

**Penn State New Kensington
Radiological Sciences
FAQ Sheet
Fall 2024 Start**

- Penn State New Kensington's Radiological Sciences program is a comprehensive academic and clinical-based curriculum.
- The student graduates with 67 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 weeks of (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 (<https://www.jrcert.org/>). The program received the maximum 8-year accreditation award in 2019. For more information regarding accreditation status and compliance contact the JRCERT at:
20 N. Wacker Drive Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
312-704-5300 mail@jrcert.org
- **Suggested Academic Plan**-Click on New Kensington campus Academic Plan for courses and requirements for graduation
<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/colleges/university-college/radiological-sciences-as/#suggestedacademicplantext>
- **Policy and Procedures**- 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>
- **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> 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 for all accredited programs <https://www.jrcert.org/find-a-program/>
- **Clinical Sites- *Acceptance to the program guarantees you a clinical not spot, not a specific site.*** Clinical sites are geographically dispersed and are listed on the program website (<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/2-year-radiological-sciences/clinical-affiliates>). 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 schedule to include start times and rotation assignments at the beginning of each

semester. It is the student's responsibility for transportation and parking expenses 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 for Fall of 2024)
- Schedule Shadowing at one of our clinical sites. (Shadowing is completed at either Butler Memorial Hospital, Allegheny General, Forbes Hospital, West Penn Hospital or 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 Required 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 (**Current 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, West Penn Hospital or 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 Required 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>

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>.

What classes will I be taking and what are the grade requirements?

Please refer to the Suggested Academic Plan for the required courses needed to graduate (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/colleges/university-college/radiological-sciences-as/#suggestedacademicplantext>) Make sure to look at the “Radiological Sciences, A.S. at New Kensington Campus.

The suggested academic plan shows which courses require a grade of “C” or better.

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.

All graduates of Penn State receive a well-rounded quality education. Penn State establishes certain general education courses and other requirements to graduate. For example, 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 must 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?

Currently, the program has blended courses dispersed throughout the curriculum.

The official Penn State description of a hybrid (blended) course can be found on the link below: <https://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/instruction-modes.cfm>

Hybrid courses contain online and face-to-face content. 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.

What is the Transfer Policy?

It is 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 examination.

What is the 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. 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

What are the Certification Eligibility Requirements?

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 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, <https://www.arrt.org/pages/ethics-review> or by requesting a copy by calling the ARRT at (651)687-0048.

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 that must be worn during all clinical rotations to monitor the amount of ionizing radiation you receive.

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 screening checklist to ensure all safety precautions are met for each clinical rotation. MRI safety instruction begins during orientation to the program and continues throughout and is part of the curriculum in RADSC 206 – Advanced Procedures. Students will also be screened at the clinical sites prior MRI rotation.

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 a different 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.

Is the program concerned about confidentiality

The program will strictly 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 with orientation.

Is the program concerned about social media?

Students 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.

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

The lab experiences will consist of role-play as a professional radiographer and patient. All students will be expected to have physical contact with other students while learning various radiographic procedures, performing vital signs and venipuncture. During clinical rotations, students will have physical contact with patients. Students will always conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Do I have to wear a uniform to clinical?

All uniforms will be purchased in the bookstore on campus and will include a lab jacket. Please see details of the dress code in the student handbook posted on the program website <http://newkensington.psu.edu/program-policies> . Uniforms will be worn daily during clinical rotations and the lab jacket must be worn during operating room rotations.

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. The first option is 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.

Do I have to be drug tested or have background checks?

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 clinical site 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 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.

Will I get a job when I graduate?

The projected job growth until 2032 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 area is VERY favorable for all students seeking full-time employment.

How do I complete the application process?

Please follow links on program website to complete the application process. Undergraduate Application to Penn State can be found here: (<http://newkensington.psu.edu/application-process>) Make sure to check Radiological Sciences as Choice of Major and select New Kensington as first choice campus and ending campus.

What must I do after I receive an offer of admission?

All students must attend a required informational session. Student may attend before or after the offer of admission. Students will receive information for the campus Enrollment Services and can register for the session of your choice. Some sessions are offered via zoom and some are offered in person. It is a requirement to attend one informational session.

All students are required to shadow at one of the clinical affiliates for 8 hours. Students must complete the shadowing objective form found on the link below:
[shadowing_form.docx](#)

How do I schedule the 8 hours of shadowing?

Shadowing at an AHN facility (Allegheny General, Forbes or West Penn Hospitals)

It will take approximately 3 weeks to complete your paperwork and confirm your shadow date from the clinical site. Students must email the clinical preceptor from the site they would like to shadow at with the requested dates prior to completing the application.

Clinical Preceptors contact information:

AGH- Jill Brink jill.brink@ahn.org

WPH- Mystee Kustes mystee.kustess@ahn.org or Carl Tutak carl.tutak@ahn.org

Forbes- Amy Morse amy.morse@ahn.org

After the clinical preceptor has responded, the confirmation email needs to be uploaded to the application.

