



program handbook 2023/2024

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Associate Degree Program

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize the student with the policies of the program, so as to give direction to the student throughout their course of study.

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TO: Radiologic Technology Students

FROM: Angela Losonsky - Program Director, Radiologic Technology

DATE: August 2023

Here is the Radiologic Technology Program Handbook for the 2023-2024 academic year. A printed version of this form is provided with your Program Handbook.

Please sign the form and return it to your Program Director. By doing so, you agree to read and follow these guidelines.

Mercy College website: <https://www.mercycollege.edu>

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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PROGRAM HANDBOOK POLICY/RIGHTS RESERVED

The Mercy College of Ohio Radiologic Technology Handbook is published by the Mercy College of Ohio Division of Health Sciences and is the Radiologic Technology’s official notification of its policies, procedures, and standards of conduct applicable to students. Each student is responsible for knowledge of the policies, procedures and standards of conduct described in the Handbook; enrollment is considered acceptance of all conditions discussed in this Handbook. However, the provisions of this Handbook do not constitute a contract between any student and Mercy College of Ohio. The College reserves the right to change any of the policies, procedures, and standards of conduct at any time as may be necessary in the interest of the College. The College also reserves the right to modify or discontinue any of the services, programs or activities described in this Handbook. If a material revision to a policy, procedure or standard of conduct is made and becomes effective during the academic year, students will be notified of such and will be expected to abide by the updated terms. Questions regarding this Handbook should be directed to the Program Director, Angela Losonsky at **Angela.Losonsky1@mercycollege.edu**.

GRIEVANCE REPORTING

The Radiologic Technology Program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Mercy College is committed to maintaining the JRCERT Accreditation Standards. Complaints about program noncompliance with the JRCERT Standards (**Appendix A**) can be handled through the Student Complaint policy contained in the [Mercy College Catalog](#) or can be reported directly to the JRCERT. A record of each complaint and complaint resolution will be maintained by the Program Director. The Concern and Complaint form can be found on the Mercy College website at <https://mercycollege.edu/student-affairs/concern-complaint>.

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago Illinois, 60606-3182
Tel: (312) 704-5300, email: mail@jrcert.org

CRIMINAL CONVICTION NOTICE

Individuals convicted of a crime may be prohibited from being registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) and subsequent employment within the profession. The ARRT administers and makes all eligibility decisions for the national radiography certification examination. Any program student convicted of a crime should contact the Radiologic Technology Program Director or Clinical Coordinator immediately for pre-certification instructions. More information can be found here: <https://www.arrt.org/pages/earn-arrt-credentials/initial-requirements/ethics/ethics-review-preapplication>.

CIVIL RIGHTS/NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Mercy College of Ohio is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the bases of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, marital status, military status, religion, pregnancy, genetic information, citizenship status, and any other legally protected class in employment, admissions and other educational programs, services, and activities, in accord with applicable federal and state law. For more information about Mercy College of Ohio policies, compliance, and consumer information, please visit: www.mercycollege.edu/compliance. Inquiries and complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Compliance and Risk Management at 419-251-1710, or 2221 Madison Avenue Toledo, OH 43604.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

In accordance with the education amendments OF 1972, 34 CFR PART 106, Mercy College of Ohio has designated a Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator (Youngstown Location) to ensure compliance regarding sex/gender discrimination of any type. *Discrimination on the basis of sex can include pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions.* Please direct questions/concerns to:

Stacey Brown, Title IX Coordinator

(419) 251-1710

Stacey.Brown@mercycollege.edu or titleIX@mercycollege.edu

Betsy Cardwell, Deputy Title IX Coordinator

(330) 480-2170

Elizabeth.Cardwell@mercycollege.edu

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

Radiologic Technology is the art and science of the use of x-rays, or high-level energy, to produce diagnostic images. These images are necessary for diagnosis and treatment of a variety of medical conditions. The technology involves the use of modern equipment while producing quality radiographs for a radiologist to interpret. To do this the technologist, following the orders of a physician, positions the patient to demonstrate the anatomy in question, directs a beam of radiation, controls the intensity, the quantity, and the timing of the radiation exposure. Additionally, the technologist processes the image and

then evaluates its diagnostic quality. The art of radiologic technology requires adaptation to the many situations that can develop during the imaging process. Technical standards for radiologic technologists can be found in **Appendix A**.

PROGRAM HISTORY

Mercy College of Ohio (formally Mercy College of Northwest Ohio) accepted sponsorship for the Radiologic Technology Program in January 1999. Before this time, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center had been the sponsor of the certificate program, which was founded in 1951. In June 1999, Mercy College of Ohio submitted a request to the HLC for approval of the Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology Degree status. The Associate Degree status was approved in August of 1999.

REGIONALLY ACCREDITATION

Mercy College of Ohio is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a historically regional accrediting body.* The Radiologic Technology Program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).** The JRCERT Standards are referenced in **Appendix B** of this Program Handbook. The leaflet, "JRCERT Accreditation," will be distributed to students during orientation. Upon completion of this program, graduates are qualified to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) certification examination. In addition to the registry with the ARRT, graduates must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Health prior to practice in the state of Ohio.

*The Higher Learning Commission, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60620. ** See above for JRCERT contact information.

COLLEGE CATALOG

In addition to this reference tool, the 2023/2024 Undergraduate [College Catalog](https://mercycollege.edu/academics/college-catalog) is an important resource during your time here at Mercy College. The most current College Catalog can be found online at <https://mercycollege.edu/academics/college-catalog>.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Radiologic Technology Program strives to educate and prepare students for entry-level Radiologic Technology positions. The program sets realistic and achievable goals/objectives for each student based on professional guidelines and accreditation standards. The goal is to prepare a competent and compassionate imaging professional who can function in a dynamic healthcare environment.

Education is a continuous process through which learners develop knowledge and transferable skills that result in personal and professional growth. The faculty facilitates the learning process through the sequential presentation of concepts, theories and experiential activities within an environment that promotes mutual trust, critical thinking, and self-development.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

To educate and prepare students for entry-level Radiologic Technology positions as compassionate, competent health care professionals.

PROGRAM GOALS

To develop graduates who:

1. Demonstrate clinical competence in performing diagnostic radiographic procedures in a compassionate, professional manner.
2. Demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking skills in radiography.
3. Employ effective oral and written communication skills.
4. Understand the importance of continuous learning, professional development and Christian values.
5. To develop graduates who meet the needs of the healthcare community as employable radiographers.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Produce diagnostic quality radiographs
2. Evaluate radiographic images for appropriate quality
3. Apply proper radiation protection to patients, self, and others
4. Provide appropriate patient care in changing situations
5. Perform effectively in a variety of imaging areas
6. Demonstrate effective communication skills
7. Practice professional and ethical behaviors
8. Integrate Mercy Core Values into clinical practice
9. Perform at entry-level expectations

CURRICULUM PROGRESSION STATEMENT

The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to create a logical progression of learning from foundational knowledge to increasingly complex concepts. All RAD classes must be taken sequentially.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN

The program is assessed in a variety of ways, including:

1. Radiologic Technology program assessment of student learning outcomes based on the goals and objectives of the program and participation in Mercy College institutional assessment.
2. The Program Advisory Committee meetings for program planning, evaluation, and improvement.
3. Students complete evaluations of the course and the instructor at the end of each semester and assess the clinical component of the program.
4. Instructors complete self-evaluations at the end of each course to facilitate continuous improvement.
5. Graduates are asked to complete a six-month post-graduation Alumni Survey.
6. Employers of the Program Graduates are given a satisfaction survey to complete.

GENERAL PROGRAM POLICIES & PRACTICES

PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT

It is expected that students will conduct themselves in an ethical, responsible, and honorable manner. Conduct requires that the student adheres to the basic tenets of ethical behavior. Keeping this in mind, respecting the rights and privacy of others, following the policies and guidelines of Mercy College (College Catalog), the Radiologic Technology Program (Program Handbook), Clinical Sites, and all Academic Integrity Policies will be considered minimal behavior standards.

