



MODALITY

Radiologic Technologist (R.T.)

Program Mission, Goals, and Outcomes

Mission

The mission of Southwest University at El Paso is to provide exceptional career and technical training, promote intellectual growth, critical examination, and informed understanding through general education, and a commitment to educational excellence strengthened by quality instruction, a positive learning environment, and the integration of emerging technologies to enable students to achieve their potential, participate in new employment opportunities, and continue to be lifelong learners.

Consistent with the mission of the faculty of the College of Imaging Sciences is committed to providing quality instruction by preparing the student to be employable at an entry-level in the Radiography Program.

Goals

The goals of the Southwest University Radiography program are:

- Goal #1: Graduates will be clinically competent.
- Goal #2: Graduates will be effective problem solvers.
- Goal #3: Graduates will communicate effectively.
- Goal #4: Graduates will be professional.
- Goal #5: The program will be effective in its instructional efforts.

Purpose

The freedom of individuals to gain knowledge and understanding is essential in the maturing of the mind. So that all students may exercise these freedoms a school must have an environment that does not lack order and stability.

Outcomes

- Students will perform radiographic examinations competently.
- Students will demonstrate effective problem-solving skills.
- Students will communicate effectively with patients.
- Students demonstrate the importance of professional behavior and activities.
- Students will pursue specialized clinical experience.

- Graduates will be members of a professional society.
- The program will be effective in its instructional efforts.
- Program starters will complete the program.
- Graduates will complete the national certification examination.
- Graduates, who have sought employment, will be employed within 12 months of graduation.
- Graduates will be satisfied with the program.
- Employers will be satisfied with graduates.

Job Title

Radiologic Technologist

Job Description

A Radiologic Technologist is a Diagnostic Medical Professional who is qualified by professional credentialing and academic, and clinical experience to provide detailed images of anatomical structures, using ionizing radiation to produce x-ray procedures. The scope of practice of the Radiologic Technologist includes those procedures, acts, and processes permitted by law, for which the individual has received education and clinical experience, has demonstrated competency, and has completed the appropriate R.T. certification(s) which is the standard of practice in x-ray.

Job Summary

The Radiologic Technologist is responsible for the independent operation of radiology equipment, and for performing and communicating the results of diagnostic examinations using radiology.

The Radiologic Technologist is responsible for the daily operations of the radiology laboratory, patient schedule, equipment maintenance, the report of equipment failures, and quality assessment (QA). The Radiologic Technologist maintains a high standard of medical ethics at all times and is self-motivated to increase the level of understanding and knowledge of the field, disease, and new procedures as they evolve.

Essential Functions

- Performs clinical assessment and diagnostic x-ray examinations.
- Uses cognitive x-ray skills to identify, record, and adapt procedures as appropriate to anatomical, pathological, and diagnostic information and images.
- Uses independent judgment during the x-ray exam to accurately differentiate between normal and pathologic findings.
- Analyses radiology procedures, synthesizes radiology information and medical history and communicates findings to the appropriate physician.
- Coordinates work schedule with the Departmental Director and/or scheduling desk to ensure workload coverage.

- Assumes responsibility for the safety, and mental and physical comfort of patients while they are in the Radiologic Technologist care.
- Assists with the daily operations of the radiologic laboratory.
- Maintains a daily log of patients seen/completes exam billing forms.
- Maintains radiologic equipment and work area, and maintains adequate supplies.
- Participates in the maintenance of laboratory accreditation.
- Establishes and maintains ethical working relationships and good rapport with all interrelating hospitals, referral, or commercial agencies.
- Performs other work-related duties as assigned.

Examples of duties and responsibilities

- Performs all requested x-ray examinations as ordered by the attending physician.
- Prepares preliminary reports and contacts referring physicians when required, according to established procedures.
- Coordinates with other staff to ensure appropriate patient care is provided.
- Addresses problems of patient care as they arise and makes decisions to appropriately resolve the problems.
- Organizes daily work schedule and performs related clerical duties as required.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety and well-being of all patients in the x-ray area/department.
- Reports equipment failures to the appropriate supervisor or staff member.
- Provides in-service education team on requirements of radiologic procedures as requested by other members of the health care team.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Radiologic technologists pay with an associate degree

Radiologic Technologists are employed in clinics, physician's offices, government hospitals, and outpatient imaging centers. R.T.'s can earn a variety of different wages. Many factors determine an individual's salary. An individual's salary is dependent upon the skill level, seniority, and certifications one obtains. Please consider all those factors when investigating your region's salary.

