



Penn State – New Kensington

Radiological Sciences Program

Radiological Sciences FAQ Sheet Fall 2023 Start

- Penn State New Kensington's Radiological Sciences program is a comprehensive academic and clinical-based curriculum.
- The student graduates with 68 credits and receives an Associate Degree in Radiological Sciences.
- The program begins in the fall of each year and requires 24 consecutive months (six semesters including summer sessions) to complete.
 - Program hours are specific to each clinical site and are completed in 8 ½ hour increments of time (each student gets 45 minutes for lunch).
 - All students have five (11:15 – 8) rotations throughout the program beginning in the spring of the first year.
- The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.
- ***Suggested Academic Plan (found on website under Degree Information then click on suggested academic plan – <http://newkensington.psu.edu/degree-information-2-year-radiological-sciences>***

Program mission, goals, student learning outcomes, program statistics to include program retention, job placement and certification success rate can be found on the website.

<http://newkensington.psu.edu/program-accreditation-2-year-radiological-sciences> All students are given very specific policy and procedure to follow while in the program. Current policy and procedure to include Student Handbooks, Clinical Handbooks and Radiation & MRI Safety Handbooks are posted on the program website. <http://newkensington.psu.edu/program-policies>

What Classes Will I Be Taking? - Suggested Academic Plan

I noticed I have to get a C or higher in the RADSC courses and some of the other classes that have an asterisk by them. What about the other courses:

All RADSC courses (except RADSC 295) - you must get a 75% (C) or higher to successfully pass the course. RADSC 295 - you must receive an 85% (C) or higher to successfully pass the course.

The other required courses are minimum of a C or higher to successfully meet all requirements of the program.

All graduates of Penn State are well rounded with the quality education received. Each student must take an art and international studies course to graduate. Each course will have initials after indicating what the course is and if it is a requirement for degree major or general education. For ex, IL is the international studies component. To complete the Radiological Sciences Associate Degree the AAP 100 will fulfill 2 requirements both the art and international studies. If you choose not to follow the suggested academic plan you must make sure to fulfill all requirements to satisfy the degree. Please remember the RADSC courses are sequential in nature, you have to take and successfully pass one course to move on to the next.

What is a Blended (Hybrid) Learning Course? Will I take any Blended Learning courses while in the program?

Yes, currently the program has blended courses dispersed throughout the curriculum. The official Penn State description of a hybrid (blended) course can be found : please click on the link below:

<https://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/instruction-modes.cfm>

Hybrid courses are specific packages of online and face-to-face content and processes organized to reduce or replace the number of required class sessions in order to improve effectiveness and flexibility for instructors and students and/or to achieve other efficiencies. Hybrid courses reduce by approximately 40% or more the number of required classroom sessions, although some classroom sessions are required.

At Penn State New Kensington, blended courses typically replace between 25 – 50% of face-to-face class time with activities done outside of the classroom. Examples of out of class activities include reading assignments, writing assignments, projects (both group and independent), quizzes, video lectures, problem sets and online discussion. The time needed to succeed in a blended course is not less than a traditional course, but it is organized differently.

Students taking a blended course at Penn State New Kensington are expected to:

- Have access to a computer with reliable internet connectivity (campus computers are available for those without access elsewhere).
- Refer to the detailed course schedule to complete out of class assignments on time and be prepared to participate in face-to-face class activities.
- Communicate promptly with their instructor about any problems they are having with either the out of class or face-to-face course material.

- Show respect for each other and for the learning environment through thoughtful contributions, civil interactions and ethical behavior both in class and online.

Which clinical sites are associated with the program? Can I pick my own clinical site?

The clinical sites are listed on the program website. You must understand your acceptance to the program guarantees you a clinical spot not a clinical site. (Pending you have satisfied all requirements of the admissions process including contacting Marcia Curler upon receipt of your acceptance letter).

