



Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy

Have You Considered a Career as a Radiation Therapist?

Radiation Therapy (or radiation oncology) is the medical use of ionizing radiation to treat cancer and control malignant cell growth. Radiation Therapy is commonly combined with other modes of treatment for cancer, such as surgery, chemotherapy, and hormone therapy.

Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy Program

The Bachelor of Science degree in Radiation Therapy is a full time program. It is intended for Radiographers who seek additional specialization. The program is also open to other qualified applicants in nursing and allied health fields, OR applicants with an associate degree (science area preferred) who have completed all pre-requisite courses.

There are two ways to apply for the program: Non-ARRT: The program is 24 months (8 quarters) long for applicants who have a minimum of a AS degree (science area preferred), Nursing or other allied health field that involves direct patient care. The application window is October 1 to April 1 for a summer start. ARRT: The program is 21 months (7 quarters) long for Radiographers who seek additional specialization. The application window is October 1 to April 1 for a fall start. Upon successful completion of the program, both groups of students are eligible to sit for their ARRT Radiation Therapy board exam.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bachelor of science Radiation Therapy Program is to prepare professionals in the field of Radiation Therapy with students receiving broad education and training in all aspects of the profession. This will include critical thinking, clinical competence, effective communication, and professionalism as they apply to the field of Radiation Therapy. The program encourages intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual development by emphasizing these goals in its curriculum, which are reflected in the mission statement of Loma Linda Health – “To Make Man Whole”.

Radiation Therapy Goals and Program Learning Outcomes

1. Student will demonstrate critical thinking.
 - a. Student will be able to monitor change in patient condition
 - b. Student will be able to interrupt isocenter shift from CT sim data to treatment planning data

2. Student will be clinically competent.
 - a. Student will perform daily QA
 - b. Student will be able to check that dosimetry data is acutely transferred to electronic chart
 - c. Student will be able to recognize treatment changes
3. Student will be able to communicate effectively in English.
 - a. Student will demonstrate effective verbal communications skills
 - b. Student will demonstrate effective written communication skills
4. Student will demonstrate professionalism.
 - a. Student will treat all persons with respect
 - b. Student will demonstrate knowledge of HIPPA
 - c. Student will demonstrate responsibility and accountability for actions
5. For JRCERT requirements the program will achieve the following:
 - a. Students will complete the program
 - b. Graduates will pass the ARRT exam
 - c. Graduates will have job placement within 6 months

Clinical Training

For clinical training, each student is assigned to an affiliated medical centers. In addition to Loma Linda University Medical Center, we have clinical affiliates located in Southern California. Each student is responsible for transportation to the clinical assignments.

Job Demands

The essential job functions of a Radiation Therapist require certain physical, mental, & emotional attributes. Physical demands include lifting, carrying, bending, manipulation of equipment, patient assistance, walking, & possible prolonged standing. The ability to read written orders, computer screens, patient records, and equipment controls is critical. The ability to communicate with patients, physicians, and coworkers is used daily. Mental & emotional demands include critical decision making, interaction with patients of varying ages, diversity, and health conditions.

Financial Information

Tuition and fees are subject to change each year. Students should be prepared to be responsible for all tuition fees, books, living expenses, and transportation. Financial aid is available. Loan application can begin before being accepted.

Admission Requirements

- Prerequisite courses met – a total of 47 quarter units of specific courses plus enough 34-36 electives that can be taken from the radiation technology or other healthcare program courses.
- 24 hours of career observation in a Radiation Oncology Department
- GPA of 3.0 or better, higher is more competitive
- Current BLS with American Heart Association, adult and child
- Admissions essay
- Three letters of recommendation
- Interview

Prerequisite requirements

Applicants must be either an ARRT registered radiographer (two year minimum degree), Registered Nurse (two year minimum degree), a graduate of an accredited Allied Health Program with patient care experience (two year minimum degree), or Associate degree (science are preferred) and completed the following subjects at an accredited college or university prior to entering the program.