Career opportunities

Radiologic Technology is a dynamic profession that has grown significantly over the past 20 years. With rapidly developing new technologies and increased use of radiography procedures, growth is projected to continue in the future with employment opportunities for qualified Radiologic Technologists in both urban and rural areas nationwide. Radiologic technologists can choose to work in clinics, hospitals, private practice physician offices, public health facilities, laboratories, and other medical settings performing examinations in their areas of specialization.

Licenses and Certifications

Currently, the program is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) which is recognized as an accreditor for the ARRT (The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists)

ABHES:

616 Executive Blvd. Suite 730
North Bethesda, MD 20852
Phone: (703) 917-9503
Fax: (301) 2917550
Link: <https://www.abhes.org>

JRCERT:

20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 704-5300
Link: <https://www.jrcert>

Most employers prefer to hire a Radiologic Technologist who has professional certification. A Radiologic Technologist can receive certification by graduating from an accredited program and passing an exam. A few states require Radiologic Technologist to be licensed. Typically, professional certification is required for licensure; other requirements vary by state. Radiological technologist must take continuing education to keep their certification current.

Standard and Guidelines

ARRT

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists[®]
Certification for Students

The only means of obtaining an ARRT credential is by examination. Required prerequisites must be met before an applicant can earn an ARRT credential.

Link: <https://www.arrt.org/Radiologic-Technologists>

Entrance requirements

The AAS Radiological Sciences maintains the following requirements for entry to the program:

Admissions requirements:

- All potential students must receive a school catalog before signing an enrollment agreement
- Students must attend entrance orientation
- A high school diploma or its equivalency is required for admission into the program
- Prospective students must complete a successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor
- Prospective students must submit an AAS DMS Admissions Application
- Applicants must be at least 17 years of age (applicants under the age of 18 require written permission from a parent or legal guardian to enroll.)
- Applicants must take and pass an institutional HESI entrance exam with a minimum of 70%.
- Non-Refundable exam fee is \$40.00 dlls.

SU graduate (AAS MA, AAS MLT, AAS Opt. Tech, AAS ST, ADN, and BS programs) entry:

- A high school diploma or its equivalence
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor

- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI) with a minimum score of 72% to be considered for admission into the program. A non-refundable exam fee must be covered.
- Proof of citizenship (or student/workers visa)
- Completion of Allied Health Science degree
 - 3.5 GPA or higher
 - 90% attendance or higher
 - No behavioral misconducts
- Mandatory attendance at lab/class
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- A 500-word essay, APA format, with the prompt “Why would you like to be an Imaging tech?”
- Interview with the program director
- If a student was a prior graduate of SU, they have to meet the below requirement
 - 2 years or less post-graduated without current certification
 - 5 years or less post-graduated with current certification or a minimum 1 year of current medical experience

SU graduate (AAS MCB, AAS HA, BS HA) entry:

- A high school diploma or its equivalence
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor
- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI) with a minimum score of 75% to be considered for admission into the program. A non-refundable exam fee must be covered.
- Proof of citizenship (or student/workers visa)
- Completion of Allied Health Science degree
 - 3.5 GPA or higher
 - 90% attendance or higher
 - No behavioral misconducts
- Mandatory attendance at lab/class
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- A 500-word essay, APA format, with the prompt “Why would you like to be an Imaging tech?”
- Interview with the program director
- If a student was a prior graduate of SU, they have to meet the below requirement
 - 2 years or less post-graduated, work experience is not required
 - More than 2 years post-graduated, a minimum of 2 years of current healthcare-related employment experience is required.

A transfer student with a complete degree (non-SU student) entry:

- A high school diploma or its equivalence
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor
- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI) with a minimum score of 75% to be considered for admission into the program. A non-refundable exam fee must be covered.
- Proof of citizenship (or student/workers visa)
- Proof of certification

- Resume
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- A 500-word essay, APA format, with the prompt “Why would you like to be an Imaging tech?”
- Interview with the program director
- College degree
 - Associate in Applied Sciences Degree (3.5 GPA or higher)
 - Associate degree in a non-healthcare-related field (3.5 GPA or higher) with a minimum of 1 year of direct patient care employment experience.
 - Bachelor’s Degree (3.0 GPA or higher)
 - Bachelor’s Degree in a non-healthcare related field (3.5 GPA or higher) with a minimum of 1-year direct patient care employment experience.
 - Master’s Degree

General Information

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

The Radiologic Technology program is 96 consecutive weeks.

WHO DO I CONTACT, AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

Admissions Department/Imaging Department Southwest University
 6101 Montana Ave
 El Paso, TX 79925
 (915) 778-4001

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Please inquire about important dates related to the imaging sciences program with our admission representatives.