Our clinical sites are geographically dispersed. You will be assigned a primary clinical site but will perform rotations at the other clinical sites of the program. Each student will be given a clinical site schedule to include start times and clinical rotations at the beginning of each semester. It is the student's responsibility for transportation and parking at the clinical sites.

What are the Admissions requirements?

In addition to meeting the initial Penn State admission requirements, all students admitted to the Radiological Sciences program must complete/have evaluated the following:

- Math, Science and SAT scores are evaluated (Test optional until fall of 2023)
- Schedule Shadowing at one of our clinical sites. (Shadowing is scheduled at either Butler Memorial Hospital, Allegheny General, Forbes Hospital or West Penn Hospitals a part of Allegheny Health Network, and UPMC St. Margaret)
 - Provide verification of current 2 step TB test (within past 6 months)
 - Provide copy of immunization records
- Complete placement testing (ALEKS) if applicable
- Complete a RADSC New Student Orientation session (mandatory)
- Attend a mandatory Informational Session

Transfer Students

- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Meet all admission requirements of Radiological Sciences program
- Must complete change of assignment and change of major form (**Penn State students only**)
- Program reserves the right to have any/all transfer students complete placement testing prior to admission to the program.
- Schedule Shadowing at one of our clinical sites (Shadowing is scheduled at either Butler Memorial Hospital, Allegheny General, Forbes Hospital or West Penn Hospitals a part of Allegheny Health Network, and UPMC St. Margaret).
 - Provide verification of current 2 step TB test (within past 6 months)
 - Provide copy of immunization records
- Complete a RADSC New Student Orientation session (mandatory)
- Attend a mandatory Informational Session

Where can I find information to complete the application?

Information on the application process and all forms are available on the RADSC program website.

<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/2-year-radiological-sciences/incoming-student-information>

Do I have to be drug tested or have background checks? (Please see below)

To comply with Federal and State health and safety regulations, including the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, each clinical affiliate has established a drug-free workplace policy and procedure. To provide for maximum student competency and to promote the wellbeing and safety of all patients and others at each clinical affiliate, all Radiological Science students will be required by their assigned clinical sites to submit to drug screening and a criminal background check. Clinical facilities may impose conditions such as having their faculty/staff reserve the right to remove students from a clinical assignment in the event of suspected or questionable impairment and report for a random drug screening before returning to the clinical assignment. The clinic may impose its normal work rule sanctions, such as if any drug screening is positive for any reason, the student will be removed from the clinical assignment pending an investigation which may lead to dismissal from that particular clinical site or the program. Initial and random drug screening is solely for compliance with a drug-free workplace of the clinical affiliates and is not a requirement of the Pennsylvania State University. All fees associated with drug screening and criminal background checks are the responsibility of the student and not included as part of the tuition or associated activity fees.

You may begin upload of the information listed below after **March 1** to Castlebranch, a records management company. Physicals must be within one year of the start of the program each fall. Background checks must be within six months of the start of the program in the fall of each year. **DO NOT GET THE DRUG TESTING DONE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.** Please refer to the RADSC website for more information.

- Complete the application. (Follow links on program website)
 - Undergraduate Application to Penn State:
(<http://newkensington.psu.edu/application-process>)
 - Check Radiological Sciences as Choice of Major.
 - Check New Kensington as **First Choice Campus and Ending Campus.**
 - Upon receipt of acceptance letter from Penn State, contact Marcia Curler (mac51@psu.edu) 724-334-6722 within 2 weeks of receipt of letter. Any student not contacting Marcia Curler may forfeit the clinical spot for the program. Attend a mandatory informational session. Register for one of the informational sessions. You will receive information from the campus Enrollment Services to register for the informational session of your choice.
- Shadow at one of the clinical affiliates. It is mandatory to shadow for eight hours but you may shadow additional hours if you so choose.

