INFORMATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

**Visit How to Apply on the DRT Program homepage for more information, including deadlines.
Click into each section to access additional information.**

Thank you for your interest in Merced College's Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program.

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of Merced College Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program is to promote student success by providing a continually improving educational program that prepares graduates to competently practice radiography at the entry level.

PROGRAM GOALS

Goal 1 - COMMUNICATION: Students will communicate effectively.
Goal 2 – CRITICAL THINKING: Students will apply clinical reasoning skills in their daily practice.
Goal 3 - COMPETENCY: Students will perform successfully as entry level radiographers.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Please read the following information carefully:
All prerequisites must be completed with a "C" or higher and grades demonstrated on transcripts prior to applying.
No "in progress" prerequisites will be accepted. Combined GPA on prerequisites must be a 2.75 or higher.

PREREQUISITES:
- ALLH-67 Medical Terminology
- BIOL-16 General Human Anatomy
- CHEM-2A Introductory Chemistry
- ENGL-1A College Composition & Reading
- College Level Transferable Math
- RADT 50 Career Exploration in Medical Imaging *or* Verification of Career Exploration Experience form

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Regarding Verification of Career Exploration Experience: Refer to the "How to Apply" information on the DRT homepage for more on this option. The two-page Verification of Career Exploration form can be submitted in place of taking RADT-50 for applying to the Program. Form will be reviewed by RT Program Director during the application review process and a grade for application GPA purposes will be based on supervisor's evaluation.

REQUIRED ABILITIES OF A STUDENT RADIOGRAPHER

Review the physical, mental and emotional requirements for a student radiographer on the DRT Program homepage under How to Apply.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY

You are encouraged to view the Grid of Comparable Prerequisites Courses online for program prerequisite information. Please refer to this chart if you plan to take, or have taken, prerequisite courses outside of Merced College. This grid is to be used as a reference only. IF your course is NOT listed on the Grid of Comparable Prerequisite Courses, you must make an appointment with an ALLIED HEALTH Counselor (call 209-381-6478 or email ecounselor@mccd.edu) to verify equivalency.

Students are responsible for ensuring their course work is equivalent to Merced College requirements. If you need your course(s) verified for equivalency, fill out the Equivalency Verification Form.

COUNSELING AND TRANSFERABILITY

It is recommended that prospective applicants meet with an academic counselor to review their college transcripts only if prerequisite courses are not listed on the Grid of Comparable Prerequisite Courses. Any courses needing to be petitioned for equivalency need to be done at that time. Petitions must be completed prior to the application deadline.

It is strongly recommended that applicants complete the General Education courses required for the Associate's Degree. Questions regarding graduation requirements, and transferability of course work should be directed to one of the academic counselors (preferably an Allied Health counselor) in Merced College's Counseling & Guidance Department. Use the link to make a counseling appointment.

- **Recency:** There is no course recency requirement for this program. Program prerequisites are not expected to have been completed within a certain timeframe.
- **Equivalency:** All prerequisite coursework taken at colleges or universities other than Merced College must be comparable in content to the required Merced College course in order to be applicable to this program.
- **Work in Progress:** no prerequisite coursework may be in progress at the time of applying. All prerequisites must be shown as complete with a grade on official transcripts.
- **General Education:** All General Education courses must be completed to earn the Associate of Science degree in Radiologic Technology; otherwise the student will not be eligible to sit for the ARRT national registry exam to become licensed. Due to the rigorous course load during the program, we strongly recommend that all applicants complete their General Education courses prior to applying for the program.
- **Grades** of C- or lower are NOT acceptable in fulfillment of prerequisite courses.

TRANSCRIPTS

All applicants are required to upload transcript(s) with their application. Transcripts must include all work shown as completed on the application. An application that is not completely filled out and/or does not have all transcripts submitted by the application deadline will be considered incomplete.

You can login to your MC Self-Service account to view and print a PDF of your unofficial transcript.

You will need to request **two copies** of your official transcript(s) from all institutions other than Merced College:

1st Copy Required: Official transcript(s) from other colleges/universities must be sent directly to the Merced College Admissions & Records office by the transcript submission deadline.

2nd Copy Required: You also need to request an official transcript(s) sent directly from your institution(s) to you. Plan to submit a copy (PDF) of your official transcript(s) with your application. We understand that once you open the copy, it becomes unofficial. This will be accepted for this application.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS

Any students who have completed coursework at another university or college from a foreign country must provide transcripts.

