

RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation Therapy is a field in which the radiation therapist prepares and treats already diagnosed cancer patients with high energy radiation using highly specialized equipment. The radiation therapist helps plan and administer prescribed doses of radiation to affected areas as directed by a radiation oncologist.

The radiation therapist is a health care professional skilled in the art and science of medical radiation treatment. Therapists are primarily concerned with the design and administration of radiation therapy treatment, in addition to issues of daily well-being for patients with cancer. The therapist is responsible for administering the prescribed treatment dose of radiation using high-energy linear accelerators. These treatments are provided to cure the patient or to control the disease, thereby improving the patient's quality of life. Therapists also monitor patient's reactions for radiation side effects, and keep highly accurate records of planning, treatment and equipment use.

This profession combines the great satisfaction of helping others during a difficult time in their life with high technology equipment and sophisticated scientific techniques. Radiation therapists work as part of a multi-disciplinary health care team with Radiation Oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, nurses, and other medical specialists to provide the best treatment and support available to their patients.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy with a certificate in Business Administration or Health Information Management, or a minor in Education
- Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy with a curriculum track for Pre-Med and Pre-Physician Assistant candidates

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates can work as radiation therapists in hospitals and clinics. They also may seek positions in treatment planning, information technology, healthcare administration, equipment sales and training, teaching, and other related fields. Some further their education to pursue careers in dosimetry, medical physics and education. Radiation therapy provides an excellent pre-med curriculum. Many students attend graduate school part-time with assistance from their place of employment.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Professional course work in the Radiation Therapy Program is concentrated in the fourth year of the curriculum. Students may enter as a freshman or as a transfer, depending on availability. Once admitted to the program, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.70 to remain in good standing.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students are encouraged to participate in all of the activities that Saint Louis University offers. This includes all of the organizations, facilities, and events that encompass student life. Radiation Therapy students are encouraged to join and participate in the functions of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, in addition to local professional organizations.

FIVE DIMENSIONS

Reflective of its mission, Saint Louis University strives to engage its students in five interrelated dimensions contributing to the development of the whole person:

- Scholarship and knowledge
- Intellectual inquiry and communication
- Community building
- Leadership and service
- Spirituality and values

WHY CHOOSE SLU

- Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with SLU faculty and fellow students
- Interprofessional focus of core curriculum to build a team approach to healthcare
- Instruction by professionally credentialed faculty.
- Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects/papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences
- Flexible curriculum that allows diverse areas of concentration.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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