

Welcome to Radiography

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

What Are We Called?

- ▶ Radiologic Technologists
- ▶ X-ray Techs
- ▶ Radiographers
- ▶ Rad Techs
- ▶ Radiology Techs
- ▶ Radiography Techs



We are **NOT** radiologist (they are physicians who read the x-ray images)

We are NOT technicians!

Who Are We?

Rad Techs make up the third-largest group of health care professionals in the nation

--surpassed in number only by physicians and nurses

- ▶ We create images of patients' bodies using medical equipment
- ▶ We assist doctors in diagnosing and treat diseases and injuries



What Do We Do?

- ▶ Image the human body
- ▶ Prepare patients for procedures, including taking medical history and answering questions about the procedure
- ▶ Protect patient by using appropriate shielding and exposure techniques
- ▶ Position patient and equipment accurately
- ▶ Operate digital imaging equipment and evaluate image quality
- ▶ Collaborate with physicians and other members of the healthcare team



Day In The Life

- ▶ Number one priority is taking care of patients
- ▶ Care for patients while completing technical imaging tasks
- ▶ Most of our patients are in our care for a short time (10-15 min)
- ▶ Some Operating Room (OR) cases that can potentially last for several hours
- ▶ Work with **ALL** departments in the hospital and adapt to changing priorities throughout the day

The RAD Life

- ▶ We perform routine x-rays and respond to trauma and emergencies
- ▶ We see and care for patients in extreme distress (physical and emotional)
- ▶ We deal with patients at birth, till death, and anytime in-between
- ▶ We work holidays, nights, and weekends
- ▶ Sometimes we take call (especially in small hospitals and if working in modalities)
- ▶ Work alone, in pairs, and as part of a group



Types of Patients

EVERYONE GETS SICK

- Patients of every age, background, and culture
- People receiving routine care and people who are critically ill
- Patients recovering from surgery or connected to numerous medical equipment
- Patients who need respectful, compassionate care regardless of their condition



Care in Challenging Situations

- ▶ Some are very hurt and in a lot of pain
- ▶ We see patients right when they arrive at the hospital
 - ▶ A person goes into cardiac arrest, we are there
 - ▶ A person is flown in with MAMA (Mountain Area Medical Airlift), we are there in the ER room
 - ▶ A person comes in after a bad accident, we are there
- ▶ Some are babies that will fit in your palm
- ▶ Some are deceased

WHY DO THIS?????

WE ACTUALLY HELP SAVE LIVES!!!!

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

- ▶ Because of us a diagnosis can be made
- ▶ Because of us a doctor knows a patient's lung is collapsed
- ▶ Because of us a doctor can determine if a patient needs surgery
- ▶ Because of us a doctor can determine how much a tumor has grown or shrunk
- ▶ **We don't just look at bones!!!!!!**
 - But that's what were known for

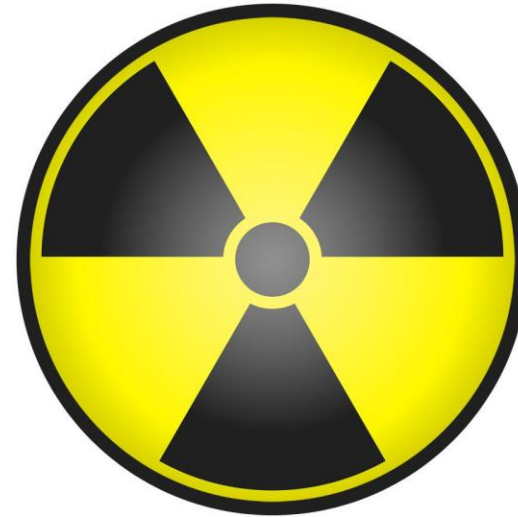


The Job

- ▶ Being an RT is the best career you can have!!!
 - ❖ Ok, that's my opinion but it also happens to be true
- ▶ Never a dull moment
- ▶ There is ALWAYS something new to learn
- ▶ **No two days are alike**
- ▶ You are active; you **are not** sitting at a desk staring at a computer
- ▶ Use your imagination to obtain optimal images
- ▶ Use latest technology
- ▶ And don't forget, **WE HELP SAVE LIVES**

Important Qualities of an R.T.

- ▶ Detail oriented
 - ▶ Strong interpersonal skills
 - ▶ Physical stamina
 - ▶ Technical skills
-
- ▶ You have to talk to people
 - ▶ You have to touch people
 - ▶ You have to be on time



Where Do We Work?

- ▶ Hospitals
 - ▶ Emergency Rooms
 - ▶ Intensive Care Units
 - ▶ House patients
 - ▶ Operating Rooms
 - ▶ Morgue
 - ▶ Pediatrics
 - ▶ Basically, anywhere in the hospital that has patients
- ▶ Outpatient Centers
- ▶ Doctor Offices
- ▶ Nuclear Industry
- ▶ PACS
- ▶ Mobile Imaging
 - ▶ Home Health
 - ▶ Nursing Homes
 - ▶ Assisted Living
- ▶ Sport Teams
- ▶ Prisons

What Do We Make?