Students are expected to apply the ARRT *Standards of Ethics* to their actions. These standards of professional ethics guide actions toward patients, physicians, and hospital personnel during training and future employment. Failure to behave professionally can result in a warning or removal from the program. See the ARRT Code of Ethics in **Appendix C**.

PROGRAM DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students violating any program policy or procedure which includes classroom, lab, and/or clinical will be subject to disciplinary action. The Program Director and course instructor will be involved in all academic discipline issues in some capacity. All violations will be investigated to determine the level of discipline.

Disciplinary action will include the following levels. The levels can be used consecutively or inconsecutively depending on the severity of the violation(s). Serious violations may result in immediate program dismissal. Relevant examples in the Radiologic Technology program include but are not limited

to: misuse of imaging equipment, unauthorized use of radiation, and/or inappropriate patient care or professional behaviors.

This policy will be enforced based on the following levels:

Level 1: Verbal Warning

The student will meet with a Program Administrator to discuss program violation. If it is concluded that a program violation has occurred, the student will receive a verbal warning. An improvement plan will be shared with the student which will include expected performance/compliance moving forward which will be signed by the student.

Level 2: Written Warning

If the student violates program policies and/or procedures, they will be meet with the Program Director. If investigation findings conclude that a written warning is warranted, the Program Director and Division Dean will prepare a written warning using the College Disciplinary Form. An action plan that includes present and future consequences will be written. A copy of the written warning and written action plan will be placed in the student's confidential disciplinary file and forwarded to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students to investigate Mercy College Code of Conduct violation(s). (See College Catalog [Student Code of Conduct Policy](#)).

Step 3: Dismissal

A student dismissed from the Radiologic Technology Program is not necessarily dismissed from Mercy College.

Program Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for all classes, labs, and clinical. Absences are either excused or unexcused. Excused absences must be made up for lab and clinical, but do not result in a grade deduction. **Unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty.** Students are required to call, text, or email course faculty prior to class with any absence or they will be considered unexcused. Acceptable excused absences are: Illness (a physician's note will be required), a family death (obituary will be required), military leave (advance notification to the instructor when possible). Unexcused absences include vacations, weddings, and family special events.

Unexcused absences will result in a grade deduction for the semester in which it occurred, according to the following table:

1 st unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 7 percentage points	93% = A
2 nd unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 7 percentage points	86% = B
3 rd unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 6 percentage points	80% = C

PROGRAM RETENTION CRITERIA/STANDARDS OF PROGRESS

Refer to the academic dismissal and academic probation policy in the Mercy College Catalog. In addition, program dismissal may occur when any of the following conditions apply after program admission:

- Failure to maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA; or
- Failure to achieve a grade of “C” or higher in all program courses (includes coursework with a prefix designation of RAD along with BIO 220 and BIO 221).
 - General education coursework that has been repeated and a grade of “C” or higher has been achieved is not included.
 - Refer to the course repeat policy in the College Catalog for more information.

Students who are dismissed from the program may apply for readmission to the program. Readmission is not guaranteed. Refer to the **readmission protocol** below.

GRADING POLICY

The grade determinants used in the Radiologic Technology Program courses will be established by each instructor as outlined in the course syllabus. The Radiologic Technology program utilizes the following grading scale for all courses with a RAD prefix:

A	93-100%
B	86-92%
C	80-85%
D	73-79%
F	72% and below

To successfully complete a radiography course, the student must achieve eighty percent (80%) average testing requirements of the course. Course assignments included in the eighty percent (80%) average will be determined by the radiography faculty and stated in each specific course syllabus. Grades for papers, special projects, presentations, etc. will be added to the course grade after it is determined that the student has attained an eighty percent (80%) average for all exams. **If a student does not attain an eighty percent (80%) average in the testing requirements by the end of the course, it will be considered a course failure. Exam scores will not be rounded. Final course grades will be rounded.**

PROGRAM READMISSION PROTOCOL

Students dismissed for academic and non-academic reasons may request consideration for readmission. All requests for program readmission must be made by **January 1st** to be considered for the following academic year.

- Any student absent for two semesters or longer at the time of their intended program return must retake and pass all previous final exams as well as all previous laboratory simulations for prior RAD courses, as directed by the Program Director.
 - Students seeking readmission must achieve a score of 80% or higher on each of the final exams. Additionally, students will need to achieve a “Pass” and score above a 80% on each of the previous laboratory simulations. The simulation process will match the process for students completing simulations during the current academic year regarding positional selection, repeat opportunities, and grading.
- Any student eligible for readmission into the Radiography Program will be required to meet criteria prior to returning to the clinical site. The student returning must demonstrate competency for all completed clinical competencies documented in Trajecsyst prior to leaving the program. The student will complete clinical competency walk-throughs with the Clinical Coordinator on campus before re-entering the clinical site. The Clinical Coordinator will sign off on the exams reviewed with the student. After the student demonstrates competency for each exam, the student will retain all competencies earned in the clinical site prior to leaving the program. Once the student returns to the clinical site, a technologist has the authority to withdraw any competency, if they feel the student is not competent with the exam. This

includes previous competencies passed. This would then require the student to earn the competency back at the clinical site. If the student continues to have difficulty with a competency, they may be required to follow a remediation plan on campus with the Clinical Coordinator.

- Any student who fails any two RAD courses will not be considered for readmission.
- Students who are dismissed for academic and non-academic reasons are not guaranteed readmission.

Note: Student readmission to the program is contingent upon clinical space and required remediation is subject to the judgment of the Program Director. A specific clinical location is not guaranteed.

RADIATION SAFETY

RADIATION SAFETY PLAN & PROTOCOL

All radiologic technology students are expected to wear their Mercy College-issued radiation dosimeters while in the lab (during all energized activities) and the clinical setting. Dosimeters will be provided to the students from the Individual Responsible for Radiation Protection (IRRP) on a quarterly basis. Students will have a separate OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence Radiation Dosimeter) for clinic and lab. Monitoring devices must be exchanged no later than the date given by the IRRP each quarter. Dosimeters must be worn and stored as directed by the manufacturer. Any lost OSL must be reported to the IRRP immediately. If a temporary dosimeter is unavailable, the student will not be allowed to participate in energized laboratory experiments or clinical practicum until this has been received.

Protection measures of time, distance, and shielding to keep personal radiation exposure as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) are expected to be followed under all circumstances. Basic radiation instruction, explanation and interpretation of radiation exposure reports will be discussed during the radiation protection module of RAD 111. Additionally, occupational dose limits for students (and students under 18 years old) will be covered in the curriculum.

The Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center X-ray Quality Assurance Committee, the Certified Radiation Expert (CRE) and/or the College IRRP will review the radiation monitoring reports for all students. These radiation exposure reports are given to each student annually and can be obtained by IRRP upon request through the Landauer website. Should the radiation exposure for an individual student exceed *125mrem* in any given quarter, the student will be counseled per the Mercy College Radiation Protection Policy. Radiation protection practices and the student clinical schedule will be reviewed to attempt to determine where/how the student received the exposure. A Counseling Form will also be completed and placed in the student's file. Students shall not exceed state and federal guidelines for radiation exposure.

A portion of the Radiation Protection Plan is available in **Appendix D**.

OSL USAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the student include:

- Wearing a non-expired, student-issued radiation monitoring device during energized lab experiments and clinical practicum.
- Reporting the loss or damage of a monitoring device to the Clinical Coordinator immediately. Without a monitor, students MAY NOT participate in fluoroscopy, surgery, portable, or any potential ionizing radiation exposure area.
- College issued OSLs are only to be used for college requirements. If external employment is gained and it warrants the use a radiation monitoring device, this must be a separate device provided by the respective employer.

- Devices are not to be worn if the student technologist is undergoing a personal diagnostic imaging procedure as a patient.
- Students are to leave their clinical OSLs at the clinical site and stored on the dosimeter badge boards provided by the College, when not being used. However, when students rotate to outpatient imaging facilities, the OSL should go with the student for that rotation and then be returned to the storage board.