General Admission Policies

Please refer to the University Catalog

Tuition Fees / Refunds

For Further information concerning Southwest University radiologic technologist and other programs, Tuition Fees/Refunds please refer to the SU Catalog

Academic Policies

Please refer to the University Catalog

Calendars

Southwest University 2025 terms

- 01/06/2025 – 02/14/2025
- 02/17/2025 – 03/28/2025
- 03/31/2025 – 05/12/2025
- 05/13/2025 – 06/24/2025
- 06/25/2025 – 08/07/2025
- 08/11/2025 – 09/23/2025
- 09/24/2025 – 11/04/2025
- 11/05/2025 – 12/20/2025

Southwest University Student 2025 Holiday Schedule Days Off

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • April 18 th , 2025 | Easter Break |
| • May 26 th , 2025 | Memorial Day |
| • July 3 rd – July 4 th , 2025 | Independence day |
| • August 8 th , 2025 | School Break |
| • September 1 st – 2 nd , 2025 | Labor day |
| • November 11 th – 29 th , 2025 | Veteran's day |
| • November 27 th – 28 th , 2025 | Thanksgiving break |
| • December 22 nd , 2025 – January 3 rd , 2026 | Holiday Break |

2025 School Open Dates (No classes are held but the school will remain open) 7:30 am – 6:00 pm

- January 2nd – 3rd, 2025
- July 3rd, 2025
- August 8th, 2025
- September 2nd, 2025
- November 11th, 2025
- December 19th, 2025
- December 22nd – 23rd, 2025
- December 29nd – 30th, 2025
- January 2nd, 2026

Clinical Obligations

Clinical Education

Clinical education is an integral part of the professional education of a radiographer. The Program's mission could not be achieved without it. During clinical education, students will apply the knowledge and skills acquired through classroom and laboratory study on campus in medical settings where they have the opportunity to work with actual patients under the supervision of qualified professionals. Through this well-supervised "hands-on" experience, students develop competence and prepare to assume professional responsibility.

During clinical assignments, students need to remember that a Radiology Department is a service department. It exists to provide service to patients, medical staff, and the community. When students participate in clinical education in any of the Program's recognized facilities, they assume all of the responsibilities of a healthcare professional. Practicing procedures and patient care skills to gain competence and proficiency is important, but students will also be providing service to patients. Improving knowledge and skills are important components of clinical education, but significant attention will also be given to the demonstration of professional attitude, professional conduct, appropriate and effective interpersonal skills, and responsibility and dependability.

While at an assigned facility, students are first students of Southwest University and second guests of that particular clinical education setting. Students are expected to follow the rules and protocols of Southwest University and of the assigned facility unless they conflict with Southwest University or Program policy.

Clinical Education Settings

Southwest University maintains affiliations with hospitals and clinics in the greater El Paso, Texas. These affiliates serve as Clinical Education Settings where students gain clinical experience under the supervision of qualified professionals. The radiography program, at its discretion, makes the specific clinical assignments for each student. Southwest University may consider student and facility preferences in the assignment of students to clinical education settings, but Southwest University does not guarantee that these preferences will be met. Enrollment in the Program signifies the student's agreement that he or she will attend the clinical education settings assigned by Southwest University for the hours and times assigned.

Clinical Education Settings affiliated with Southwest University's Radiography Program are subject to change. At the time of this publication, the following settings were recognized Clinical Education Settings.

- Big Bend Regional Medical Center 2600 N Hwy 118 Alpine TX
- Carlsbad Medical Center 2430 W Pierce St. Carlsbad NM
- Del Sol Medical Center 10301 Gateway West El Paso TX
- Desert Imaging Services, L.P. (Castellano) 122 West Castellano El Paso TX
- Desert Imaging Services, L.P. (Gateway East) 7812 Gateway East El Paso TX
- Desert Imaging Services, L.P. (Joe Battle) 3080 Joe Battle Boulevard El Paso TX
- Desert Imaging Services, L.P. (Lee Trevino) 1727 Lee Trevino El Paso TX
- Diagnostic Outpatient Imaging LTD 6065 Montana Ave El Paso TX
- Diagnostic Outpatient Imaging-George Dieter 1426 George Dieter Drive El Paso TX
- El Paso Children's Hospital 4845 Alameda Avenue El Paso TX
- Hospitals of Providence Trans mountain Campus 2000 Woodrow Bean Trans mountain Dr El Paso TX
- Las Palmas Medical Center 1801 North Oregon Street El Paso TX
- Southwest X-ray Osborne 4930 Osborne Drive El Paso TX
- Southwest X-ray Redd Road 820 Redd Road El Paso TX
- Southwest X-ray Yarbrough 10501 Gateway Blvd W El Paso TX
- The Hospitals of Providence East Campus 3280 Joe Battle El Paso TX
- The Hospitals of Providence Imaging Center Central 1900 N. Oregon St. Ste 101 El Paso TX