Bureau of Labor Statistics for Nation

- ▶ Hourly median wage-\$44.00
- ▶ Annual median wage-\$70,810

Bureau of Labor Statistics for North Carolina

- ▶ Diagnostic X-ray
 - ▶ Hourly mean wage-\$34.00
 - ▶ Annual mean wage- \$63,101

<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Radiography-Salary--in-North-Carolina>
<https://www.salary.com/tools/salary-calculator/radiology-tech/nc>

Area Entry-Level Pay



Western NC entry level techs make
approximately \$24-26/hour fresh out of school

Modalities

- ▶ Radiography provides a foundation for a career in medical imaging
- ▶ After earning the Registered Technologist in Radiology, R.T.(R) credential, you may pursue additional imaging credentials such as MRI and CT
- ▶ Some of these require additional schooling and some have on-the-job training



Imaging Specialties

- ▶ Bone Densitometry
- ▶ Cardiac Interventional Radiography
- ▶ Computed Tomography (CT)
- ▶ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- ▶ Mammography
- ▶ Nuclear Medicine (Nuc Med)
- ▶ Vascular Interventional Radiography
- ▶ Radiation Therapist

Credentials

- ▶ Once you have graduated from an accredited program you will sit for a national certification test, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
- ▶ ARRT credentials Radiographer's and those individual seeking post primary credentials--modalities



Furthermore...

The A-B Tech is accredited by the
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology



Excellence in Education

Accreditation evaluates educational quality and compliance with professional standards.

The Radiography Program

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Program Resources

- ▶ The program website includes information about the curriculum, requirements, and outcomes.
- ▶ The student handbook explains academic and clinical expectations.
- ▶ Review both resources before applying.

[Radiography program website](#)

[Radiography student handbook](#)

[Selective admissions requirements](#)



No Medical Experience Required!!!

You can begin without prior healthcare work experience.

The program teaches the knowledge and clinical skills needed for entry-level radiography practice.

Success requires preparation, commitment, and a willingness to learn



The program is very time consuming and intense!

- ▶ Classroom: learn the science and principles of radiography
- ▶ Laboratory: practice positioning and imaging skills
- ▶ Clinical rotations: apply your skills with patients under supervision



Academic Expectations

- Earn at least a C in all required coursework: classroom and clinical
- The program uses a 7-point grading scale

Time

- ▶ We have a STRICT attendance policy
- ▶ Program is basically like a fulltime job
- ▶ Working more than 20-24 hours per week is discouraged
- ▶ Must have support at home; program affects everyone you know
 - If you care for another, children or parent, you will need to make arrangements for their care. You will need a backup plan, and a backup-backup plan
- ▶ If college is open, you will be at clinic or class

Backup Plans

- ▶ If clinic starts at 8:00 AM, you live an hour away, and your child's daycare doesn't open till 7:30, you will need to make other arrangements to get your child to daycare.
- ▶ If your child's school is on a 2-hour delay due to weather and A-B Tech is on a regular schedule, you will be expected to be at your assigned site at 8:00 AM. You will need to make other arrangements to get your child to school.

You will not be excused due to these types of conflicts. You cannot be habitually late or absent from class or clinic and be successful in this program.

Clinical Education

- It is important that the student understands there can be considerable drive time to clinical facilities.
- Complete over 1200 hours in the clinical setting
- Mandatory night clinic rotations
- Mandatory weekend rotations



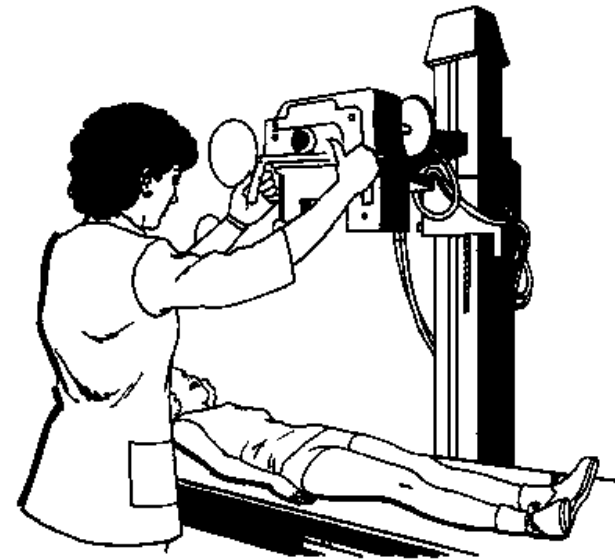
CLINICAL EDUCATION CENTERS

- ▶ Memorial Mission Hospital
- ▶ EmergeOrtho
 - ▶ Arden and Weaverville
- ▶ Charles George VA Medical Center
- ▶ Margaret R. Pardee Medical Center and Radiology Outpatient Center
- ▶ Advent Health Hospital
- ▶ McDowell Hospital
- ▶ Carolina Internal Medicine
- ▶ Advent Polk
- ▶ Transylvania Regional Medical Center
- ▶ Mission Children's Center
- ▶ Blue Ridge Regional
- ▶ Mission Imaging Services Asheville
- ▶ Mission Pardee Health Campus
- ▶ Mission Ortho-Trauma
- ▶ Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care West
- ▶ Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority

We are constantly working to add new clinical sites

Clinical Placement

- ▶ Clinical participation is a required part of the Allied Health curriculum.
- ▶ Students apply classroom and laboratory learning in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices.
- ▶ Successful clinical participation is necessary to complete the program



Conditional Admission and Site Approval

- ▶ Admission to the program is conditional
- ▶ Students must also receive approval for clinical placement
- ▶ Clinical sites establish their own acceptance requirements, separate from the college
- ▶ Third-party document manager used for drug screening, background screening, etc

Clinical Screening Requirements

- ▶ Each student completes at least one drug screen and background check
- ▶ Some sites may require additional screenings
- ▶ The clinical facility informs the college whether it approves or denies clinical privileges
- ▶ A student who is denied required clinical placement cannot enter the program

If a Clinical Site Denies Placement

If a prospective student is denied acceptance for clinical training privileges at any healthcare institution, for any reason, that student will receive an “F” in the course and will be ineligible to proceed with the course of study in the allied health division

Clinical Schedules

Day rotations: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Day schedules apply during fall, spring, and summer terms

Evening rotations: 3:30 p.m.–midnight

Weekend rotations may include days or evenings

Assigned schedules and available sites may change



Clinical Dress and Appearance

- ▶ Wear the required uniform and approved shoes
- ▶ Keep tattoos covered and hair up and away from the face
- ▶ Maintain neatly groomed facial hair and conservative hair color
- ▶ Groomed nails, no gel or colored polish
- ▶ Consult the handbook for the complete dress code

HUGE DEAL

Policies and Protocols

- ▶ Clinical dress code/expectations are explicitly explained prior to the student clinicals
- ▶ The program strives to be transparent and apply expectations fairly and consistently
- ▶ Instructors are strict, but also go above and beyond to help a struggling student
- ▶ Students are responsible for understanding and following program requirements

Professional Conduct

Division of Allied Health

Patient Safety, Integrity, and Clinical Participation

Professional Conduct in Handbook

No Tolerance Policy:

- ▶ Lying
- ▶ Cheating
- ▶ Stealing
- ▶ Intentionally misleading or deceiving
- ▶ Plagiarism
- ▶ ALARA
- ▶ Lack of confidentiality

DON'T DO IT.

Classroom Policies

90%

Minimum attendance required to earn course credit in each RAD class

The 10% attendance rule is strictly enforced
Review the syllabus and clinical attendance policies

Learning Facilities and Equipment

- ▶ Three digital X-ray rooms support laboratory instruction
- ▶ Students practice with digital imaging technology
- ▶ An Anatomage Table supports anatomy learning
- ▶ Additional equipment used to help students develop skills before caring for patients in clinical settings

Program Effectiveness Data

- ▶ 100% ARRT certification pass rate for more than **20 years**
- ▶ Job Placement
 - 2023-100%
 - 2024-100%
 - 2025-100%
 - 2026-100%

A-B Tech Program Effectiveness Data

The JRCERT requires each program include program effectiveness data on their webpages

Next Step

Application and Verification

1. Apply during the published application period
2. Meet with a student advisor: advising@abtech.edu
3. **Email the completed form on slide 42 to René Brooks**
4. Faculty will review it and document completion of the mandatory session

Faculty

René Brooks, MAEd., R.T.(R)(ARRT)
Chairperson/Program Director
renebrooks@abtech.edu

Kayce Leon, M.S., R.T.(R)(BD)(ARRT)
Faculty / Clinical Coordinator
kaycesleon@abtech.edu

Sereitha Miller, B.S., R.T.(R)(ARRT)
Faculty
sereithadmiller@abtech.edu

Other Allied Health Programs

- Cardiovascular Sonography
- Medical Sonography
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Surgical Technology
- Veterinary Medical Technology
- Medical Assisting

Explore program requirements, credentials, and career options with an advisor.

[A-B Tech Program Finder](#)

Information Session Completion Form

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Date of Submission: _____

1. Did you find this presentation helpful?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Did this presentation influence your decision to pursue radiography?

Yes _____ No _____

3. If yes, please select one:

_____ More interested in applying

_____ Less interested in applying

[Send the completed form to renebrooks@abtech.edu](mailto:renebrooks@abtech.edu)

**Thank you for your interest in the
A-B Tech Radiography Program**