- Schedule the mandatory 8-hour shadowing.
- **To schedule shadowing at Allegheny General Hospital (AGH), Forbes or West Penn Hospital a part of Allegheny Health Network and UPMC St. Margaret.** Note it will take approximately 3 weeks to complete paperwork and confirm your shadow date from the clinical site. You must contact the clinical preceptor of the clinical site prior to completing the application with requested dates of shadowing. The clinical preceptor will respond via email. This email must be uploaded to the application for any shadowing at an AHN facility. Once your shadow date is scheduled you MUST contact Marcia Curler at mac51@psu.edu or 724-334-6722 that your shadow is complete.
 - Go to www.ahn.org
 - Hover over the “For Professionals” tab
 - Then under the Education tab- click on Career Exploration
 - Under Career Exploration
 - Scroll down towards bottom of page and click on Shadow/Observer Experience
 - Please read the information regarding shadowing
 - Click on Next Steps
 - You will find the application for shadow under #2
 - Complete the application for shadow and the mentor’s name under #4.
 - AGH – Lindsay Kaselonis - Clinical Preceptor. Best way to contact Ms. Kaselonis is via email at Lindsay.Kaselonis@AHN.ORG
 - Forbes Hospital — Ashey Bostaph-Interim Clinical Preceptor. Best way to contact the Ms. Bostaph via email at abostap1@ahn.org
 - West Penn Hospital – Mystee Kustes and Carl Tutak – Clinical Preceptors. Best way to contact Mr. Tutak and Ms.Kustes is via email at Carl.Tutak@ahn.org and Mystee.Kustes@ahn.org

Complete the required documentation

- Upload required information i.e., TB test results, email confirmation of shadowing date.
- You will shadow from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- Bring your lunch or money to eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Bring money for parking (depends on site).
- Please make sure to dress appropriately – dress pants, shirt & tie, blouse/sweater, dress (conservative length) and comfortable shoes.

- Once you have the date for shadowing scheduled, please contact Marcia Curler at (724) 334-6722 or email at mac51@psu.edu - Best way to reach is via email.

- **To schedule shadowing at Butler Memorial Hospital.**

Please contact Claire McCorkle in the Medical Staff Office at the following:

- Claire.McCorkle@butlerhealthsystem.org
- You will receive an email from Ms. McCorkle.
- Attached to the email from Ms. McCorkle is the paperwork that must be completed to request an observation at Butler Memorial Hospital.
- Below is the link to obtain the Act34 Clearance, as mentioned in the paperwork. *Obtaining this clearance is the responsibility of the requestor.* You may apply for the free Volunteer option. Please make sure to submit the certificate form.
- Please also submit a copy of your driver's license or photo id. A physical is not required.
- **Act 34:** <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- Once all of the documents have been completed and submitted to Ms.McCorkle she will forward your request to the Radiology Department for approval.
- **Please remember you will have to have Act 33/34 clearances as requirements for the program and will upload to Castlebranch once you have an established account.**
- Please make sure to dress appropriately – dress pants, shirt & tie, blouse/sweater, dress (conservative length) and comfortable shoes.
- **Once you have the date for shadowing scheduled, please contact Marcia Curler at (724) 334-6722 or email at mac51@psu.edu. Best way to reach is via email.**

- **To schedule shadowing at St. Margaret's**

- Contact Clinical Preceptor Sue Kostewicz
Email: kostsx2@upmc.edu
- Email Marcia Curler at mac51@psu.edu once shadowing is completed.

- **Schedule Radiological Sciences New Student Orientation (RADSC NSO) RADSC NSO June 20, 2023. The day will begin at 7:30 am until completed approx. 12:30 pm. You will Schedule a RADSC New Student Orientation (RADSC NSO) through VZO. You will receive information from the campus to schedule. Please make sure to check your email regularly.**

- Parents and significant others may attend the RADSC NSO but only for the initial portion. Once completed you will have to wait for your student to finish.
- **This session is mandatory for all students who receive the email from the campus. Please follow the instructions carefully to register for the RADSC NSO. If you do not complete the RADSC NSO instructions you will not be able to attend the campus RADSC NSO, complete your**

semester schedule of classes, get your PSU ID and access account etc. If you have any questions regarding the campus RADSC NSO please contact Ruth Herstek at rah32@psu.edu or (724) 334 -6094.