- The Hospitals of Providence Imaging Center West 601 Sunland Park Dr. El Paso TX
- The Hospitals of Providence Sierra Campus 1625 Medical Center St Drive El Paso TX
- University Medical Center N.E. Imaging 9839 Kenworthy El Paso TX
- University Medical Center of El Paso 4815 Alameda Avenue El Paso TX
- University Medical Center-East Clinic 1521 Joe Battle Blvd El Paso TX
- University Medical Center-Surgical Hospital (Legent Hospital) 1416 George Dieter Drive El Paso TX

At Southwest University, clinical education follows the successful completion of 11 terms of instruction in radiography classrooms and labs on campus. The student has mastered considerable knowledge of the field before clinical education. Clinical education focuses on the new challenge of applying this knowledge in actual practice. The student begins by observing and assisting a radiographer in the performance of duties. As the student gains experience, he or she moves from passive observation to assisting the radiographer in radiographic examinations. As additional experience is acquired, the student begins to perform examinations under direct supervision. The student next progresses to documentation of competency on certain procedures, which can then be performed under indirect supervision. The rate at which the student progresses is dependent upon the ability of the student to comprehend and perform the various assigned tasks and the support and encouragement provided by the Clinical Instructor and affiliate staff.

Clinical Plan

Students are assigned to clinical education settings in a manner that assures that students of average or better accomplishment, initiative, and confidence will be able to achieve all of the required competencies and all clinical program requirements within the hours that comprise clinical education courses.

All students MUST complete any specific clinical site modules before entering into the clinical setting. Students will be assigned to at least two different sites with different patient populations, procedures, equipment, and working environments. To be successful, the student must adapt to the type of environment to which he/she has been assigned.

The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for monitoring each student's competency achievement to ensure that each student is assigned to clinical education settings that together will allow the student to achieve all needed competencies. Each term the Clinical Coordinator will assign individual students to specific clinical education settings based on matching the students' remaining educational needs with the settings' opportunities. Achievement of competencies by each student is monitored throughout each term and if it becomes apparent that a student is unexpectedly not being provided appropriate opportunities (e.g., due to a lower-than-expected procedure volume) at a given setting the student will be reassigned, unless adjustments at the setting can remedy the problem.

By enrolling in the Program, students have agreed that they will accept the assigned clinical site made by the program. While student considerations are taken into account, there is no guarantee students will be placed at a site or sites of their choice. Students may have to drive up to 100 miles or more to their respective clinical sites each day.

The student will not be placed at a clinical site where they have any affiliation this includes being employed by the facility in any way shape or form. This includes any employment or volunteering duties of the

immediate family or any relatives regardless of relationship. Clinical faculty will rule on all situations that arise from the above circumstances. All faculty rulings are final.

The student can be removed from a clinical site if they are not performing, meeting goals, any academic misconduct, and unprofessional behavior, or meeting any standards set forth by the site.

If a student is removed from a clinical site for any reason, the student will receive a failing grade and be removed from the program.

Students are responsible for their transportation to and from clinical sites. To be prompt, students must have reliable transportation and knowledge of how to reach the clinical site and the assigned area within each particular clinical site.

Every effort is made to inform students of their assigned site at least two weeks in advance of the beginning of the term; whenever possible students will receive their assignments four weeks in advance. However, because unforeseen changes in personnel or other changes in clinical education settings are beyond the control of the Program, this is not always possible.

Students who achieve all required and elective competencies in the fifth term may, upon request, be assigned to observe one or more post-primary modalities such as computed tomography, nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, radiation oncology, or cardiovascular interventional radiography. These assignments are made by the Clinical Coordinators. Students may not rotate through these areas at other times during their clinical experience.

Clinical Education Schedules

Each student assigned to a clinical education setting will have a weekly schedule approved in advance by the Clinical Coordinator and the Clinical instructor. This schedule will provide starting and ending times for each day of the week and will total not more than forty hours per week. All assignments will be Monday through Friday and will exclude any Southwest University-recognized holidays.

Students are given the same amount of time for coffee and lunch breaks as staff radiographers at the institution. All students must take regular lunch breaks.

Any deviation from the approved schedule must be approved in advance. This includes any change in starting or ending times and changes in days of the week. Assigned clinical hours may not exceed 40 hours per week in a term. Students will be credited with only actual hours of attendance that are pre-approved. If a student attends hours that are not pre-approved, those hours will not be recorded toward satisfying course requirements. It is also important to note that a student who attends hours that are not pre-approved is not covered by professional liability insurance.