Responsibilities of the college employee assigned as the IRRP include:

- Annual distribution of OSL readings in the first quarter of the calendar year
 - Student will be asked to sign an acknowledgment statement
- A final OSL reading upon availability of the report after the student has completed the Program via mail
- Quarterly, designated college personnel will pick up expired OSLs from the clinical sites and exchange them with the new OSLs for use throughout that quarter.

PROGRAM PREGNANCY POLICY

Pregnant students should refer to the Pregnant Student policy in the College Catalog for guidelines and associated procedures for the protection and equal treatment of pregnant individuals or persons with pregnancy-related conditions at Mercy College. According to this policy, a student who is pregnant is strongly encouraged to notify the College as soon as possible; however, the choice to declare a pregnancy is voluntary, and a student is not required to disclose this information to the College.

Because of the nature of the Radiologic Technology program, students in this program should be aware of the following information. The National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) recommends that the Dose Equivalent Limits for a declared pregnant radiation worker (students above 18 years of age) should be limited to 0.5 rem (5 mSv) for the entire gestation period. Also, the recommendation is that no more than 0.05 rem (0.5 mSv) be received by the embryo/fetus in any one month.

It is recommended that students in the program notify the Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, and IRRP immediately if pregnancy is suspected. A declared pregnant student is defined as a woman who has **voluntarily informed** Radiologic Technology program officials, **in writing**, of her pregnancy and estimated date of conception. The Program Director will provide forms upon request.

For all declared pregnant Radiologic Technology students, the following guidelines apply:

- A copy of NRC Regulatory Guide 8.13 regarding detrimental effects to the fetus will be provided along with other educational resources;
- The student will meet with either the Program Director or the IRRP to:
 - Discuss fetal radiation risk;
 - Be provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding risk or review program policies;
 - Order a second radiation dosimeter (fetal OSL).
- Each pregnant student will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Options include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Option 1 – Continue in the Radiologic Technology program without modification.
 - Option 2 – Continue in the didactic portion of the program and complete missed clinical time upon delivery, in accordance with the collaborative plan developed with the Title IX Coordinator.
 - Option 3 – Continue in the didactic portion of the program and bank anticipated missed clinical time prior to delivery*, taking caution in fluoroscopy and portable rotations, in accordance with the collaborative plan developed with the Title IX coordinator.
 - Option 4 – Request a Leave of Absence**.
- The student who had filed a voluntary declaration of pregnancy may at any time submit to the Program Director or IRRP a **written withdrawal of the declaration** of pregnancy. Note: The

student is not considered pregnant in the absence of voluntary disclosure or upon withdrawal of pregnancy declaration.

Note: Program faculty may evaluate clinical competencies achieved prior to time off for pregnancy to ensure competency remains upon return to the clinical practicum. Competencies will need to be repeated, if deemed necessary.

*A student may bank clinical time in advance to cover pregnancy leave with the concurrence of the Clinical Coordinator provided it does not exceed the Program's maximum daily and weekly time allotments (see Program Maximum Time policy).

** See the Program Readmission Protocol for more details.

FETAL RADIATION BADGE PROTOCOL

A voluntarily declared pregnant Radiologic Technology student will be provided a fetal OSL to be worn at waist level, below the lead apron (when applicable), during clinical rotations throughout the gestational period. The fetal OSL will be issued each month and dose readings will be monitored closely by program officials. Fetal dose is to be kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) and should not exceed the above stated limits.

EXPENSES

Students should expect the following categories of expenses each semester:

- Tuition and fees – see the Mercy College website, *Cost of Attendance*.
- Textbooks – cost will vary per semester.
- Online Resources such as, but not limited to, RadTechBootCamp – one-time cost for duration of the program.
- Supplies – paper, folders, calculator, etc.
- Clinical education expenses include, but not limited to, program uniform, shoes and lanyard, transportation/travel expenses to and from the clinical facility, x-ray initial markers, and Trajecsys. Additional clinical expenses may be incurred from physical examination(s), immunizations, fingerprinting and background testing; these are required for clinical practicum placement.
- Basic life support (BLS) or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification.
- Professional organizations – Students are encouraged to obtain student membership in the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT) and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT).
- Certification & licensure – ARRT exam, ODH State License, and/or GXMO (General X-ray Machine Operator) exam.
- Facility-required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

The Radiologic Technology program will have two student representatives per cohort. Each cohort will nominate and elect class representatives. Representatives are invited to the Radiologic Technology Program Advisory Committee meetings and are asked to collaborate with Program Officials where possible.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Unique problems or unexpected circumstances related to progression or graduation should be brought to the attention of the Program Director. Consideration will be handled on a **case-by-case** basis and enforced with as much consistency as possible, in accordance with related policies.

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Clinical education allows for application of classroom concepts. Registered Technologists in the assigned clinical site provide clinical supervision and instruction. Each site has one or more designated Clinical Preceptors; these individuals are not College employees but have assumed leadership roles for mentoring and site instruction. Students will occasionally be visited and evaluated by the Radiologic Technology Clinical Coordinator during the practicum.

The numbers of clinical hours per week are determined by the course requirements. Students will be scheduled for specific clinical attendance times depending on the clinical assignment. Students are not to be in the clinical setting outside of the assigned clinical times unless they have written permission. Student liability insurance does not cover the student under circumstances outside of the assigned clinical learning times.

The following disclosures should be understood:

- Assigned clinical hours and clinical site locations may change.
- Students are not guaranteed placement at a specific clinical site.
- Requirements for clinical competency, evaluation, and documentation may change.

The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for placing students in their clinical education sites. Rotations to additional clinical education sites are part of the clinical education. Students will be responsible for their transportation to and from clinical sites and for parking regulations of the clinical sites. Failure to attend a specific rotation without pre-authorization will result in lost grade points (see course syllabi). The expectations of each semester will be covered in the syllabus at the beginning of each new clinical course. Students will evaluate their clinical experience at the end of each rotation.

CLINICAL APPLICATION

Students will learn about performing radiographic studies in the classroom, practice their skills and then prove competency during the simulation process in the radiologic technology program laboratory. Skills are then performed in the clinic on patients under direct supervision of a Registered Technologist, R.T.(R). When the students feel they have attained a level of competency, they will ask an R.T.(R) to evaluate their performances. The R.T.(R) will complete the student competency evaluation form, in the Trajecs Reporting System, if the student performs the exam competently in its entirety. After the competency form is submitted into Trajecs, with a passing grade, the student is eligible to perform the exam under indirect supervision.

Students may not perform radiographic studies or tasks prior to didactic instruction. If the student is asked to do a procedure or a task prior to instruction, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the requesting physician or technologist that he/she is a student and has had no prior instruction in the exam/task. The student will at that time observe the technologist performing the requested exam/task.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS, DRUG SCREENS AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Incomplete health records will result in removal from the clinical site until health records have been updated. Removal from the clinical site will result in missed clinical days which are subject to point deductions as outlined in clinical course syllabi.

Documentation for health records includes vaccinations and other health requirements. Students may request waivers or extensions for vaccinations, which may be approved or denied by clinical facilities. If waivers are denied, it will prevent placement in clinical experiences and progression in the academic program. The College will make a reasonable attempt to find alternate clinical placements for students seeking extensions or waivers of vaccinations, but it is at the discretion of clinical sites whether students are permitted to participate in clinical experiences. Students are responsible for all costs associated with criminal background checks, drug screens, and health requirements. Please see the Clinical

Compliance Coordinator with questions regarding documentation for health records, including vaccination requirements.

INITIAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

Students will have the opportunity to list their clinical site preferences. Preferences and geographic location will be considered when determining placement, but students may be assigned to any of our JRCERT-recognized clinical facilities. The Clinical Coordinator will assign each student a clinical seat based on maintaining the correct student to technologist ratio at any given clinical site. **Continued placement at a specific clinical site and/or specific clinical shifts may change at any time based on the needs of the program or clinical facility.**

Typically, students are required to travel a distance from the campus (up to 60 miles from Mercy College) to occupy a clinical seat. However, the distance may be greater than 60 miles from the Mercy College campus if clinical seat is closer to where the student lives. All students are responsible for their own travel expenses and transportation to and from the clinical sites. Currently, JRCERT-recognized clinical facilities include:

- Mercy Health St. Vincent Medical Center (Toledo, Ohio)
- Mercy Health St. Charles Hospital (Oregon, Ohio)
- Mercy Health St. Anne Hospital (Toledo, Ohio)
- Mercy Health St. Rita's Medical Center (Lima, Ohio)
- Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital (Tiffin, Ohio)
- Mercy Health Defiance Hospital (Defiance, Ohio)
- Mercy Health - Perrysburg Hospital (Perrysburg, Ohio)
- Mercy Health – Sylvania Medical Center Emergency Department (Toledo, Ohio)
- Mercy Health – Oregon Outpatient (Oregon, Ohio)
- ProMedica Regional Monroe (Monroe, Michigan)
- University of Michigan Medical Center – (Multiple Facilities in Michigan – 4 student limit)

Additional clinical facilities, upon formal JRCERT recognition, may be added to the clinical facilities list at any time. Students will be informed if travel requirements to any new recognized clinical facility exceed 60 miles.

All students are required to complete rotations in at least two advanced modalities. Advanced modality rotations may include computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, interventional radiology, cardiac catheterization, and radiation therapy. Students are required to fulfill all scheduled clinical rotations.

CONTINUED CLINICAL ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Placement for clinical education requires a minimum of “C” grades in all Radiologic Technology courses. Academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure placement in the clinic. Along with academic excellence, program approval is required before placement in the clinical learning environment. Problems that would deter the student from working effectively in the clinical setting or behaviors that are inappropriate may preclude clinical assignment.

Behaviors that will prevent a student from assignment or continued assignment to clinical experience are, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Violation of Mercy College of Ohio policies or student code of conduct, or any clinical education site policy.
- Repeating a radiograph for any reason without the **direct supervision** of a R.T.(R)

- Any breach of the Standards of Ethics as prescribed by ARRT
- Excessive absenteeism during a single semester or over the course the program
- Misuse and/or unauthorized of radiation
- Incomplete or false information on health records or any documents; HIPAA violations.
- Failure to notify both the clinical site and the college when absent.

Note: *Any student who is dismissed from a clinical education site because of being deemed “unsafe”, may be automatically dismissed from the program. Please refer to the College Catalog for details of the Student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.*

DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

Professional attire/ professional appearance is a requirement during all clinical assignments. The following guidelines are to be followed. All situations may not be covered in these guidelines and are left up to the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator. Failure to comply with appropriate dress will result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the clinical assignment.

Uniforms:

- Students must wear the program scrub uniform during their clinical assignments; operating room assignments are the only exception.
- Students must wear their uniform correctly; non-issued clothing such as sweaters or jackets are prohibited.
- The clinical facility will issue surgical scrubs to only be worn during surgical procedures. Hospital-issued surgical scrubs should not be worn outside of the issuing facility.
- A student identification badge must be worn on a lanyard and be fully visible during clinical assignment.
- The student must wear an occupational radiation dosimeter while in the clinical setting.

Hair:

- Hair needs to be neat, clean, and controlled

Clothing:

- All clothing must be clean and neat in appearance.
- Clothing needs to be sized for the individual. Form fitting clothing is unacceptable, as is oversized clothing.
- Plain white, black, or gray long sleeve shirts or tank tops may be worn under the program scrub top.

Shoes:

- Shoes need to cover the entire foot.

Socks:

- Solid black socks must be worn at all times while in the clinic.

Nails:

- The length of nails should not interfere with glove integrity.

Jewelry:

- A small watch with a second hand is advised.
- Earrings are limited to one pair or two in one ear. They should be small, not exceeding the size of the ear lobe. For safety reasons dangling earrings are prohibited.
- Tattoos are permitted. However, it is the discretion of the clinical site if visible tattoos must be covered.

Personal Grooming/Hygiene:

- Scented after-shave cologne or perfume is not to be worn. (Patients may be allergic to specific scents or find them to be offensive).
- Students will be immediately removed from the clinical site if you smell of alcohol, cigarettes, or any illegal substances.

Facility-Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Clinical facilities may require students to wear specific PPE while learning in their facility.

DRESS CODE INFRACTION POLICY

Students may be asked to change wardrobe or be sent home from the clinical site for any dress code infraction. If students are sent home, the incident will be treated as an unexcused absence and will impact the student's grade accordingly. Minor fixable violations and repeat violations will impact the student's grade as indicated in the course syllabus.

CLINICAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Clinical attendance is an essential and mandatory component of the student's clinical education. Students are responsible for their own transportation to assigned clinical sites. Students are required to attend all scheduled clinical sessions. The clinical practicum is designed to facilitate the transfer of theoretical knowledge to clinical practice. Missed hours can prevent adequate development and assessment of the required knowledge, skills, attitudes, and clinical judgment. Absence from clinical jeopardizes the student's ability to successfully meet the required clinical course proficiency.

Time management is a necessary professional skill, and punctuality is expected in professional workplaces. Students are expected to arrive on time for clinical and stay for the entire time allotted for that clinical experience. All clinical time that is missed, excused or unexcused, must be made up by the end of semester. This includes tardy time or occurrences of leaving the clinical assignment early.

Students are required to call the clinical site and call, text, or email the Clinical Coordinator with any absence. Failure to do BOTH is considered a no call/no show and will result in the student being required to make up two clinical days for every no call/no show missed day. For each unexcused tardy or occurrence of leaving early, two (2) percentage points will be deducted from the final grade. A combined total of three tardy incidents or occurrences of leaving early will result in making up time for one missed unexcused clinical day. Tardy is considered any amount of time past the scheduled time to begin. Refer to Program Attendance Policy for Unexcused Absences (pg.7).

1 st unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 7 percentage points	93% = A
2 nd unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 7 percentage points	86% = B
3 rd unexcused absence	Letter grade drop - 6 percentage points	80% = C

****More than 3 occurrences over the course of the program (5 semesters) may result in dismissal from the program.**

It is the student's responsibility to know all clinically associated phone numbers. It is recommended that students program these numbers into their cell phones at the beginning of each semester. The Clinical Coordinator can be notified by cell phone for emergencies or email for non-emergencies.

CLINICAL START & END TIME

Clinical practicum start times and end times are subject to variation. This may be dependent on the clinical section, clinical site placement, and specific times of operation for respective rotation or service area. Students' clinical time is limited to not more than ten (10) hours per day.

CLINICAL TIME-KEEPING POLICY

Students are expected to validate their clinical attendance. The method of validation will be verified by using Trajecsyst time-keeping system at the clinical site. Students will use Trajecsyst time-keeping system to clock in/out during scheduled clinical time. Students will have a designated computer at their clinical site, so they are able to access Trajecsyst. The computer will be associated with a specific IP address the Clinical Coordinator will be able to track. Falsification of attendance records is considered academic dishonesty and will result in disciplinary action or possible dismissal from the program. Forgetting to clock in or out is not an acceptable excuse and may result in having to make up undocumented time.

CLINICAL MAKE-UP TIME POLICY

All missed clinical time will be completed during the semester. No make-up time may be scheduled during holidays, or when the college is officially closed. To assure that time limitations (10 hours per day) are not exceeded, students are required to communicate with the Clinical Coordinator prior to scheduling make-up clinical time.

- Students who do not complete their assigned clinical hours because of extenuating circumstances may request an incomplete grade according to the College Catalog Incomplete Grade policy (see [Incomplete Grade Policy](#)).

CLINICAL GRADING POLICY

Details of clinical grading will be included in the respective course syllabi. Performance evaluations, clinical projects and assignments, documentation, compliance with professional appearance standards, and attendance will determine clinical grade. The Clinical Staff, Clinical Preceptors, and Clinical Coordinator will evaluate the student on an ongoing basis.

