

Nuclear Medicine Information Sheet

❖ ***How many students are accepted each year?***

The Nuclear Medicine Program accepts 8 - 10 students each year.

❖ ***When does the Program begin?***

Once a student is accepted into the Program, full-time academic load begins in the summer semester. Many students do not need to take a full load of courses once they are accepted because they have completed many of the support and core courses within the curriculum. However, the clinical portion of the education is accomplished during the day shift, full-time for a total of 48 weeks and cannot be completed on a part-time basis. Clinical Internship starts in May of each year.

❖ ***What are the shifts during the clinical training?***

The earliest shift is 6:00 am – 2:30 pm and the late shift is 12:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

❖ ***Where do students receive their clinical training?***

Nuclear medicine students rotate through the following clinical sites:

- Christiana Care Health System (Christiana, Wilmington and MAPII, PET and PET/CT)
- Saint Francis Hospital
- Veteran Hospital
- A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children
- BayHealth- Kent Campus

❖ ***How is the radioactivity administered to the patients?***

Radioactivity is given to the patient, the majority of the time, by an intravenous injection. Students are instructed on the correct technique and administration of all radiopharmaceuticals.

❖ ***How do technologists protect themselves from the radioactivity?***

The radiation exposure to the nuclear medicine technologist is slightly more than an x-ray technologist. Employees and students are instructed in the various protection methods: time, distance and shielding.

❖ ***Can I work in nuclear medicine while I am pregnant?***

Yes, however special monthly monitoring of the woman is practiced in the field of nuclear medicine to ensure low exposure to the fetus.

❖ ***Is there a national licensure in nuclear medicine?***

Students must successfully pass one of two boards offered in the field of nuclear medicine. Student may take the ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) or the CNMT (Certification of Nuclear Medicine Technology).

❖ ***Do nuclear medicine technologists work all three shifts?***

Although some clinical sites do have technologists employed on the second and third shifts, predominantly the hours of a laboratory are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm. In hospitals, technologists cover “call” for the later shifts to cover emergency procedures.

❖ ***Are uniforms required during the clinical training?***

Yes, the required uniform of the nuclear medicine program is a blue scrub top and pant.

❖ ***Do I have to observe procedures performed in a nuclear medicine department before being accepted into the program?***

No, however if a student is concerned about this career path, please see the Program Coordinator for guidance.

❖ ***Do I also receive training in how to operate CT and MRI equipment?***

CT - Yes! MRI - No!

❖ ***How much money can I earn and where are the jobs?***

The salary ranges of recent graduates vary from \$25 - \$32/hour. Employment in nuclear medicine is generally in a hospital or private laboratory setting.