

Radiology Technologist

Radiology technologists work in hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers, helping doctors see inside the body using machines such as X-rays, MRIs, and CAT scans. They position patients carefully, take clear images, and make sure everyone stays safe by using protective equipment. Radiology technologists also explain the medical process to patients, keep equipment clean and ready, and work as part of a healthcare team.

School to Career Pathway

- Take high school courses in math and science, especially anatomy, biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Earn an associate's degree. Some programs include academic work and clinical experience.
- Pass a certification exam or complete an accredited program to earn a license or certification, which is required by most states.

Durable Skills

As a radiology technologist, you need:

- To be detail oriented and follow instructions exactly as intended.
- Good interpersonal skills and empathy to assist patients during the imaging process even if they are in pain.
- Math skills to calculate the proper amount of radiation emitting in the images.
- Technical skills to understand how to operate the complex machinery.

Paycheck Peek

\$37.97 hourly, \$78,980 annual

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Provide Patient Care and Preparation:

Explain procedures, take medical histories, and help patients into gowns. Technologists also address patient anxiety and answer questions regarding the scan.

Position Patients and Equipment:

Align both the patient and the imaging machine to capture precise, diagnostic-quality views of specific body parts.

Ensure Safety and Radiation

Protection: Apply lead shielding to exposed areas of the body that do not require imaging to prevent unnecessary radiation exposure. Technologists must strictly follow safety protocols and guidelines.

Operate Imaging Machinery:

Operate sophisticated computerized equipment, such as MRI, CT, or X-ray machines. Technologists troubleshoot technical difficulties that arise..

Evaluate and Record Images:

Review the captured images for clarity, accuracy, and completeness before sharing them with a physician or radiologist for diagnosis.



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you like talking and working with different people, such as classmates, teachers, or family members?
- Do you notice small details, like catching mistakes in your work or organizing things neatly?
- Are you good at figuring things out when something doesn't go as planned, like solving a tricky problem or helping fix something?
- Do you enjoy moving around and staying active, instead of sitting still for a long time in class?
- Are you willing to keep learning new things, such as using new apps, tools, or technology as they change over time?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- radiation therapist
- veterinary technologist and technician
- MRI technician
- biological technician

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Health](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Radiology Technician](#)
- [O*NET Online: Radiation Therapist](#)
- [O*NET Online: MRI Technician](#)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Veterinary Technologists and Technicians](#)
- [LabXchange: Biological Technician](#)