CLINICAL SUPERVISION DEFINITIONS

- **Direct Supervision-** Student Supervision by a qualified practitioner who reviews the procedure in relation to the student's achievement, evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to the student's knowledge, is present during the procedure, and reviews and approves the procedure. A qualified radiographer is present during the student performance of a repeat of any unsatisfactory radiograph.
- **Indirect Supervision-** For radiography, that supervision provided by a qualified practitioner immediately available to assist students regardless of the level of student achievement. Immediately available is interpreted as the physical presence of a qualified practitioner adjacent to the room or location where a radiographic procedure is being performed. This availability applies to all areas where ionizing radiation equipment is in use.
- **Immediately available** is interpreted as the presence of a qualified radiographer adjacent to the room or location where a radiographic procedure is being performed. If the student requires assistance, the radiographer must be within hearing range of the student. The JRCERT does not accept electronic devices as a form of indirect supervision.

Also, see **Appendix E** for the Clinical Preceptors (CP) role description.

DIRECT SUPERVISION POLICY

After successfully completing a simulation at the College, students are required to request direct supervision prior to obtaining their clinical competency. Successful simulation is documented on the

student's competency log with a college instructor's signature. Students are required to perform under the direct supervision of an R.T.(R) during any procedure in which the student has not yet gained clinical competency. Students are required to decline participation in the procedure if direct supervision cannot be achieved. The Clinical Coordinator must be notified immediately if direct supervision is required and cannot be achieved. If a student is asked to perform a procedure prior to didactic instruction, the student is to inform the technologist that he/she has not yet received didactic instruction on said procedure, but is willing to participate in the learning environment by observing the procedure.

INDIRECT SUPERVISION POLICY

Upon competency achievement, students are permitted to perform radiologic procedures with indirect supervision of a qualified radiologic technologist. During the procedure, the qualified radiographer who is providing indirect supervision, is required to provide immediate assistance, should the student and/or patient require assistance. If indirect supervision of a qualified radiographer is not available the student is not permitted to perform the imaging procedure, until indirect supervision can be obtained.

REMOVAL FROM THE FLOOR POLICY

Students are strictly prohibited from initiating radiologic exposure if supervision (see direct and indirect supervision policies) is unavailable. During absences of indirect supervision, it is acceptable for students to perform other clinical tasks, unrelated to direct medical imaging (including but not limited to: answering telephones, directing patients, transporting patients for nearby imaging departments, etc.).

REPEAT RADIOGRAPH POLICY

If the qualified radiographer who is providing indirect supervision determines that a radiograph is unsatisfactory and requires a repeat exposure, the qualified radiographer must provide direct supervision and be physically present during the repeat exposure. Students MUST have the direct supervision regardless of how minor the repeat may be. The qualified technologist is required to approve the patient position and technical factors prior to re-exposure of the patient. Documented non-compliance of this policy is considered grounds for dismissal from the program.

It is the responsibility of the student to limit the patient radiation dosage to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). Students must also observe the radiation safety policy of the institution to which they are assigned. The policy and the practice of the students in the program is to decline to repeat a radiograph until they are provided with the direct supervision of a R.T.(R). **Problems with the availability of direct supervision are to be brought immediately to the attention of the Clinical Coordinator and/or Program Director.**

SURGICAL AND MOBILE SUPERVISION POLICY

Students must be directly supervised during all surgical and mobile procedures, including mobile fluoroscopy, regardless of the level of competency achieved.

DEVICE AND PATIENT HOLDING POLICY

Students are not permitted to hold image receptors during any radiographic procedures. Students also should not hold patients during any radiographic procedure when an immobilization method is the appropriate standard of care.

PREGNANT PATIENT POLICY

It is important to determine that the patient to be radiographed is not pregnant prior to radiation exposure. If there is any question of pregnancy, it is to be brought to the attention of a Radiologist. Students are ONLY permitted to expose a pregnant patient if the department approves and must be under **DIRECT SUPERVISION ONLY**. ONLY exams of the extremities (excluding above the knee) and headwork are permitted with direct supervisor (technologist) approval.

COMPETENCY REMOVAL POLICY

Students are required to successfully achieve competencies prior to working under indirect supervision of a qualified radiographer. Once a competency is obtained, students are expected and required to maintain competency for said procedure. Competencies may be removed if competency is not maintained.

- Competencies may be removed if it is determined that a student has not maintained competency on a procedure.
- Competency removal may be requested by a qualified radiographer, a Clinical Preceptor, or the Clinical Coordinator.
- The Clinical Coordinator will meet with the student involved in the competency removal, and the reason for competency removal will be addressed with the student.
- The Clinical Coordinator will then inform the student that direct supervision of a qualified radiographer is again required to perform said procedure, until competency can again be achieved.
- After the student successfully completes a re-evaluation for a competency, the student may work under indirect supervision when performing this procedure.

COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT NOTICE

The student is expected to progressively demonstrate clinical competency. Minimum thresholds will be in place for each clinical practicum experience. At program completion, the student must have completed all competencies to sit for the ARRT radiography exam. The student will be counseled if they are below required competencies for the semester. Ending a practicum below required levels may result in a grade of incomplete and impact progression within the program. Mercy College may require competencies that exceed the minimum ARRT requirements.

CLINICAL LUNCH POLICY

Students are entitled to a lunch when shifts extend beyond 6 hours. The R.T.(R) to whom the student is assigned, site coordinator, or the department manager will determine the lunch schedule. Students who leave the premises for lunch must notify the technologist in charge and clock out when leaving and then clock in again upon return.

PERSONAL DEVICES POLICY

Devices including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, and laptops are not to be used during clinical assignment. Students may make personal calls on their scheduled break or during lunch. Please see the course syllabus for associated point deductions.

PAID CLINICAL WORK POLICY

No stipend is paid to Radiologic Technology Program students during their clinical education. Clinical education is an educational requirement and, as such, is just as important as time spent in the classroom. Students may **never** take the place of a R.T.(R), regardless of patient volumes or site staffing levels. Students may be employed in the field of study outside regularly scheduled educational hours, provided the work does not interfere with their academic responsibilities.

VENIPUNCTURE & INJECTABLE SUBSTANCES POLICY

Students will be trained in venipuncture. After obtaining competency in venipuncture, students will follow the contrast administration policies of the respective radiology department. Note: not all facilities will permit students to perform venipuncture and/or contrast media injections. If permitted to participate in the parenteral injection of contrast media and other medications the student radiographer must be directly supervised by an R.T.(R) or radiologist throughout the procedure to ensure proper diagnosing of and treatment for possible allergic reaction.

ISOLATION PROCEDURE POLICY

All clinical affiliates' policies regarding infectious disease(s) will be followed. All cases of suspected or known infectious disease must be completed under direct supervision. In the event that the student is exposed to a communicable or infectious disease, the student must notify the Clinical Preceptor and program clinical coordinator immediately. The clinical affiliate's infectious disease policy will be followed at that point.

Students are responsible for learning the principles of Infection Control and applying guidelines in compliance with established policy and procedures of the clinical affiliate. Principles of Infection Control are taught prior to beginning the students' first clinical rotation.

EXCLUSION FROM PATIENT CARE POLICY

A student may ask to be excused from providing a specific aspect of a patient's care or treatment when the prescribed care or treatment conflicts with the student's values, ethics, or religious beliefs. The letter of request, detailing the rationale for exclusion, is to be submitted to the Clinical Coordinator and the Program Director.

MAMMOGRAPHY AND/OR SENSITIVE ANATOMY POLICY

All students, male and female, will be offered the opportunity to participate in mammography clinical rotations. The program will make every effort to place a male student in a mammography clinical rotation if requested; however, the program is not able to override clinical setting policies that restrict clinical experiences in mammography to female students. Male students are advised that placement in a mammography rotation is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of a clinical setting that allows males to participate in mammographic imaging procedures. The program will not deny female students the opportunity to participate in mammography rotations if clinical settings are not available to provide the same opportunity to male students.

