

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital

School of Radiography

Providing Education
in the Imaging Sciences



Mercyhealth®

A passion for
making lives better.



Radiology

In 1885, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered a “new kind of ray” which he called x-rays. Since that time, x-rays have been one of our most valuable medical tools in diagnosing disease, broken bones, suspected tumors and other serious physical conditions difficult to identify and treat without “seeing them.”

A Career in Radiography

The people who operate radiographic equipment are called radiographers. They are not to be confused with radiologists, which are physicians who specialize in the interpretation of radiographs.

Most radiographers operate equipment that is used for diagnostic imaging, including x-ray machines, fluoroscopes, computed tomography (CT) scanners, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

In addition to the duties of preparing patients and operating equipment, radiographers may have administrative tasks. They may prepare work schedules, evaluate equipment, and often determine optimum radiographic quality. The radiographer must be able to recognize emergency patient care situations and begin life-saving first aid when necessary.

Radiographers generally work a 40-hour week that may include evening, weekend, holiday or on-call hours. Many radiographers also work part-time. Radiography jobs are in hospitals, physician offices, clinics and laboratories. While job prospects are expected to be good overall, some areas offer better opportunities than others.

Starting salaries for radiographers average about \$45,000 a year. Experienced radiographers average between \$55,000 and \$65,000 yearly. Technologists with specialized skills in ultrasound, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy earn more.

Mercyhealth School of Radiography

In the late 1940's, Rockford Memorial Hospital established a program to educate students in the field of radiography. The 24-month education offered by Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography can provide a solid basis for an exciting and rewarding health care career.

The current program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Graduates are eligible to apply for admission to the certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

Throughout the program students spend 40 hours a week clinical settings. The program consists of lectures, demonstrations and supervised experience.

When not in class, the student spends time in the clinical setting, working with staff radiographers and radiologists in the performance of various radiologic procedures. Gradually, increased responsibilities are assigned to students as they gain competence.

The day-to-day schedule of the student varies to include week-end, evening, and night experience. All students are full time. The program involves study and class preparation beyond actual hours in class.



The program is a stepping stone to various other specializations such as radiation therapy, nuclear medicine and ultrasound, all of which requires at least a year of additional schooling.

Clinical Education

Students participate in different types of imaging by scheduled rotations through the appropriate areas in the radiology department.



The students' clinical education may include rotations through some of the following areas: radiation therapy; nuclear medicine; ultrasound; mammography; magnetic resonance imaging; catheterization lab; and computerized tomography.

These departments and services are equipped with a variety of imaging equipment which incorporates the newest technology available. The departments are staffed by registered technologists and radiologists who provide the student with excellent educational supervision.

Program Goals

1. The students will be clinically competent.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate appropriate positioning skills.
- Students will choose appropriate technical factors.
- Students will employ radiation protection for the patient, themselves and others.

2. The students will communicate effectively with the patients and healthcare workers.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will instruct patient correctly/utilizing oral communication.
- Students will interpret and relay requisition information in PACS/ utilizing written communication.

3. The students will display professional judgment and values.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will insure patient privacy and modesty.
- Students will participate in the community.
- Students will be aware of the value of life-long learning.

4. The students will be able to demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will modify routine procedures for non-routine patients.
- Students will critique images to determine if corrective action is required.
- Under direct supervision the student will apply corrective action(s) to those images necessary.

Mission Statement

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography is dedicated to supplying our students and the communities of interest, with a radiography program designed to provide education in the imaging sciences. This will be accomplished through required didactic and clinical experiences that the multiple rotations can provide. We are further dedicated to graduating radiographers with the knowledge and clinical experiences to succeed in their endeavors to successfully complete the ARRT exam and secure employment.

Admission

A student radiographer must be a mature, dependable person, who is "people-oriented" and genuinely interested in helping the sick and disabled. The school selects students whose qualifications indicate the greatest potential for professional and personal development. Applications are evaluated on the same basis regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, marital status or handicap. Six prerequisite classes must be completed - as well as obtaining an Associate's Degree or higher.

Admission Policy

Application Period and Process

Individuals applying to Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography shall be considered for admission based on the established admission standards. Consideration for admission shall be non-discriminatory with respect to race, color, creed, gender, age, disability or national origin.