Applicants with college transcripts outside the U.S. will need to have them evaluated for U.S. equivalency. International transcripts without official translation will not be accepted for credit.

International transcripts must be officially evaluated by the following agency:

Educational Records Evaluation Service, Inc.
2480 Hilborn Rd., Ste. # 106
Fairfield, CA 94534
(P) 707-759-2866   Email edu@eres.com

<u>**SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION**</u>

Admission requirements and procedures are subject to change at any time.

In order to apply to the Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program at Merced College, a Merced College student ID is required. If you do not have a student ID, you must apply for one.

ADMISSION POLICY

Admission into the DRT Program is based on criteria approved by Merced College and consistent with State and Federal law, regulations and program accreditation guidelines. Primary admission criteria include completion of the prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better, combined pre-requisite GPA of 2.75 or higher, and compliance with the technical standards stated on the DRT Program website.

The Merced College DRT Program does not have a wait list. Applicants who have previously applied, and wish to reapply, must submit the current application each year.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

16-20 eligible students are randomly drawn and admitted to the program only once a year.

Selection occurs in spring for the program start date in fall of the same year.

Upon selection into the Radiologic Technology Program students must confirm acceptance to participate in the program and must attend a mandatory program orientation. Information about the orientation will be provided at the time of selection. Failure to attend will result in forfeiture of program placement.

Upon admission to the program, all immunizations, health exams, CPR requirements, etc. must be met prior to beginning the Radiologic Technology Program. More information provided at time of admission to the program.

LOTTERY

Merced College utilizes a computerized statistical lottery selection process for admission into the Radiologic Technology Program. The Lottery Process is used in response to more eligible applicants than enrollment space to the Allied Health Programs. The lottery is student driven, which means the student is responsible for supplying all transcripts and supplemental documentation required. To be included in the Lottery, **the program application must be completed and all transcripts and supplemental documents included or it will be considered incomplete and processing will be terminated.** All qualified applications received before the stated deadline will be treated equally regardless of the submission date.

All applicants who meet the application requirements are included in the lottery. After the lottery is complete, applications are evaluated to confirm eligibility. ALL applicants (accepted, alternates, not accepted, and disqualified) will receive notification to both their Merced College and personal email addresses that the applicant provided on their application.

ABOUT THE DRT PROGRAM

The Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program is a demanding full-time program. Because of the time commitment, students may find it difficult to work while attending. Students are also expected to complete intense homework assignments.

During the 29-month program, students rotate through a variety of radiology departments where exposure to patient care, professional ethics, and direct instruction is provided by certified radiologic technologists.

Transportation to clinical areas may involve extensive travel and is the responsibility of the student. Clinical assignments may include day, evening, and weekend hours. By applying to this program, students agree to accept clinical assignments in whichever facility they are assigned, regardless of geographical distance. Clinical assignments are made with primary concern being to provide students with the best, most well-rounded clinical experience possible.

For a list of the program's clinical affiliates, refer to the DRT Program homepage.

Students must adhere to clearance requirements in order to be accepted into, and continue enrollment in, Allied Health Programs' clinical courses. Requirements include: background checks, drug screenings, vaccinations and boosters (for example, COVID-19).

Positive results on background checks and drug testing or failure to comply with clinical requirements could impact a student's ability to attend clinic, complete program requirements, or gain a license to practice upon graduation. The student will pay for the costs related to required physical examinations, immunizations, background screenings and drug testing.

Students are required to have health insurance while in the program.

ACCREDITATION

The Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program at Merced College is accredited by both the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and the California Department of Public Health Radiologic Health Branch (RHB). The Program's Effectiveness data can be found both on the Program Website as well as directly on the JRCERT website. The effectiveness data includes information such as Program Completion Rate, ARRT Examination Pass Rate, and Job Placement Rate.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND CURRICULUM

The Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program is a full-time program to which students are admitted each Fall Semester. The program is 29 consecutive months in length, composed of five semesters and two twelve week summer sessions.

Information on the program courses and schedule is available in the Merced College Catalog, the searchable class schedule, or the DRT Program mapper.

The DRT Program Flow Chart and Class Schedule is posted on the DRT homepage.

INSTRUCTION

The first semester is comprised of lecture/theory and lab/practicum taught in the DRT Program's energized lab on campus. In the course of learning about radiographic position (classes/labs/demonstrations and/or practice) students might be palpated in areas that are routinely used as external positioning landmarks.