Additionally, the policy may be applied to any imaging procedures performed by professionals who are of the opposite gender of the patient.

MRI SAFETY POLICY

This policy is to ensure the safety of the Radiologic Technology student when entering the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) department. Students must follow the rules and advice of the qualified MRI technologist, while in the MRI department. Students will receive MRI safety training each year.

- All students in the radiologic technology program will receive instruction on MRI safety during RAD 111, clinical orientation.
- Students are required to fill out and sign a pre-screening MRI safety checklist at Mercy College, during RAD 111.
- All students will be screened again and receive additional training during RAD 241, in preparation for a clinical rotation to an MRI department/facility.
- Students will be screened a third time at the assigned MRI facility.

Students are expected and required to be truthful in disclosing his/her medical or personal information, as it relates to MRI safety. Students must provide notification if his/her medical history changes, which could impact MRI safety. Students are not permitted to enter the MRI room without being thoroughly screened by qualified MR personnel. This may potentially compromise his/her safety and/or the safety of everyone in the MR environment. The MRI technologist on duty is responsible for the safety and wellbeing of all persons who enter the MRI room. If you are instructed to not enter the room for any reason, you must follow these instructions. Students are never permitted to bring any metal objects, or any other object, into the MRI room which may impact MRI safety.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

During orientation to the clinical education site, the student will be shown: the location of the Hazardous Materials/Waste Management Manual, the Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), the inventory of hazardous materials, hazard warning labels and their significance, and measures that a student can take to protect him/her from hazardous materials. The student has the right to information and to be free from retaliation for exercising his/her rights.

PATIENT CARE PROTOCOL

Patients are to be treated with respect and dignity always. Their physical comfort, emotional well-being, and safety are to be held in highest regard. A general rule of thumb is that every patient should be treated as one would wish to be treated.

It is expected that students utilize the AIDET approach when interacting with patients. More information on this approach can be found in **Appendix F**.

TECHNOLOGIST- STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

*The R.T.(R) has the right to expect that the **student will**:*

- Be punctual
- Show an eagerness to learn
- Have good interpersonal relationships with all personnel
- Adhere to the ARRT Code of Ethics
- Follow the policy and procedures of the clinical site and of the College
- Use all equipment and materials responsibly during the clinical experience
- Respond to positive suggestions that would improve the student performance
- Request to leave the assigned area and return quickly
- Show courtesy, cooperation, and respect.

*The Student has the right to expect that the **R.T.(R) will**:*

- Provide **direct or indirect supervision** of the student that is assigned to him/her based on the student's completed competencies.
- Under all circumstances provide **direct supervision** to the student repeating a radiograph for any reason.
- Set an example and guide the student radiographer for their development in a professional and ethical manner.
- Instruct and guide the student radiographer in the proper method of patient care.
- Demonstrate and explain the use of the equipment in the assigned radiology department.
- Instruct and guide the student in radiation protection practices.
- Guide the student in the selection of exposure factors.
- Objectively and routinely evaluate the student's clinical performance and confer with the Clinical Coordinator.
- Treat the student with respect.

If the student encounters a situation(s) where the above expectations are not being met, it is the responsibility of the student to report the situation(s) to a program administrator immediately.

Note: this list is not all inclusive.

X-RAY IMAGE MARKER POLICY

The student is expected to use x-ray markers (right and left with their initials) in the clinic and lab. Markers will need to be purchased by the student prior to entering the clinical setting. Markers can be ordered from a variety of websites; recommendations will be provided in RAD 111. The student will follow the policy of the assigned clinical site in the use and placement of markers for image

documentation. The student is expected to ask the technologist to whom he/she is assigned if any question about the use or placement of markers on radiographs occurs. Electronic/digital markers are not an acceptable replacement for physical x-ray markers.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROTECTED INFORMATION POLICY (HEALTH/FACILITY/PHYSICIAN/EMPLOYEE)

By law, all information contained in a patient's medical record/electronic health record, known as protected health information (PHI), is confidential. Information pertaining to the facility or relating to physicians or employees is considered confidential as well. All information that is discussed or made available in class or in the clinical facilities is therefore considered confidential and may not be discussed outside of the classroom or clinic.

Students may not disclose confidential information to unauthorized individuals, including family and/or friends. Failure to respect confidential information will result in dismissal from the program due to a breach of HIPAA laws.

CLASSROOM & LABORATORY POLICIES

COLLEGE DRESS CODE POLICY

Professional attire and professional appearance are a requirement while in the classroom and lab. Specific points to note:

- Due to Infection Control Policy, students must NOT wear the program scrub uniform to class if they are coming from their assigned clinical education site. A change of clothes is necessary before entering the College.
- Students must wear the Program uniform for all Laboratory Simulations.
- Students are expected to follow the dress code guidelines as listed in the College Catalog. All situations may not be covered in these guidelines and are left up to the discretion of the faculty. Failure to comply with appropriate dress will result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the classroom or lab.

PERSONAL DEVICES CLASS POLICY

Cell phones must be silenced before class and stowed away accordingly. If it is necessary to have cell phones on (e.g. childcare or family emergency), students must receive the instructor's approval before the start of class. Students will be allowed to check phones during breaks. At the end of a break, cell phones must be stowed away. If phones are out during any lecture or classroom activity, students may be asked to leave and will be considered absent (resulting in lost points), unless the instructor is asking students to use that device as part of an activity.

Personal computers can be used to take notes but should only be used for academic purposes in the classroom environment.

TYPES OF COURSE DELIVERY METHODS

The following instructional delivery methods may be implemented, as determined by course faculty, to reach course objectives for course requirements including but not limited to clinical, laboratory, practicum, and other course requirements: Face to Face, Web-Enhanced (also Web-Facilitated), Blended (also Hybrid), Online, and/or Accelerated.

- Online Synchronous Sessions may be required for courses with an online delivery method or in a situation where face-to-face courses are not able to meet on campus. Synchronous sessions allow classes to meet at the same time in an online format. Synchronous sessions will either be documented in the course syllabus or will be announced at least a week in advance for students to prepare for the session. Students not in attendance for a synchronous session will incur an unexcused absence for the course.

DIDACTIC/LAB ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to attend classes and labs. A phone call, text message, or email is appropriate and is expected if students will be late or absent from any didactic activity. Students should store appropriate phone numbers in their cell phones in case an unexpected situation arises.

Policy for absence on the day an exam or simulation is as follows:

- Appropriate documentation must be provided to be excused.
- *Exams*- Students are to complete exams within one week of returning to class. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and/or Testing Center to make these arrangements. All students will be tested over the same material; however, make-up exams *may* be a different format than the original exam.
- *Simulations*- Students are to complete the simulation within one week of returning to class. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make these arrangements.

Tardiness and leaving early are disruptive to the classroom setting and to student learning. Students who need to leave class early should discuss it with the instructor in advance. Refer to Program Attendance Policy for unexcused absences (pg.7).

Course syllabi will indicate specific policies.

ENERGIZED LABORATORY USAGE POLICY

The student is prohibited from conducting radiographic experiments without the supervision of an R.T.(R). Exposures involving human subjects are strictly prohibited. Initiation of radiation exposure without supervision may result in program dismissal.

OPEN LAB POLICY

The lab may be accessed between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday -Friday, as long as it is not being utilized for a scheduled class.

Open labs are supervised by an instructor and offered every week as an opportunity to practice the positioning and skills that are being taught in the classroom. In open lab, we strive to treat our classmates as if they are actual patients by listening to our patient, respecting personal space as well as sensitive areas of the body and notifying or asking permission before any touching is done.

Open labs are limited to a maximum of four (4) students per room per one-hour time slot to allow for all participants to have the opportunity for hands-on practice and instruction. Sign-up slots for supervised open labs will be posted on Monday morning for the following week to allow all students an equal chance to sign up for available times. Time slots for supervised open labs are scheduled around class time and will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. If you choose to sign up, attendance is very important. We want to make sure an instructor is present to assist and not showing up means that another classmate could have used that time slot to practice.