- Please remember to dress appropriately – business casual.
- You will be given instructions for the picture for your PSU ID. Please make sure to bring your license or a government issued ID on for the RADSC NSO on June 20, 2023.

- Complete Penn State placement testing if applicable (ALEKS Assessment). You will receive information regarding the ALEKS Assessment from the campus.
- Complete Radiological Sciences physical form (found on website - <http://newkensington.psu.edu/incoming-student-information> and PSU online health history form. (Please know these are 2 different forms).
 - Physical must be completed on RADSC physical form located on program website.
 - All information uploaded to Castlebranch (Records Management Company).
- **CPR (Basic Life Support (BLS)) Health Care Workers completed during orientation to the program at an offsite location, on campus or at your primary clinical site.**
- Routine drug screening (10 panel plus ecstasy (urine)). **Do not get the drug screening done until instructed to do so.** No sooner than 2 weeks prior to beginning clinical rotations. The drug screening will be done after September 1st of each year.
- All students must get a yearly influenza vaccine (free of charge by campus Nurse).
- All students must be fully COVID -19 vaccinated per our clinical site requirements.
- Purchase liability insurance.
 - Make sure to put **September 1st** as the effective date for liability insurance.
- All forms, background checks etc. will be uploaded to Castlebranch (records Management Company).
- Uniforms + lab jacket - purchased through PSNK Bookstore.
- Lead markers (purchase 2 sets of markers with 3 initials, first, middle and last) in blue Lt. and red Rt.). You will be given the website to purchase the 2 sets of positional lead markers.
- **All fees associated with drug screening and criminal background checks, uniforms, lead markers, Castlebranch, physical, TB test, Covid -19 vaccinations etc. are the responsibility of the student and not included as part of the tuition or associated activity fees.**

- Program cost worksheet and in addition to tuition are posted on the RADSC website under incoming students tab. Please make sure to take a look at the program cost worksheet.

Where do I find information on Castlebranch?

<http://newkensington.psu.edu/incoming-student-information> - link located on this page.

Do I have to wear a uniform to class or clinical? Dress Code

All uniforms will be purchased in the bookstore on campus to include a lab jacket. Please see particulars of the dress code in the student handbook posted on the program website <http://newkensington.psu.edu/program-policies> . Uniforms will be worn during clinical rotations along with a lab jacket (must be worn during operating room rotations). Lab jacket will be worn during lab sessions on campus.

What is ALEKS Assessment?

Most students will have to take the placement exams once accepted to Penn State. Please make sure to have a secure internet connection and enough time to take the exam. Please refer to the following website for more information <http://advising.psu.edu/aleks/index.html>. Read about the score necessary on the exam to enroll in the math 021 course. If you don't score well enough, you may complete remediation and retake the exam again

What are the Certification Eligibility Requirements?

If I was convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, will I be able to complete the program and take the registry examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)?

Eligibility for certification in ARRT primary disciplines includes requirements in three important areas: ethics, education and examination.

If a prospective student or candidate for the registry examination is concerned about whether his/her conviction record will affect eligibility, there is a way to find out in advance.

ARRT investigates all potential violations in order to determine eligibility and such investigations can cause delays in processing applications. Candidates can avoid delays by requesting a pre-application review of the violation before or during their education, rather than waiting until completing the educational program. (Candidates who anticipate graduating within six months should use the Application for Certification rather than the pre-application

form). ARRT will rule on the impact of the violation on eligibility for ARRT certification. Once ethics eligibility is established, the candidate proceeds with the program or the application process.

The pre-application review form is downloadable from the “Ethics” section of the ARRT Web site, <http://www.arrt.org/>, or by requesting a copy by calling ARRT at (651) 687-0048, ext. 580.