**Applications are ONLY accepted from
December through February, annually.**

A. Prior to RT Application Period

1. A minimum GPA of 2.5 in the pre-requisite courses is required to apply for the program
2. Applicants must have completed all pre-requisites before beginning the program
3. Applicants must hold an Associate Degree from an accredited institution of higher education
4. The applicant should determine ARRT eligibility by viewing the Rules of Ethics located on their website: www.rrt.org. Applicants who have a felony or certain misdemeanor, or have pleaded “no lo contender” to specific charges, may want to review the ARRT policy and determine if a pre-application to this body is warranted, prior to the start of the program.

B. Application Process

1. The RT Program application can be downloaded from the website, www.mercyhealthsystem.org/service/school-of-radiography or one can be sent to you by calling the program at (815) 971-5480, or by emailing the Program Director at tryan@mhemail.org.
2. Complete all sections of the application, sign it and mail it along with items listed in numbers 3 and 4 to:
 - a. Javon Bea Hospital–Rockton
School of Radiography
2400 N. Rockton Ave.
Rockford, IL 61103
3. A **\$15 nonrefundable application fee** in the form of a check made out to Mercyhealth/JBH School of Radiography must be included with the application.

4. Make sure to include **two (2) letters of reference and “official” college transcripts**. Both of these can be sent under separate cover.
5. Incomplete, unsigned, or applications without a fee will not be accepted.
6. Information about the acceptance procedures is available on the program website at www.mercyhealthsystem.org/service/school-of-radiography

Eligibility Procedures

1. All applicants will receive a letter acknowledging the status of their application.
2. Applicants that get their application in early have more time to complete any missing requirements.
3. The top 20 applicants, based on pre-requisite GPA, will be scheduled for an aptitude test. There is a **\$20 nonrefundable** fee for this exam which must be paid at the time of the test.
4. A minimum score of 30 percentile or above on both the academic aptitude and reading comprehension sections of the test must be obtained to continue on.
5. Applicants that pass the aptitude test are scheduled for an interview and observation period in the radiology department. Applicants may retake the exam 1 additional time to better their score for an additional \$20 fee.



- 6.** After completion of interviews and observation all applicants are ranked based on the following criteria:
 - a.** GPA in the pre-requisite courses
 - b.** Aptitude test score
 - c.** Interview score
 - d.** 1 point for qualified previous application within the last year
 - e.** 1 point for recent experience in an acute care hospital.
 - i.** Must include patient care within the last 5 years
 - ii.** Examples of medical direct patient care include: CNA, MA, LVN, phlebotomist, RT transporter/aid. (Receptionist, clerical work, environmental services do not qualify.)
 - iii.** Must be documented on letterhead and signed by supervisor.
 - f.** 1 point for military service with honorable discharge.
 - i.** Military service documentation must be submitted with the application.
 - 1.** Acceptable documentation includes a Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty or a Proof of Service Letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 7.** The top 8 (up to a maximum of 10) applicants are chosen. The remaining applicants will be selected as alternates based on decreasing point value up to 8 places.
- 8.** If a selected applicant does not begin the program, the 1st alternate will be notified and so on until the position has been filled.
- 9.** Alternates will not be selected if a student drops out after the program has begun.
- 10.** Applicants not selected must reapply in following years following the current guidelines.

Acceptance Procedures

- 1.** Once an applicant has been notified that he/she has been accepted, an email must be sent to the program director AND a signed form must be returned via regular mail. The email and form must

clearly indicate that the student is either accepting or declining their position in the radiography program.

2. Accepted students are required to pass a health screening physical, a 2-step TB test and a criminal background check. Once in the program, students will be required to attend and pass a BLS certified CPR course. The health screening physical is completed free of charge to the accepted student at the Rockton Ave. campus.
3. Students who were enrolled in pre-requisite courses at the time of application must submit official proof of completion grades for those courses.
4. Instructions on all this material will be included in the acceptance letter.

Application Timeline

December-February	Apply to the program
March-April	Aptitude test, interview, observation
May	Acceptance letters mailed
May	Acknowledgement returned to program Health and Commitment form returned to program
End of May	Final date for submission of grades
Beginning of June	Mandatory orientation of new students

How to Apply

Applications for admission to the Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography may be obtained by calling (815) 971-5480 or on the web at mercyhealthsystem.org or by sending a letter addressed to:

Javon Bea Hospital–Rockton School of Radiography
2400 North Rockton Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Financial Information

Tuition

There is a \$3,500 yearly tuition that is paid directly to the radiography program. Payments must be made on a semester basis with a minimum payment of one quarter of the tuition being made by the end of each semester.

