 Radiographic Procedures VI
CLN 600 Clinical Education VI

Seventh Quarter
RAD 700 Radiography Seminar I
CLN 700 Clinical Education VII

Eight Quarter
RAD 800 Radiography Seminar II
CLN 800 Clinical Education VIII

Revised: August 2005
September 2008
September 2009
Student Pregnancy Policy

As a student radiographer, you may be exposed to more radiation than the general public. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Guide #8.13 has established a basic exposure limit for occupationally exposed students of 25 millirem per calendar quarter, e.g., (January, February and March) or 100 millirem per calendar year. Because it is required that radiation levels in the clinical facility be kept as low as reasonable achievable (ALARA), there is no significant health risk to individual adult students.

The development of radiation exposure standards reflects the sensitivity of cells to radiation damage. This radiation sensitivity is related to the reproductive activity of the cells: embryos and fetuses are more radiosensitive than children and adults. Because of the sensitivity to an unborn fetus, the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP), (Report Number 105, p. 13, 1989), has recommended that the dose equivalent limit to the unborn fetus from occupational radiation exposure of the expectant mother be limited to 500 millirem for the entire pregnancy.

It is the option of the student to inform program officials of her pregnancy. If the student chooses to voluntarily inform program officials of her pregnancy, it must be in writing, indicate that you are a declared pregnant student, and indicate the expected delivery date.

It is your responsibility to decide whether the exposure you may receive is sufficiently low to protect your unborn child. The advice of the radiation safety officer (RSO) may be obtained to determine whether the radiation levels are high enough that the unborn child could receive 500 millirem or more before birth. The alternatives you might want to consider if you are now pregnant or expect to become pregnant include the following:

1. You may continue in your current status as student radiographer without modification or interruption with the understanding that the radiation exposure to the fetus must be limited to 500 millirem during the 9-month gestation period. This option may be selected only if prior badge readings indicate that less than 500 millirem should be accumulated over the 9-month period. You should reduce your exposure as much as possible by decreasing the amount of time you spend in the clinical radiation areas, increasing your distance from the radiation source and by using proper shielding.

2. You could decide not to continue assignments or modify assignments in the areas where radiation is present, which could affect your graduation date. Should you choose this option, you may ask the program director or clinical coordinator to reassign you to areas involving less exposure to radiation. Didactic and clinical schedules shall be modified to enable you to continue in the program while minimizing exposure to ionizing radiation. There are no restrictions necessary for Radiology (general, fluoro, portables, specials and CT). However, there are no exceptions for some surgical procedures and brachytherapy.

3. If the above options are not possible, you might consider taking a leave of absence until the child is born, which again, could affect your graduation date. You may also choose to withdraw from the program until your physician permits you to return. You will be allowed to re-enter the program at the point in which you left, providing no more than one year has passed since the time you left or withdrew. If you desire to continue your education after the one year has elapsed, you will have to re-apply for admission to the program.

Whatever alternative you select, you should do so immediately. The unborn fetus is more sensitive to radiation during the first three months of your pregnancy.