Additional information may be found in ARRT Rules and Regulations and in ARRT Standards of Ethics in the *Radiography Certification Handbook*.

The majority of our students successfully pass the certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. The program has an 86% five-year average pass rate for the certification examination.

Do I have to worry about completing clinical rotations and working with ionizing radiation?

All of our clinical sites comply with all local and federal regulations. You must understand ionizing radiation has the potential to cause biological damage and you must use proper radiation protection precautions at all times. We will review radiation protection during orientation once the program begins. Your radiation protection education will continue with all of your procedure courses, your radiation protection and biology course and with each one of the competency examinations you complete during clinical rotations.

We adhere to the principle of ALARA – as low as reasonably achievable. This means you will keep both your exposure and your patient’s exposure as low as possible without compromising the diagnosis.

You will be issued a personnel monitoring device from your primary clinical site to monitor the amount of ionizing radiation you receive.

Is the program an Accredited Program?

The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (<https://www.jrcert.org/>) and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Radiological Sciences Program is fully accredited by the JRCERT and received the maximum 8-year accreditation award in 2019. You must graduate from an accredited program to complete the certification exam given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. A student may file a complaint through the JRCERT. Due process will be followed with each complaint. For more information regarding accreditation status and compliance contact:

JRCERT
20 N. Wacker Drive
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
312-704-5300

Email: mail@jrcert.org

I noticed that program statistics or effectiveness data is posted for the program and includes credentialing examination pass rates, job placement and program completion rates. Is this only for the Radiological Sciences program at New Kensington?

The Radiological Sciences Program posts statistics or effectiveness data specifically for the New Kensington campus and can be found at <http://newkensington.psu.edu/program-accreditation-2-year-radiological-sciences>.

In addition, the JRCERT will post five-year average credentialing examination pass rate, five-year average job placement rate and annual program completion rate at <https://www.jrcert.org/find-a-program/> for all accredited programs.

Why do you not include all students in the job placement rates?

Job placement includes only those students actively seeking employment meaning those students willing to accept positions via immediate area or relocation.

We do not include students who are not actively seeking employment for the following reasons as defined by the JRCERT.

1. Graduates fail to communicate with program officials regarding employment status after multiple attempts OR
2. Graduates are unwilling to seek employment that requires relocation, OR
3. Graduates are unwilling to accept employment due to salary or hours, OR
4. Graduates are on active military duty, OR
5. Graduates are continuing education

Will I get a job when I graduate?

The projected job growth until 2026 is projected to be faster than average. Please see the Bureau of Labor Statistics for more detailed information (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Radiologic-technologists.htm>). The current job market in the Pittsburgh is dependent on need. Depending on need, students may take a part-time position to work toward a full-time position. The current job market in the Pittsburgh area is favorable for all students seeking full-time employment.

Where do I find the Policy of the Program?

Policy Review-all policy and procedure of the program can be found in the Handbooks posted on the RADSC website <https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/2-year-radiological-sciences/program-policies>. (Students will receive and review all policy and procedure during orientation to the program.)

Do I have to leave the program if I become pregnant?

The program has an established pregnancy policy. A student may choose to declare the pregnancy in which case counseling will be provided and a second radiation monitoring device will be issued. The student will have 2 options.

To continue with the program completing all clinical rotations and academic work (any make-up time will follow established policy found in the student handbook) or to ask for a stop – out from the program, in which case, the student will step out of the program for one year. During the year the student must remain a Penn State Student and complete all the requirements as set forth by the action plan for the stop out. A more detailed explanation of the pregnancy policy is available in the student handbooks located on the program website or available upon request.

Is the Program Concerned about Social Media?

You need to start thinking of what you post on social media and how that may affect your future careers. Although the program cannot control what is posted on social media for the public to view, we do have an established Social Media Policy that we strictly adhere to especially while students are completing clinical rotations. The policy is available in the student handbooks located on the program website or available upon request.

What is the Graduation/Transfer Policy?