Access to the lab, outside the posted hours, will need approval from the lab coordinator. Anyone accessing the lab must sign in on the sign in sheet provided in the lab room. Energized Rad Lab Rooms may not be accessed without RAD Faculty present.

RADIOGRAPHIC SIMULATION POLICY

Simulations will be performed in the radiologic laboratory setting to ensure the student has gained competency in radiographic positioning prior to attempting competency in the clinical setting. Lab

simulations are a timed exam that will be performed during scheduled laboratory sessions with a faculty member.

Specific policies related to the process, repeat protocol, and time limits will be explained in the respective course. Clinical uniforms are required for this graded activity.

NOTE: Failure on the third attempt of a single simulation will result in failure of the course. Failure of the course will result in dismissal from the Radiologic Technology Program.

VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) SIMULATION POLICY

Simulations performed with the VR equipment cannot take the place of hands-on lab or clinical simulation. The VR equipment is used as a resource to reenforce learned content. Students using the VR equipment in the lab room must use SignUp Genius to reserve the room. Students are responsible for the safety and cleaning of the equipment.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PRACTICES

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Upon admission to the Radiologic Technology Program, each student is assigned an Academic Advisor. The academic advisor will monitor the academic progress of the assigned student throughout the curriculum and advise the student, as necessary. The Academic Advisor has posted office hours, and is also available by appointment, or by e-mail. It is recommended that Radiologic Technology students meet with their academic advisor each semester.

COURSE ENROLLMENT

It is the student's responsibility to register for courses each semester based on their respective plan of study. It is strongly recommended that you register for course in the EmpowerMe system promptly when the registration window opens to secure your seat in the courses you need.

Information on refund deadlines and how to add or drop a course can be found in <https://mercycollege.smartcatalogiq.com/>. **Before** any Radiologic Technology Program course is dropped, the Program Director or assigned academic advisor should be notified by the student via e-mail or other communication means.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONTINGENCY PLAN

In case of an unforeseen circumstance or emergent situation (natural disaster, inclement weather***, and local, state, or national emergency, etc.) where classes or clinical are unable to meet face-to-face, class delivery will move to a virtual/online delivery of content.

Didactic (Lecture) classes: Lecture courses will be delivered using synchronous, virtual format. Faculty will meet the students at the regularly scheduled class time via the "Classroom Link" in the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) course using a secure video conference software. All assignments are available in the Canvas course. Scheduled quizzes, test, or exams will be delivered via the LMS and monitored by faculty via a secure video conference software.

Labs: Labs will be delivered using synchronous, virtual format. Faculty will meet the students at the regularly scheduled class time via the "Classroom Link" in the Canvas course using a secure video conference software. Any student demonstration of positioning and simulations will either be rescheduled for return to campus (short-term) or virtual lab simulations (long-term). If virtual simulation is used to demonstrate lab competency, competency will be re-evaluated once labs resume on campus.

Clinical: If students are displaced from the clinical site, all required clinical time and clinical competencies will be made up on the return to the clinical site (short-term). If displacement continues, attempts will be made to place students at an alternate clinical site (long-term).

*****Inclement weather:** See the policy in the [College Catalog](#). If a student does not feel safe going to campus due to unusual weather conditions, the student can join class via secure video conference software. If a student does not feel safe going to clinical due to unusual weather conditions, missed clinical time will be considered an excused absence however, clinical time must be made up based on the College Credit Hour Policy. If the college campus (Lucas County) is closed due to inclement weather, students do not report to their clinical site(s). The Program Director will determine how clinical time is made up based on established college practices.

Appendix A – Technical Standards for Radiologic Technologists

In order to assure patient and student safety, to meet the program competencies, and for successful completion of the objectives of each radiologic technology course, an individual must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet the following technical standards:

- Ability to learn in the classroom and various educational settings.
- Ability to speak, hear, observe, read, and understand the English language in a manner sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care.
- Ability to communicate in sensitive and effective interactions with patients, families, and members of the health care team.
- Ability to effectively use imaging equipment, patient care technologies, information systems, and communication devices.
- Ability to observe patient conditions and respond appropriately to health and illness for purposes of providing safe and effective patient care.
- Ability to assess radiographic images for appropriate quality.
- Ability to meet physical strength and mobility demands of providing clinical care, attending to emergency situations, and performing maneuvers such as CPR.
- Ability to respond promptly to urgent and stressful situations that may occur during clinical education.
- Ability to think critically, solve problems, exercise professional judgement, promptly complete responsibilities, and make decisions for the care of persons, families, and /or communities across the health continuum and in a variety of settings.
- Ability to adjust imaging parameters and apply radiation protection factors accurately.
- Ability to show concern for others, compassion, human dignity, ethical conduct, and accountability.
- Ability to adapt to and function effectively to stressful situations in both the classroom and clinical settings.

To be qualified for the Mercy College Radiologic Technology program, individuals must be able to meet both academic standards and the technical standards listed previously, with or without reasonable accommodation(s). It is a student's responsibility to request reasonable accommodations following the procedures outlined in the *Mercy College of Ohio Undergraduate Catalog* or on the College's website at www.mercycollege.edu/student-affairs/accessibility; requests for reasonable accommodations will be reviewed and considered by the College. For further information regarding services and resources for students with disabilities and/or to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Accessibility and Services at 419-251-1784 or ADA504@mercycollege.edu.

These standards are not intended to deter any student who may be able to complete the requirements of the program with reasonable accommodations.

Please indicate below:

- ☐ I **can** meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.
- ☐ I **cannot** meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Student Signature

Date

APPENDIX B– JRCERT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiologic Sciences (*full copy on lab bulletin board*)

Standard One: Accountability, Fair Practices, and Public Information 4

The sponsoring institution and program promote accountability and fair practices in relation to students, faculty, and the public. Policies and procedures of the sponsoring institution and program must support the rights of students and faculty, be well-defined, written, and readily available.

Standard Two: Institutional Commitment and Resources 13

The sponsoring institution demonstrates a sound financial commitment to the program by assuring sufficient academic, fiscal, personnel, and physical resources to achieve the program's mission.

Standard Three: Faculty and Staff 18

The sponsoring institution provides the program adequate and qualified faculty that enable the program to meet its mission and promote student learning.

Standard Four: Curriculum and Academic Practices 26

The program's curriculum and academic practices prepare students for professional practice.

Standard Five: Health and Safety 38

The sponsoring institution and program have policies and procedures that promote the health, safety, and optimal use of radiation for students, patients, and the public.

Standard Six: Programmatic Effectiveness and Assessment: Using Data for Sustained Improvement 44

The extent of a program's effectiveness is linked to the ability to meet its mission, goals, and student learning outcomes. A systematic, ongoing assessment process provides credible evidence that enables analysis and critical discussions to foster ongoing program improvement.

Glossary 50

Awarding, Maintaining, and Administering Accreditation 53

Complete details of JRCERT accreditation standards can also found here:

<https://www.jrcert.org/accreditation-information/accreditation-standards-2021/>

APPENDIX C – ARRT CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics shall serve as a guide by which Certificate Holders and Candidates may evaluate their professional conduct as it relates to patients, healthcare consumers, employers, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team. The Code of Ethics is intended to assist Certificate Holders and Candidates in maintaining a high level of ethical conduct and in providing for the protection, safety, and comfort of patients. The Code of Ethics is aspirational.