Failure to pay by the end of each semester will place the student on probation until the tuition is paid. Tuition must be paid in full before graduation.

Refunds

75% - During first 5 days of the semester.

50% - Days 6 - 10 of the semester.

25% - Days 11 - 16 of the semester.

No refund - After Day 16 of semester.

Financial Aid

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography does not offer financial aid, but the website www.fastweb.com may have information on financial aid.

Books

Textbooks are required and will be provided to the student on the first day of class.

Housing

Housing is available to all students at the Education and Guest Center. The housing charge is \$150 per month. Rooms are on a first come first served basis.

Program Length/Clinical Obligations

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography is a 24-month program, full-time (only) The program begins the last Monday in June yearly. There are four semesters, each 6 months in length. First semester is from the last Monday in June to December 31. The second semester is January 1 to June 30. The third semester is July 1 to December 31. The fourth semester is January 1 to Graduation which is the Friday before the last Monday in June.

Rotations typically take place during the day with the exception of a one-week clinical rotation from 2:30-10:30 pm and another one-week clinical rotation from 10:30 pm-7:00 am. Students have approximately 8-10 Saturday clinical experiences. Clinical rotations are held at both Mercyhealth Rockton and Riverside Campuses. The distance between our Rockford hospitals is approximately seven miles.

The Program academic calendar is subject to change to insure program integrity.

The maximum program length is 30 months.

Accreditation

Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography is accredited by: JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology)

20 N. Wacker Drive – Suite 2850

Chicago, Illinois 60606-3182

Phone: (312) 704-5300

Web Site: www.jrcert.org

E-mail: mail@jrcert.org

Prerequisites

The following courses must be taken at Rock Valley College or similarly accredited college that offers courses that answer the same course description as those listed. If you have questions about the college, please contact us. You may apply to Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography before these courses are completed, provided they are completed with a 'C' or better and grades are submitted to us before May 25 (prior to the program start date). CLEP courses are accepted.

- Biology 185 – Human Anatomy and Physiology or Biology 281 and 282
- Health Sciences 110 – Medical Terminology
- English 101 – Composition
- Psychology 170 – General Psychology
- Computers 102 – Introduction to Computers and Information Systems
- Math level 100 or higher

Curriculum

First Year

First Semester

- Patient Care
- Venipuncture and Pharmacology
- Radiographic Physics I
- Radiographic Anatomy I
- Radiographic Positioning I
- Image Analysis
- Clinical Radiography I (472hours)

Second Semester

- Radiographic Anatomy II
- Radiographic Positioning II
- Radiographic Physics II
- Radiobiology/Radiation Protection
- Image Analysis
- Clinical Radiography II (480 hours)

Second Year

First Semester

- Radiographic Anatomy III
- Radiographic Positioning III
- Radiographic Physics III
- Pathology
- Image Analysis
- Clinical Radiography III (504 hours)

Second Semester

- Imaging and Special Procedures
- Registry Review
- Clinical Radiography IV (512 hours)

Course Descriptions

Courses are listed in alphabetical order (not the order in which they are taught).

Image Analysis

During Radiographic Anatomy I, II and III as well as Pathology, images will be evaluated for technique, contrast, density, positioning, and image quality. Students will be required to determine the image quality of assigned images.

Pathology

A basic study of the process of disease on various systems of the body. The nature, cause, development and consequences will be discussed. Radiographic demonstration of the various processes will be reviewed for technique, quality and demonstration of the pathology.

Patient Care

Introduces students to the occupation of radiography and the health care team. The history of radiography, professional organizations, career opportunities, organization and management are presented to the student. Other topics include radiation protection, medical ethics and the law, cultural awareness, and patient care measures in radiography.

Radiobiology and Radiation Protection

The study of the effects of cells, tissues, organs and systems of the human body. The rationale behind radiation protection methods and government regulations are covered. The student will learn the specific methods for protecting patients and operators from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation.