Steps for the application to schedule after you have reached out to the clinical preceptor at AHN facility:

1. Go to www.ahn.org and hover over the “For Professionals” tab
2. Under the Education tab- click on Career Exploration
3. Under Career Exploration scroll towards the bottom of the page and click on Shadow/Observer Experience
4. Click on Next Steps
5. The application for shadowing is under #2
6. Complete the application for shadowing and the mentor’s name (clinical preceptor who you previously emailed) under #4
7. Complete the required documentation and upload the required information (TB test results, immunizations and confirmation email of shadowing date)

Shadowing at Butler Memorial Hospital

Please contact Claire McCorkle in the Medical Staff Office to request shadowing- Claire.McCorkle@butlerhealthsystem.org Ms. McCorkle will respond to your email with required paperwork that must be completed to request shadowing observation at Butler Memorial Hospital. The paperwork will instruct the student to complete a PA Background check (Act 34 Clearance). Obtaining the background check is the responsibility of the student requesting shadowing at Butler Memorial Hospital. The background check certificate form and copy of the student’s driver’s license or ID must be submitted. The student may apply for the free volunteer option for the background check at: <https://epatch.pa.gov/TandCVolunteer>.

Once all of the documents have been submitted to Ms. McCorkle, she will forward your information onto the Radiology Department for approval of shadowing.

Shadowing UPMC St. Margaret

To schedule Shadowing at UPMC St. Margaret, please contact the clinical preceptor- Emily Holben via email (hayese3@upmc.edu)

All students will shadow 8am-4pm. Students need to bring a lunch or money to purchase lunch from the cafeteria. Students also must bring money to pay for parking fees. Students must dress appropriately to include: dress pants, shirt and tie, blouse or sweater and comfortable shoes. No open toe or open back shoes, no shorts, no tank tops and no jeans are permitted. Students should dress business casual.

Please make sure to complete the shadowing observation form which will be submitted to program faculty during the first week of the fall semester.

Please email Mrs. Curler (mac51@psu.edu) to inform the program once you have completed your shadowing requirements.

What is the RADSC NSO?

The RADSC NSO and the campus NSO is scheduled for June 18, 2024. Students will receive instructions on how to register for the NSO via email after they have accepted the offer to Penn State. It is important to check your email regularly. Parents and significant others may attend certain sessions of the RADSC NSO. Parents will have to wait for the student to be finished with their specific sessions. The NSO is mandatory for all RADSC students. During the NSO, students will schedule classes for the fall, obtain their PSU ID, complete technical standards, review program policies and interview with the clinical preceptors. Please remember to dress appropriately in business casual attire. Please bring your license or government issued ID on June 18, 2024.

What are the requirements of the clinical sites to be able to do clinical rotations?

All students will have to purchase account through Castlebranch (a records management system) to upload all clinical requirements. Make sure to select New Kensington campus and PG43 [Penn State University - Office of the VP for Commonwealth Campuses \(castlebranch.com\)](https://www.psu.edu/office-of-the-vp-for-commonwealth-campuses/castlebranch.com)

1. Students must complete the specific RADSC physical form located on the program website https://newkensington.psu.edu/files/pdf/747/2016/07/13/radsc_physical_form.pdf and upload to Castlebranch. Please make sure to complete the required titers on the physical form and upload the documentation to Castlebranch.
2. Students will need to have CPR (Basic Life Support- BLS for Health Care Workers). This certification will be completed in the fall during orientation of the program at an offsite location. Students will be responsible for associated fees for certification.
3. Students will be required to get a routine urine drug screening (10 panel plus ecstasy). DO NOT get the drug screening done until instructed to do so. The drug screening cannot be completed no sooner than 2 weeks prior to starting clinical rotations. Students will have to purchase drug testing package through Castlebranch when instructed to do so.
4. All students will be required to receive annual influenza vaccines in the fall of each year and submit documentation to Castlebranch.
5. All students must purchase liability insurance, putting September 1st as the effective date. Liability insurance will be renewed annually. The coverage limits must be \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000. Students can use any provider but many students use [Professional liability insurance for students | HPSO](#)
6. Students must follow instructions through Castlebranch to complete all background checks which includes: PA History Check, FBI fingerprints Act 73, and PA Child Abuse Act 33/34
7. Students will need to purchase uniforms and lab jackets through the PSNK Bookstore. In addition, they will need to purchase 2 sets of positional lead markers (left markers are blue, red markers are right) [Aluminum Vertical Position Markers 1/2" L & R With Initials PAP03-V](#)

universalmedicalinc.com). Students will also need to purchase appropriate black shoes for clinical which included clinical shoes or athletic shoes. Shoes must be all black or black with white emblems or soles (clogs and sandals are not acceptable).

8. Students will need to purchase MyClinicalExchange package- this will be completed after the start of the program.