1. The radiologic technologist acts in a professional manner, responds to patient needs, and supports colleagues and associates in providing quality patient care.
2. The radiologic technologist acts to advance the principal objective of the profession to provide services to humanity with full respect for the dignity of mankind.
3. The radiologic technologist delivers patient care and service unrestricted by the concerns of personal attributes or the nature of the disease or illness, and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, age, or any other legally protected basis.
4. The radiologic technologist practices technology founded upon theoretical knowledge and concepts, uses equipment and accessories consistent with the purposes for which they were designed, and employs procedures and techniques appropriately.
5. The radiologic technologist assesses situations; exercises care, discretion, and judgment; assumes responsibility for professional decisions; and acts in the best interest of the patient.
6. The radiologic technologist acts as an agent through observation and communication to obtain pertinent information for the physician to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient and recognizes that interpretation and diagnosis are outside the scope of practice for the profession.
7. The radiologic technologist uses equipment and accessories, employs techniques and procedures, performs services in accordance with an accepted standard of practice, and demonstrates expertise in minimizing radiation exposure to the patient, self, and other members of the healthcare team.
8. The radiologic technologist practices ethical conduct appropriate to the profession and protects the patient's right to quality radiologic technology care.
9. The radiologic technologist respects confidences entrusted in the course of professional practice, respects the patient's right to privacy, and reveals confidential information only as required by law or to protect the welfare of the individual or the community.
10. The radiologic technologist continually strives to improve knowledge and skills by participating in continuing education and professional activities, sharing knowledge with colleagues, and investigating new aspects of professional practice.
11. The radiologic technologist refrains from the use of illegal drugs and/or any legally controlled substances which result in impairment of professional judgement and/or ability to practice radiologic technology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

The complete ARRT Standards of Ethics can be found here: <https://www.arrt.org/pdfs/governing-documents/standards-of-ethics.pdf>

Appendix D – Mercy College Radiation Protection Plan

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS

1. We shall supply appropriate personnel monitoring equipment to, and shall require the use of such equipment by:
 - a. Each individual who enters a restricted area under such circumstances that he/she receives, or is likely to receive, a dose in any calendar year in excess of 10% of the applicable occupational exposure limit value specified in Ohio Rule 3701:1-38-12.
 - b. Each individual under 18 years of age who enters a restricted area under such circumstances that he/she receive, or is likely to receive, a dose in any calendar year in excess of 5% of the applicable value in the above table.Occupational exposure limit value specified in Ohio Rule 3701:1-38-12.

Body Area	Rems per calendar year
The total effective dose equivalent	5
The sum of the deep dose equivalent and the committed dose equivalent to any individual organ or tissue other than the lens of the eye.	50
Lens dose equivalent	15
Shallow dose equivalent to skin or extremity	50

MAINTAINING OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS AS LOW AS REASONABLY ACHIEVABLE (ALARA)

2. Mercy College of Ohio is committed to the program described as keeping individual and collective doses as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).
3. The IRRP will perform a quarterly review of occupational exposure with particular attention to which the investigational levels in the following tables are exceeded.
4. The IRRP will evaluate overall efforts for maintaining doses ALARA on an annual basis.

ALARA Investigational Levels (millirem per calendar quarter)

Body Area	ALARA Level I	ALARA Level II
Whole Body	125	375
Extremities or Skin	1250	3750
Lens of Eyes	375	1125

ESTABLISHMENT OF ALARA INVESTIGATIONAL LEVELS

Mercy College of Ohio hereby establishes investigational levels for occupational exposure which, when exceeded, will initiate review or investigation by the IRRP.

5. Personnel dose less than Investigational Level I
 - a. Except when deemed appropriate by the IRRP, no further action will be taken in cases where an individual's dose is less than values for Investigational Level I
6. Personnel dose equal to or greater than Investigational Level I, but less than Investigational Level II
 - a. The IRRP will review the dose with each individual and provide counseling on dose limits.
7. Personnel dose equal to or greater than Investigational Level II

- a. The IRRP will investigate in a timely manner the causes of all personnel doses equaling or exceeding Investigational Level II and, if warranted, remove the student from clinical.
- Note: The complete Radiation Protection plan is available upon request.**

Appendix E: CP Role

Overview: The Clinical Preceptor will be responsible for coordinating the student clinical experience at a specific clinical site. This individual must possess the knowledge and skills to teach and supervise students in the clinical setting. The Clinical Preceptor acts as a role model for students and an unpaid liaison between the college and clinical site.

Minimum Requirements:

- Current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists credential in the category of radiography.
- Current Ohio Department of Health license in the field of radiology (Ohio sites only).
- Proficient in supervision, instruction, and evaluation.
- Minimum of 2 years full-time experience as a diagnostic radiographer.
- Officially recognized by Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) as a Clinical Preceptor.

Responsibilities:

- Maintains knowledge of program mission and goals.
- Understands the clinical objectives and clinical evaluation system and evaluating students' clinical competence.
- Provides students with clinical instruction and supervision both direct and indirect in accordance with documented student competencies.
- Understands the sequencing of didactic instruction and clinical education.
- Maintains competency in the professional discipline through continuing professional development as mandated by the ARRT.
- Compliant with ARRT and Ohio Department of Health requirements, if applicable.
- Participates in the assessment process, as appropriate.
- Maintains current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress and monitoring and enforcing program policies and procedures.
- Orients new students to the clinical site, the radiology department, and radiology equipment.
- Meets with Clinical Coordinator to communicate student progress, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Assists in maintaining effective and well documented student clinical records.
- Maintains confidentiality in accordance with program policy.

APPENDIX F: AIDET INFORMATION

The keys to effective patient and customer communication include:

A	ACKNOWLEDGE:	Greet the patient by name. Make eye contact, smile, and acknowledge family or friends in the room.
I	INTRODUCE:	Introduce yourself with your name, skill set, professional certification, and experience.
D	DURATION:	Give an accurate time expectation for tests, physician arrival, and identify next steps. When this is not possible, give a time in which you will update the patient on progress.
E	EXPLANATION:	Explain step-by-step what to expect next, answer questions, and let the patient know how to contact you, such as a nurse call button.
T	THANK YOU:	Thank the patient and/or family. You might express gratitude to them for choosing your hospital or for their communication and cooperation. Thank family members for being there to support the patient.

Source: <https://www.studergroup.com/aidet>

APPENDIX G: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[ARRT – Standards of Ethics](#)

[ARRT – Radiography Certification & Registration Handbook](#)

[ARRT – Radiography Didactic and Clinical Competency Requirements](#)

[ASRT – Digital Radiography Best Practices](#)

[ASRT – Radiography Practice Standards](#)

APPENDIX H: JRCERT WEBSITE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST



The JRCERT promotes excellence in education and elevates the quality and safety of patient care through the accreditation of educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry.

WEBSITE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Required published program and/or sponsoring institution information	Direct link to information on program or institution's website
Admission and transfer of credit policies	College Catalog Link Admission Policy Mercy College Credit Transfer Policy Website Link
Tuition, fees, and refunds	College Catalog Link Tuition, fees, and refunds Policy – Pages 62-64
Graduation requirements	College Catalog Link Associate of Applied Science Degree – Pages 201-203 Associate of Applied Science Degree in Radiologic Technology Requirements – Pages 266-268
Grading system	Program Handbook Radiologic Technology Program Grading Policy – Page 7
Program mission statement, goals, and student learning outcomes**	Radiologic Technology Program Webpage
Accreditation status**	Radiologic Technology Program Webpage
Articulation agreement(s)	Mercy College Articulation Agreements College Website Link
Academic calendar	Mercy College Academic Calendar College Website Link
Clinical obligations	College Catalog Link Clinical Compliance Requirements Clinical Liability Insurance Program Handbook Link Clinical Obligations Policies
Grievance policy and/or procedures	Mercy College Grievance - Adjudication Procedures Website Link College Catalog Link Civil Rights/Nondiscrimination Policy – Page 38-40 Accessibility/ADA/504 Policy – Page 88-89 Sexual Harassment Policy – Page 93-108 Student Complaint Policy – Page 142-144 Course Grade Appeal – Page 171-172
Program Effectiveness Data on JRCERT provided template**	Radiologic Technology Program Webpage

**These items are listed directly on the program's home webpage. All other required information is acceptable via the Mercy College website, Radiologic Technology Program webpage, or the current Program Handbook.