

Ozarks Tech's A.A.S. in Radiography FAQs Page

1. What does a radiologic technologist do?

- a. Radiologic technologists, or “x-ray techs” are the professionals responsible for obtaining quality x-rays for the radiologist and providers.
- b. We are often one of the first members of the healthcare team you may encounter when you go to the hospital.
- c. They are versed in radiation safety, proper positioning of the body part, using proper technique, and patient care to achieve that perfect image for the radiologists to read.
- d. See the ASRT's 1-minute video [campaign on the imaging field](#).

2. What is required to become a radiologic technologist?

- a. The successful completion of an associate degree program at a minimum.
- b. Passing the ARRT in Radiography national registry exam, which allows you to work anywhere in the United States.
 - i. **Some states require additional state licenses* - Missouri, does not.*

3. Is the Ozarks Tech A.A.S. in Radiography Program Accredited?

- a. The A.A.S. in Radiography program is seeking its initial accreditation from the JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology)
 - i. For more information on the importance of accreditation and the process, please review the [JRCERT's flier](#).
- b. Accreditation is very important and provides the students assurance they are receiving a quality education and being the most prepared for their career in the imaging field.
- c. Our initial accreditation site visit will take place in March 2026 after the program begins.
 - i. ***Please note: All students who are enrolled or complete the program before the JRCERT official award are still eligible to take***

the ARRT registry exam upon successful completion of the program.

4. How long is the Radiography program at Ozarks Tech?

- a. While, or after completing the required general education courses, you will apply for acceptance into the next cohort.
- b. At minimum you must have at least 12 credit hours of the general education requirements successfully completed (with a C or higher) and an overall 2.75 GPA in those required courses to apply and be considered for an interview in the next cycle.
 - i. All general education courses must be successfully completed before the start of your cohort.
- c. Two cohorts begin each year, one in the fall and one in the spring
 - i. Each cohort member progresses through the course of study together. Someone who must leave their cohort may be eligible to return to another cohort if they are in good standing with the program, refer to the **RAD Handbook** for that process.
- d. It is a competitive selection process, and there are no guarantees for acceptance.
- e. The OTC program is an ***intensive and accelerated*** program with radiology-specific courses and training lasting 16 months.
 - i. This portion begins after the student has successfully completed all of their general education requirements, which can be completed in a variety of time frames, but it is designed for the student to be able to complete within two full-time semesters.
- f. The program runs for 4 sequential semesters, which includes summer semesters.
 - i. Students should be expect to attend class, clinicals, and/or labs a minimum of 4 days per week during the length of the program.
 - ii. Once clinical rotations begin, the student should expect to spend close to 40-hours per week in class and clinicals.
 1. This does not include time spent studying for their course work, or traveling to their clinical site.

5. How much does the A.A.S. in Radiography program cost?

- a. Please see the [Ozarks Tech Tuition and Fees](#) page for more information.
- b. A more specific radiolgraphy estimate can be provided by your navigator upon request, as well as being linked in the Radiography program handbook which can be found on the radiography program's website.

6. What should I expect if I get into the A.A.S. in Radiography Program?

- a. The student must be aware that it is a full-time commitment over the 16-months with in-person classes, hybrid classes, studying, and hundreds of hours in a variety of clinical experiences that may require traveling up to an hour each way.
- b. Students who live outside of the Springfield area will have to drive in for in-person class days and clinical rotations.
 - i. Outlying are clinical rotations are not guaranteed for those living in areas outside of Springfield, however, we will try our best to accommodate the student.
- c. It is ***not recommended to work more than 20 hours*** outside of class and clinicals, due to the time requirements from the program.
- d. A team of committed faculty that will set you up with the knowledge and experience to be successful in your future goals.

7. What is a typical schedule for the A.A.S. in Radiography Student?

- a. The program uses the 8-week block system for courses and schedules, meaning all courses and clinicals run for 8-week durations (including summers).
- b. Students should expect to be in class or labs 3-4 days per week in their first semester; class and lab days are generally about 4-6 hours per day.

- c. When clinicals begin the following semester, students should expect 2 days of in-person class days and 3 days of clinical rotations that generally last 7 to 10 hours each.
 - i. There are some required weekend and evening rotations for clinical experiences throughout the duration of the program.
 - ii. Some clinical rotations are only open to Ozarks Tech RAD students in the evenings and weekends currently, which can include those outlying clinics which may be closer to the student's home or preferred area of clinical rotation.
 - iii. Some 8-week blocks have a heavier clinical load with 4 days of clinicals and 1 day of in-person class.
 - iv. For a list of potential clinical rotation sites and requirements, please refer to the clinical obligations tab on the program's website.

8. What can I do after completing my A.A.S. in Radiography?

- a. Work in a variety of settings, taking x-rays for imaging centers, urgent cares, hospitals, surgery, orthopedic clinics, *etc.*
- b. You can add to your resume and skills by learning an advanced modality, such as Cardiac Cath Lab, CT, Echocardiography, Interventional Radiology, Mammography, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, PET, Radiation Therapy, or Ultrasound....or even go on to Physician Assistant or medical school!