Radiographic Anatomy I

A comprehensive discussion of the anatomy and physiology of the chest, abdomen and upper and lower extremities. Students will identify anatomy from radiographic images.

Radiographic Anatomy II

A comprehensive discussion of the anatomy and physiology of the spine and GI-GU areas. Students will identify anatomy from radiographic images.

Radiographic Anatomy III

A comprehensive discussion of the anatomy of the skull. Students will identify anatomy from radiographic images.

Radiographic Physics I

This is the beginning study of radiographic production and equipment. The production and properties of ionizing radiation are studied. Units of measurement, concept of energy, structure of matter and the x-ray tube will be covered. Beginning concepts of technical factors are covered.

Radiographic Physics II

During the second semester of physics, the student will learn the circuitry of the x-ray system to include generators and motors. Technique is now studied in depth and image and radiographic quality are covered.

Radiographic Physics III

A study of all phases of digital radiography and fluoroscopy systems. Detailed description of all equipment and how images are produced. Digital will be compared to computed radiography. Quality assurance is introduced to describe testing devices and procedures used to assure consistency in quality images. State and Federal impacts are discussed.

Radiographic Positioning I

This course relates to Radiographic Anatomy I. The positions of the patient and placement of the radiographic tube necessary to demonstrate the anatomy of the chest, abdomen and upper and lower extremities will be studied. Adaptations will be presented for abnormal situations. Students will return demonstrate these positions in a lab period.

Radiographic Positioning II

This course relates to Radiographic Anatomy II. The positions of the patient and placement of the radiographic tube necessary to demonstrate the anatomy of the spine and GI-GU will be studied. Adaptations will be presented for abnormal situations. Students will return demonstrate these positions in a lab period.

Radiographic Positioning III

This course relates to Radiographic Anatomy III. The positions of the patient and placement of the radiographic tube necessary to demonstrate the anatomy of the skull will be studied. Adaptations will be presented for abnormal situations. Students will return demonstrate these positions in a lab period

Registry Review

During the final semester of the program, the senior student will spend concentrated classes reviewing each area of the ARRT examination. A comprehensive review of each category with related testing is presented. The final week, the students will be tested as if a registry setting.

Related Imaging and Special Procedures

A brief discussion of the basic principles of CT, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy, Ultrasound and other modalities as compared to diagnostic radiography. Other areas of study include studies that utilize contrast media and sterile technique.

Venipuncture and Pharmacology

Theory and practice of the basic techniques of venipuncture and the administration of contrast media and IV medication. The different types of contrast media are studied and indications as well as contraindications are discussed. Students will learn the symptoms of side effects, adverse reactions and the radiographer response to these emergencies. Provides the student with a basic understanding of drugs, drug classifications, and other areas describing drugs and their actions on the body.

First Year, First Semester

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 am					
9 am	Patient Care	Radiographic Physics I	Radiographic Anatomy I	Radiographic Positioning I	June-July only Policy review
10 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	Tours/CPR
11 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	Orientations
12 pm					
12:30 pm	Lab for Pt. Care			Lab for Positioning	
2:30 pm	↓			↓	
3:30 pm	↓			↓	

First Year, Second Semester

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 am					
9 am	Radiographic Physics II	Radiobiology Protection	Radiographic Anatomy II	Radiographic Positioning II	No Classes
10 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
11 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
12 pm					
12:30 pm	Lab for Physics			Lab for Positioning	
2:30 pm	↓			↓	
3:30 pm	↓			↓	

Second Year, First Semester

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 am					
9 am	Pathology	Radiographic Physics III	Radiographic Anatomy III	Radiographic Positioning III	No Classes
10 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
11 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
12 pm					
12:30 pm				Lab for Positioning	
2:30 pm				↓	
3:30 pm				↓	

Second Year, Second Semester

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 am					
9 am	Related Imaging/ Special Procedures	Related Imaging/ Special Procedures	Registry Review	Registry Review	No Classes
10 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
11 am	↓	↓	↓	↓	
12 pm					
12:30 pm					
2:30 pm					
3:30 pm					

Grading System/Academic Policies

Didactic grading is based on the following scale: 100%-94% - A
93%-87% - B
86%-80% - C

The student's academic and clinical performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester as a scheduled appointment. Evaluation in both the classroom and clinical setting is ongoing for the entire length of the program. To remain in good standing all academic and clinical grades must be 80% or better on a 100% scale.