Every effort will be made to give students advance notice of changes in required schedules occasioned by changes in staffing or circumstances in the clinical education setting. Clinical schedules will not be changed to accommodate student work schedules or to accommodate other personal situations of the student.

Mammography

No student male or female in the Southwest University Radiography Program will be allowed to observe or participate in any Mammography procedures while enrolled in the program.

Grading System

Basis for Calculation: The cumulative grade point average (GPA) will be calculated at the end of each six weeks (or at the student's request). The calculation will be based on all quarter credit hour courses completed during the grading period.

Grade Explanation Numeric Grades

A	EXCELLENT	90-100	4
B	ABOVE AVERAGE	80-89	3
C	AVERAGE	70-79	2
F	FAILING	BELOW 70	0
I	INCOMPLETE	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
W	WITHDRAWN	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
CR	CREDIT	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
T	TRANSFERCREDIT	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED

Transfer credit

Please refer to the University Catalog

Grievance policy

Students must address their concerns about Southwest University or any of its educational programs by following the grievance process outlined below and included in the school's catalog. Southwest University is responsible for ensuring that all students receive a copy of the school's grievance procedures. If, as a student, you were not provided with this information, please inform school management.

The procedure established is to provide a method for resolving student grievances at the administrative level fairly and expeditiously. Grievances are limited to complaints about alleged violations of Southwest University policies by its employees and disputes with faculty and/or alleged unfair treatment. The process

is utilized to appeal a grade or address other academic concerns. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student allegedly violates the code of conduct. Any student who believes they have been disposed to unfair treatment within the academic/clinical process may proceed by following the steps detailed below.

1. Appeals to a faculty member: The student is to submit a written appeal to the faculty member within 30 days after the start of the six weeks following the six-week period in which the alleged grievance occurred. The faculty member and the student are to discuss the issue. The faculty member will then create a report outlining the discrepancies and their decision on how to handle the matter. The faculty member will submit this report to their respective program director within ten working days of receipt of the student's written appeal.
2. Appeals to Program Director: If a decision satisfactory to the student cannot be reached with the faculty member, the student may submit a written appeal to the Program Director. This is to be done within ten working days after receiving the report written by the faculty member. The Program Director will then meet with the student to review the merits of the appeal. The Program Director will notify the student with a response outlining their decision within ten days of the last meeting.
3. Appeals to Associate Dean/Academic Dean: If a decision satisfactory to the student cannot be reached with the program director, the student may submit a written appeal to the Associate Dean/Academic Dean. This is to be done within ten working days after the receipt of the written decision by the Program Director. The Associate Dean/Academic Dean will then meet with the student to review the merits of the appeal. The Associate Dean/Academic Dean will notify the student and the Program Director with a response outlining their verdict within ten days of the last meeting.

Arbitration & Mediation

If any dispute should arise out of the Student's enrollment and attendance at the University, no matter what issues it involves or how either the Student or the University might describe, plead, or style the dispute, both the Student and the University agree that they shall first make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute by participating in mediation with a neutral mediator and then if the dispute is not resolved, it shall be submitted to binding arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act, all as specified below:

The mediator shall be selected from a list of approved mediators maintained by a court or bar association situated in the same community (the "Local Community") as the campus of the University which the Student is attending.

If arbitration occurs, it shall be conducted at a convenient location within the Local Community, according to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) by a single arbitrator selected from an AAA list following AAA selection rules.

All allegations, claims, and defenses, as well as any supporting information (including statements, testimony, and documents), presented in mediation or asserted in the arbitration, shall be kept confidential by the parties and not disclosed outside of the mediation and arbitration proceedings except for disclosure to a party's counsel and consultants.

All determinations as to the scope and enforceability of this arbitration provision shall be made by the arbitrator and not by a court.

The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding on both parties and may be filed for enforcement by either the Student or the University in any court having jurisdiction.

The University and the Student acknowledge that they are voluntarily and irrevocably electing individualized arbitration (that is, between the University and Student and not as part of any class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims) as the remedy for any unresolved dispute they may have, and the arbitrator in such proceeding shall not have authority to hear any class or mass arbitration or to award punitive damages, consequential damages or noneconomic damages. University and Student voluntarily and irrevocably waive any rights they may have to bring a lawsuit in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction and to try their dispute before a judge or jury, including through a class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims.

Graduation Statistics

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the program web page

5 Year statistics

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the program web page

Placement Statistics

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the program web page