



MERCY/ST. LUKE'S  
SCHOOL OF  
Radiologic  
Technology

A Career in  
Medical Imaging



# Radiologic Technology

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Radiologic Technology is the art and science of applying ionizing radiation to create images of the human body. People educated in this profession are called radiographers, radiologic technologists, x-ray techs or imaging professionals, to name a few. The term “technician” is no longer considered accurate by most imaging professionals.

Radiologists are physicians that interpret these images to aid in the diagnosis of disease and injury to the body. This is a very technical, science-oriented profession that requires a strong math and science background. People in this profession work with technologically advanced medical equipment.

As a radiographer, you are also expected to provide patient care that is accurate as well as compassionate. A strong desire and ability to help others in need, in a non-discriminatory manner, is essential for success in the profession.

## Advanced Education

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There are advanced modality options for people interested in continuing their education within the profession. These include nuclear medicine, sonography, radiation therapy, cardiovascular interventional, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, mammography, PACS administration, quality management, education, sales and management.

Most, but not all, of these modalities require you to have a radiologic technology education first. For more information about these modalities, as well as radiologic technology, visit [asrt.org](http://asrt.org). Additionally, many other Internet resources exist to learn more about the profession.

## Program Mission

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We are dedicated to providing a high quality education in the profession of Radiologic Technology through the use of competency-based clinical education and comprehensive didactic techniques.

# Program Overview

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The Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology (MStL) is a hospital-based radiologic technology program jointly sponsored by Mercy Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The program begins annually in early July and is a 24-month, full-time program resulting in a certificate in Radiologic Technology. Through a sharing agreement with Kirkwood Community College (KCC), students will earn an AAS degree. Even if students already hold a degree from any academic institution, the application process must be initiated through KCC.

Due to new professional certification requirements, those interested in the MStL program must either already hold an academic degree, or they must take at least 16 SH of credit from KCC to meet residency requirements and to assure graduates will meet the degree requirements of the certification agency. Of course, you may take all 29 SH of prerequisite coursework at KCC. These prerequisite courses should typically take approximately one year to complete. After completion of these courses, if an applicant is accepted into and graduates from MStL, they are then eligible to sit for the national certification examination. This exam is administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Graduates must meet all eligibility criteria of the ARRT to take this national exam. See [arrt.org](http://arrt.org) for more information.

The MStL program is a competency-based program that consists of technical classes as well as supervised clinical experiences. The program requires a full-time commitment of time and energy. Typically, students in the program are scheduled for classes and clinical experiences Monday through Friday for a total of 40 hours per week. The hours of attendance are primarily 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the first year of the program. Students are assigned evening and weekend rotations in the second year but there are no holiday requirements.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 18 years of age upon entering the MStL program
- Has achieved High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent
- Able to meet the Technical Standards of the program
- A citizen or permanent resident of the U.S
- Have no physical/mental impairments that would affect their ability to perform in the program

# Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

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Goal 1: Students will demonstrate clinical competence.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate proper positioning skills.
- Student will demonstrate quality patient care.
- Students will demonstrate radiation protection.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will perform non-routine exams.
- Students will analyze images.
- Student will demonstrate adaptability.

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate professionalism

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate professional behavior in the clinical setting.
- Students will understand principles of ethics.

Goal 4: Students will demonstrate effective communication skills

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Student will demonstrate effective non-verbal communication skills.
- Students will demonstrate effective verbal communication skills with patients.

## Professional Program Courses

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Professional Ethics  
Radiographic Science  
Radiation Biology and Protection  
Radiographic Physics  
Radiographic Anatomy & Procedures  
Radiographic Film Critique  
Patient Care  
Introduction to Radiography and Protection  
Applied Clinicals  
Advanced Procedures  
Cross-Sectional Anatomy  
Radiographic Pathology  
Patient & Personnel Protection  
Review Seminar

## Program Costs

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Tuition - \$3750/year\*

Books - \$600 total/both years\*\*

Uniforms - \$600 total/both years\*\*

\*Tuition as of July 2017. Subject to change annually.

\*\*Book and uniform expenses are approximate and subject to change.

A complete list may be found in the Student Handbook.

## Financial Aid

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MStL is recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education and all students are encouraged to apply for Federal Title IV financial assistance. Additional financial aid information is online at [isrt.org/resourcecenter/mstl.aspx](http://isrt.org/resourcecenter/mstl.aspx).

## Accreditation

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MStL is currently accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit educational programs in radiography. Interested parties may access current accreditation information and program effectiveness data at [jrcert.org](http://jrcert.org). Additional inquiries may be sent to:

JRCERT

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850

Chicago, IL 60606-3182

312/704-5300

The program is also registered with the Iowa College Aid Commission. Current registration may be found at [iowacollegeaid.gov/postsecondaryregistration](http://iowacollegeaid.gov/postsecondaryregistration).