- Human Anatomy and Physiology with laboratory, complete sequence
- College Algebra
- Medical Terminology
- Introduction to Physics
- General Psychology or Developmental Psychology
- Radiation physics, radiation protection, principles of radiography and patient care methods (available in summer quarter prior to the fall quarter program start for those who have not completed them)

General Education

Humanities – 20 units minimum (choose minimum of three areas from: history, literature, philosophy, foreign language, art/music appreciation/history). Included in this minimum, 4 units of religion per year of attendance at a Seventh-day Adventist college/university. Eight units of religion are included in the B.S. degree core as a co-requisite. A total of 28 quarter units are required to fulfill this area. **Natural Sciences** – The study of natural sciences must include a minimum of 12 units. The units in natural sciences must be selected from two of the following content areas: biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics, and statistics. Required: College Algebra (taken within 5 years). Human Anatomy and Physiology with a lab (complete sequence). **Social Science** – Must have a total of 12 quarter units of social science, General psychology or developmental psychology is required. Select additional units from: economics, geography, political science, psychology, sociology, or anthropology. **Communication** – English composition (complete sequence) and oral communication/public speaking are required. A minimum of 9 units are needed to complete this area. **Health and Wellness** – Personal health or nutrition, and two physical activity courses are required to meet the minimum of 3 quarter units. Electives – may be needed to meet the minimum requirements of 192 quarter units (34-36 quarter units). **Diversity Requirement** - The diversity requirement is fulfilled in the BSRS portfolio core courses: AHCI 493 Senior Portfolio I and AHCI 494 Senior Portfolio II (this was approved by the University GE committee for the BSRS and BSNM programs).

Program Requirements- Applicants are required to complete a background check and possess a current Health Care Provider CPR card offered by the American Heart Association upon admission into the program. To remain in the program students must maintain a 2.5 GPA, and adhere to the Program's professional code of conduct. Some clinical sites require students to complete a drug test.

Religion (a maximum of 8 quarter units may be applied); for students who attended or are enrolled in a Seventh-day Adventist college, 4 quarter units per year are required.)

Observation Experience

A minimum of 40 hours of career observation in a Radiation Oncology Department is required. A letter from the chief Radiation Therapist documenting hours of attendance and procedures observed is required. Observation forms are available online.

Documentation

Transcripts of college courses, letters of recommendation, records of training, and evidence of registry or licensing (when applicable), must be made available before the applicant can be accepted.

Accrediting Associations

Loma Linda University is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, and the Radiologic Health Branch of the Department of Health Services. The program is also accredited by JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technologies)

Curriculum

During the BS in Radiation Therapy program, students take formal classes along with instruction in a clinical setting. This includes participation, under close supervision, in the actual procedures within the Radiation Therapy Department. The program is full-time (40 hours per week) arranged around lectures and coordinated with participating clinical affiliates.

Application Procedure

A new class in Radiation Therapy Technology begins each Fall. Plan to apply at least six months ahead of your intended starting date. All applications must be completed online at www.llu.edu. To speed up the application process:

1. Please read the online application instructions carefully. Be sure that your application is complete, including the statement of purpose and the application fee.
2. Make sure that you give three people the Letter of Recommendation form to fill out, and include an envelope for them to return the form in.
3. Make arrangements with your high school and each college that you have attended to have them send your original transcripts directly to: Admissions Office, School of Allied Health Professions, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350.

Acceptance Process

Interviews are conducted during the first two weeks in April. All applicants will be interviewed by the program director, other faculty members, clinical staff, and a representative of the School of Allied Health Professions. If you are within a reasonable driving distance you should plan to arrange for a personal interview. After all applicants have been interviewed, the selection committee for the Radiation Therapy Program meets to make the final selections. Acceptances are usually decided by the first of May and confirmation of each decision is mailed to the respective applicant from the Office of Admissions for the School of Allied Health Professions.

Contact Information

Program Director

Carol Davis, Psy.D., Dr.PH, RTT
Office: (909) 558-7368
E-mail: cadavis@llu.edu

For more information e-mail studyradsci@llu.edu or visit www.llu.edu/radiationtherapy

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LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service learning opportunities

Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California 92350
909.558.4931
Website: www.llu.edu
www.facebook.com/llualliedhealth