Beginning with the second semester, students will enroll in clinical experience courses for which they will be assigned to a clinical facility, in addition to taking didactic (classroom and lab) courses.

View DRT course descriptions, or the DRT Program mapper.

The DRT Program Flow Chart and Class Schedule is posted on the DRT homepage.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Once the student is accepted into the program, it is their responsibility to assure completion of A.S. Degree requirements prior to the end of the second Fall semester in the program. At the end of the second Fall semester, the student is awarded an Associate in Science Degree in Diagnostic Radiologic Technology.

At the end of the seventh semester, students that have successfully completed all coursework, will receive a Certificate of Completion in Diagnostic Radiologic Technology and are then eligible to write the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists national registry examination and if successful, can practice in this field.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While in the Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program, you will require significant financial support.

Radiography students are routinely assigned clinical activities at hospitals and clinics away from campus and/or outside of their hometown. You will need to provide transportation for such assignments. The number of hours you will spend in classes and clinical experience make it difficult for a student to work while enrolled in the program. In addition, working while enrolled in the program is going to put a strain on your ability to study for your course work. Though most of the classes and clinical work are scheduled during the day hours, there are assignments on evenings and weekends in the last year of the program.

We strongly recommend you plan ahead financially for the 29 months of the program.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

An estimate of the cost of the program is provided. Tuition fees are subject to change. Non-residents of California pay tuition set by the College.

Financial Aid Assistance and services are available to prospective students Merced College.

The first semester is the costliest semester for textbooks. Most of the textbooks purchased in the first semester will be utilized throughout the duration of the program.

Legal residents of California are required to pay nominal fees. In addition, students may expect to incur other unforeseen expenses throughout the duration of the program.

The **estimated** costs are as follows:

A.	Fees - (estimates only)	
	Enrollment (entire program $46/unit x 71.25 units) Contact Admissions and Records for details. Fees subject to change as per State Legislature. Non-Resident Tuition ($279/unit)	3277.50
	Student Health (Fall/Spring semester $23 x 5; summer $19 x 2)	153.00
	Student Representation (Fall/Spring semester $2 x 5; no fee in summer)	10.00
	Student Body (Fall/Spring semester $10 x 5; no fee in summer)	50.00
	Transportation ($9.95 per semester if enrolled in 12 units or more; $6.95 if enrolled in less than 12 units)	57.66
	Parking (Fall/Spring $30 x 5; summer $15 x 2)	180.00

B.	Additional Expenses - (estimates only)	
	Identification Markers	20.00
	Program Pin (optional)	55.00
	Books (entire program)	1600.00
	Follett Access - Textbooks **(OPTIONAL)** $25/unit x 71.25 units)	
	CPR Certification - BLS (American Heart Association)	60.00
	Physical & Immunizations	400.00
	Uniforms (entire program)	180.00
	Background Clearance (criminal/financial/social security trace), Drug Screening & Immunization Tracker	200.00
	Online Record Keeping (Trajecsys)	150.00
C.	**Licensing**	
	Application Fees for State / National Board Exams	400.00
	Grand Total	**$6,793.16**

Fees are subject to change. Non-resident students are required by state law to pay non-resident tuition.

Consult the Merced College catalog for current fees or Merced College Admissions and Records.

CHARACTER REQUIREMENT

Eligibility for the ARRT examination requires the candidate to be of good moral character. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony may indicate a lack of good moral character for eligibility purposes and will require a thorough review. Students should begin the review process as early as possible, as the ethics review may be delayed until all court conditions have been completed, including probation and summary discharge.

Use the ARRT Ethics Review Pre-application if you've faced:
- Misdemeanor or felony charges or convictions
- Military court-martials
- Disciplinary actions taken by a state or federal regulatory authority or certification board
- Serious honor code (academic) violations as described in the ARRT's Rules of Ethics, such as patient abuse, violating patient confidentiality, and cheating. You don't have to report offenses such as poor grades or falling asleep in class.

Pre-application review procedure is available at the ARRT website.

LAST THOUGHTS

Thank you for your interest in the Diagnostic Radiologic Technology Program.

Please check out the RT program's homepage for all the latest information, including deadlines.

For more information or additional questions that are not addressed in this document, please contact Merced College's Counseling & Guidance Department.