G. Can my degree transfer?

- a. Agreements are currently being sought with the Alliance partner Missouri State University to allow for the transfer of the A.A.S. in Radiography to be accepted toward a Bachelor of Science.

10. How can I learn more about the program?

- a. The Ozarks Tech A.A.S. in Radiography hosts informational sessions throughout the year.

11. What do I need to take for general education courses before I apply?

- a. Required general education courses are listed below:
 - i. CHM 101 or higher / (or PHY 105 or higher *is preferred and what will become the requirement in a couple of years*)
 - ii. MTH 128 or higher
 - iii. PSY 110 or higher
 - iv. ENG 101 or higher
 - v. HSC 120
 - vi. BCS 165
 - vii. BCS 205
 - viii. PLS 101 or equivalent
- b. Students must have earned a “C” or better in all pre-requisite coursework.
- c. A 2.75 cumulative GPA in all these courses is required for admittance to the program.
- d. The program accepts most pre-requisite coursework as eligible to meet requirements, even if it was taken several years ago. ***Please note: if it has been more than 5 years since the student took human anatomy, the student must retake that course.***

12. How do I job shadow in the field before I apply?

- a. The A.A.S in Radiography strongly encourages job shadowing before taking courses toward the degree and deciding to pursue the career field.
- b. The program does require a minimum of 4 hours of job shadowing as part of the application process.
- c. Can be completed in any radiology department that will host an observer. Please be aware that many require vaccines, training, and other items before they let you shadow. Each health system has their own process, which may take several weeks to complete/schedule; reach out to the site for more information on their process/requirements. This partial list includes regional sites that are often utilized for job shadowing:
 - i. [Citizens Memorial Hospital \(Bolivar, MO\)](#)
 - ii. [CoxHealth \(Springfield, Branson, and Monett, MO\)](#)
 - iii. [Freeman Health System \(Joplin, MO\)](#)
 - iv. [Lake Regional Hospital \(Lake of the Ozarks, MO\)](#)
 - v. [Mercy \(Springfield, Joplin, and Lebanon, MO\)](#)

- vi. [Ozarks HealthCare Center \(West Plains, MO\)](#)
- vii. [SSM \(St. Louis area\)](#)

13. How many people apply to the program each year?

- a. It is estimated that approximately 60-90 people will apply for acceptance for each cohort deadline

14. How many people get accepted into the radiography program?

- a. The Radiography program will take approximately 20 students per cohort, dependent on clinical and classroom capacity availability.
- b. This number is set by the accrediting body for our maximum number of students.

15. When is the deadline to apply?

- a. For the Fall (August) start cohort, the deadline for application materials is set at **April 1st**.
 - i. Files are reviewed by the Program Director and Faculty after the deadline.
 - ii. The 1st week of April, the program will contact you for an interview if you have been selected.
 - iii. Interviews will take place in mid-April.
 - iv. August is the new student orientation for fall start Radiography students, generally the week before classes start.
- b. For the Spring (January) start cohort, the deadline for application materials is set at: **October 15th**.
 - i. Files are reviewed by the Program Director and Faculty after the deadline.
 - ii. In late October the program will contact you for an interview if you have been selected.
 - iii. Interviews will take place in late October to early November.
 - iv. January is the new student orientation for spring start Radiography students, generally the week before classes start.

16. What do I need to submit with my application?

- a. Official Transcripts
 - i. Must have at least 12 hours successfully completed to apply and be eligible for an interview.
 - ii. General education courses must be either already completed with a C or higher, or currently enrolled in those courses where the student will complete them before the start of their cohort.
 - 1. Acceptance may be rescinded due to a grade lower than a C in the general education courses before the start of the cohort.
- b. Job Shadowing Experience Form
 - i. Will complete and upload once you have done your job shadowing.

17. What are the Criteria for Acceptance?

- a. There is a selection rubric for each candidate that is found on the program's website under the admissions tab.

18. How many times can I apply to the program?

- a. A student can apply a maximum of 4 times to the program.

19. What can I do if I do not get into the program?

- a. Because we expect more applicants than open positions, the program faculty encourages all students to reflect on his or her long-term goals when applying. As members of the admissions committee, we want to maintain an unbiased review of all applicants, but here are some ideas on how to proceed if you aren't admitted:
 - i. Retake courses to achieve a higher GPA (if possible and desirable to do so)
 - ii. Take a few months off to work and reapply the next cycle
 - iii. Continue taking coursework or look for a job within the healthcare setting for additional experience to draw from

- iv. Review your application file for areas where materials could have been more thorough. (i.e. Did you communicate your experiences in your job shadowing essay? Did you talk specifically and confidently in the interview?) We recommend students seek interview preparation resources if they are not experienced in interviewing. The Career Services office at Ozarks Tech offers interview preparation courses and tips.

- v. Take steps to improve your skills or update application materials. Remember, we expect 2-3 times as many applicants as there are positions. You must set yourself apart from the other applicants. Help the committee to see why you are the best applicant for this position!