If a student fails to achieve an 80% in either academic or clinical performances, the following will be instituted:

- Probation for three months during which time each of the student's courses must be raised to an 80% in both clinical and academic areas.
- During the probationary period, the student will be given additional instruction in problem areas.
- If the student fails to raise all course grades to the required 80% by the end of the probation period, the student will be requested to withdraw from the program.

Clinical grades are based on the following:

- The clinical competency testing average and the practical examination average added together for one percentage,
- The affective domain and the semester clinical evaluation average added together for one percentage,
- The final percentage is the clinical evaluation average (performed by the clinical instructor).

These three percentages are added together and averaged to achieve the semester clinical grade.

Transfer Student Policy

It is the policy of Mercyhealth's Javon Bea Hospital School of Radiography that transfer students are not accepted.

Refund Policy

If a student officially withdraws or is dismissed from the school, the student is entitled to a refund according to the schedule below:

- During the first five days of the semester – 75 percent
- Days six to ten of the semester – 50 percent
- Days 11 to 15 of the semester – 25 percent
- After day 16 of the semester – No refund

Student Services

All students are under the same umbrella as Mercyhealth employees, which entitles them to the following: food discounts; employee assistance program; reasonable accommodations for disabilities; employee health; discounts and special offers by the Human Resource Department; and on-campus housing, based on availability.

Guidance

Counseling services are available for students needing them. The staff of the Employee Assistance Program will refer or suggest to the student a suitable counselor in the immediate vicinity of the hospital. Students are responsible for all expenses incurred as a result of the referral. The Employee Assistance Program is available to students with the same guidelines as employees.

Student Pregnancy Policy

If the student chooses, she may voluntarily inform the Program Director of her pregnancy, it must be in writing, indicating the expected date of confinement (delivery). Without written disclosure a student cannot be considered pregnant.

If the student chooses, after voluntarily informing the Program Director in writing of her pregnancy, she may in writing voluntarily withdraw that declaration. With this written withdrawal of declaration the student will NOT be considered pregnant.

Once the student has disclosed her pregnancy she has the following options:

- Continue the educational program without modification or interruption.
- Modification of clinical assignments (areas to be made up after delivery).
- Leave of absence from clinical.
- Leave of absence from the program.

Any injury or illness associated with the pregnancy at any time in the pregnancy will be accepted at the student's own risk.

The student may not return to school post-delivery without prior written approval of her physician.

Any Clinical and Classroom assignments missed prior to and post-delivery will be made up at the discretion of the Program Director.

The student must read a copy of the Nuclear Regulatory Guide 8.13, and order a fetal dose monitor film badge. Order forms available from the Control Personnel in the department or the Radiation Safety Officer or Program Director.

Vacation and Holidays

The student is given six holidays each year, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Dates are dependent on sponsoring institutions holiday schedule dates. The student is granted one (8 hour) personal day each year. Each student is also scheduled for eight weeks of vacation during the 24-month program, one week vacation each season (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer, Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring.) School calendar is available at MercyHealthSystem.org.

Records and Release of Information

- 1.** The release of information to and about students is in conformance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, as amended in 1974.
- 2.** Records of each student's grades are maintained in their file. At each semester evaluation the student is shown his/her records to date and given a personal copy. At the completion of the program each student will be issued one transcript of his/her academic and clinical performance.
- 3.** Any information concerning the student's academic or clinical performance is confidential. Authorization for release of any information must be made in writing by the student or graduate to the Program Director.

Program Effectiveness Data

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 YR. AVERAGE
# of students accepted	8	8	8	8	8	8
# of students completing	8	7	8	7	5	7
Completion rate (%)	100%	87.5%	100%	87.5%	62.5%	87.5%
ARRT exam pass rate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Job placement rate within 12 months	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Faculty

Program Director: TerriAnn Ryan, M.Ed, RT (R,M) CRT (R,F,M)

Clinical Instructor: Bethany Preiss, R.T.

If you have any further questions or you desire an application, please contact the Program Director at (815) 971-5480, (815) 971-5465 or tryan@mhemail.org.

For more information,
contact (815) 971-5480
or tryan@mhemail.org

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