It is the student's responsibility to make sure all graduation requirements are met. It is also the student's responsibility to make sure all transcripts are sent to Penn State for official review. Please note- if while in the program you take a class at a different institution than Penn State, it is your responsibility to make sure your transcripts are sent for review. Delay in transcripts could affect your graduation date and date of scheduled certification.

Confidentiality

The program will adhere to all established rules, policy, and procedure of both HIPAA and FERPA. The program will review HIPAA and FERPA several times throughout the program beginning during orientation.

Do I have to be concerned with MRI Safety?

All students will complete clinical rotations through Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Although MRI does not use ionizing radiation, MRI uses the principles of magnetism for imaging purposes. All students will complete an MRI checklist to ensure all safety precautions are met for each clinical rotation. MRI safety begins during orientation to the program and continues throughout and is added to the curriculum during RADSC 206 – Advanced Procedures.

Will I have a rotation in Mammography (breast evaluation)?

The program makes every effort to provide all students with the same clinical experience. The program must abide by the policy and procedure of each clinical site. Students may have to complete mammography rotations at one of other clinical sites and not the primary site of each student. Please see student handbooks for more information regarding mammography rotations. Also, the program as well as the JRCERT statement regarding mammography rotations is located on the program website.

What is the tuition?

Penn State Tuition

Because Penn State's tuition rates vary by campus, student level, program, and residency, the student tuition calculator provides specific tuition rates for individual students.

Please click on the following link for more detailed information on the tuition and costs.
<http://tuition.psu.edu/>.

Please remember you will attend the program through the summer session. Your financial aid award is for the fall and the spring semesters. Financial aid for the summer is a separate process than you completed for the fall and spring semesters. You will be responsible for summer tuition.

This course follows the Penn State University Policy for Attendance, class drops and auditing courses. In order to avoid getting an F for this course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw from the class prior to the deadline. Check the academic calendar for specific dates.

Tuition Penalty for Dropped Credits

At the beginning of each semester, all students must sign a Financial Responsibility Agreement (FRA) before they are allowed to enroll in classes. The FRA states that the student understands that once they register for classes, they are responsible for the tuition and fees due for the courses attended.

Students who drop below full-time or drop below their originally registered credit level may not receive a tuition refund. The tuition adjustment is determined by the effective date the student drops the class and the length of the course, and is made according to Penn State's Tuition Adjustment Schedule*, <http://www.bursar.psu.edu/adjustments.cfm>

WEEK	WITHDRAWAL/DROPS % CHARGED	WITHDRAWAL/DROPS % REFUNDED
1 and before class begins	0%	100%
2	25%	75%
3	50%	50%
4	75%	25%
5 and thereafter	100%	0%

ADJUSTMENT IS BASED ON THE TUITION AMOUNT ONLY. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FEE, ACTIVITIES FEE, AND FACILITIES FEE ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Will I have any physical contact with other students or patients while completing the program?

Student Laboratory, Classroom & Clinical Participation Agreement

I understand during the laboratory experiences I will role-play as a professional radiographer and patient. I will be expected to have physical contact with other students while learning various radiographic procedures, blood pressures, pulse, respirations, and venipuncture.

I understand during laboratory procedures and practice, I will dress appropriately in consideration of myself and others. I will wear my lab jacket during all practice or role play during laboratory procedures.

I understand I will wear my jacket during any coursework role play and I will role play as a professional radiographer and patient. I will be expected to have physical contact with other students during these sessions.

I understand during clinical rotations I will be expected to have physical contact with patients, and I will conduct myself in a professional manner at all times.

DM:2/14

Revised: dm:5/14, dm:11/14, dm1/15, dm2/15, dm7/15, dm6/16, dm8/16, mac 8/16, dm5/17, dm8/17, dm11/17, dm 8/18, dm5/19, dm10/19, dm10/21, dm1/31, dm2/22, dm5/22, dm8/22, mac11/22, dm11/22.