## Program Contacts

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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The following FAQ section has been designed to explain the program in more detail, including the application and selection process. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MStL office.

## 1. How does the MStL program work in conjunction with KCC?

The Mercy/St Luke's School of Radiologic Technology (MStL) and Kirkwood Community College (KCC) maintain a sharing agreement wherein potential applicants complete general education courses at KCC prior to application to MStL. If selected for the MStL program, and upon graduation, MStL will grant a certificate in Radiologic Technology. KCC will award transfer credits for the MStL program applicable toward an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Diagnostic Assistant degree at the end of the 2nd MStL semester. All applicants should be aware that this agreement allows MStL and KCC to share records as necessary for the administration of the program. This includes transcripts from each of the institutions.

## 2. If I'm accepted at KCC, am I automatically accepted at MStL?

No. MStL receives numerous applications each year and accepts only 12 students from this pool, so selection is a competitive process. Acceptance at KCC into the Diagnostic Assistant degree program does not guarantee acceptance at MStL. Although KCC and MStL work in conjunction for the purpose of this program, there are two separate application/acceptance processes.

## 3. Are there any prerequisite courses for the MStL program?

Yes, the following college credit-bearing courses are required, not only for application to MStL, but also to fulfill AAS degree requirements at KCC. In addition to the prerequisite courses listed below, an additional 4 semester hours of electives are required at some point, prior to awarding of the degree. These must be selected from a list of approved electives for the Diagnostic Assistant degree program.

- \*Human A & P I - 4 SH

- \*Human A & P II - 4 SH

- Humanities elective - 3 SH (from list of approved courses for Allied Health students)

- Intro to Psychology - 3 SH

- Composition I - 3 SH

- Fundamentals of Oral Communication - 3 SH

- Microcomputer Literacy - 1 SH

- Intermediate Algebra - 4 SH

- Medical Terminology - 4 SH

#### 4. Do I have to complete all of these courses prior to the January 15 application deadline at MStL?

No, however, first priority will be given to prospective students who have completed all of the prerequisite courses by the January 15 deadline. Provisional acceptance status will be granted if you have completed the majority of these courses and are enrolled in the remainder of them at the time of the January 15 deadline. If you are enrolled in the remainder of the required courses as of the January 15 deadline, proof of successful completion of these courses must be in the form of an official transcript submitted to MStL no later than June 1 if you are attending any college other than KCC. If courses in progress are not successfully completed or proof of successful completion is not received by MStL, provisional acceptance status will be revoked.

#### 5. What is “successful completion” of courses?

Successful completion requires a grade of C or above. Additionally, if you repeat a course more than twice due to a failing grade, this course does not meet MStL program requirements. This means, if you fail a prerequisite course initially, you may repeat it and still be eligible to apply to MStL. However, if you do not successfully complete the course on the second attempt, you would not be considered eligible to apply to MStL. A withdrawal is not considered as an attempt.

#### 6. How do I apply?

Application can only begin by attending a mandatory Program Conference to obtain an Admission Criteria Checklist. Program Conferences are held on a regular basis on the KCC campus by the MStL Program Director. At the Program Conference, you will receive program information along with the Admission Criteria Checklist. The MStL program will be explained in detail, as well as the application and selection process. All application requirements outlined in the Admission Criteria Checklist must be completed prior to applying to MStL. These requirements include a KCC application and completion of placement tests. Proof of a college degree may be substituted for placement tests. Only after completing the Admission Criteria Checklist at a Program Conference are you eligible to apply to MStL.

#### 7. How do I register for the Program Conference?

Preregistration is encouraged to attend a Program Conference and may be accomplished by visiting the KCC Web site at [kirkwood.edu](http://kirkwood.edu). Go to the “Diagnostic Assistant AAS degree” page and follow the Program Conference prompts for available dates and registration.

8. What are the MStL pre-application guidelines outlined in the Admission Criteria Checklist?

Once you have attended a Program Conference and obtained the Admission Criteria Checklist, you must officially apply to KCC, if you have not already done so. This can be accomplished on the KCC website. You must specify Diagnostic Assistant as your intended major. If you are a current KCC student, you must change your intended major to Diagnostic Assistant to begin the process for the Radiologic Technology program. You may contact Admissions at KCC if you need assistance with this.

If you have already earned an associates, bachelors or higher college degree, you must still apply to KCC for the Diagnostic Assistant major and have official transcripts sent to KCC. However, you must still meet the prerequisite course requirements listed in Question #3 to be eligible to apply to MStL.

If you have any other college experience, an official transcript must be sent to KCC to be evaluated for transfer credit.

KCC requires you have placement test scores to determine academic placement. See a KCC advisor for details.

You can only apply to MStL after successful completion of all prerequisite courses, or after providing enrollment confirmation in the remainder of the prerequisite courses as outlined in Question #4. As long as your completed application is received by MStL by January 15, you will be considered for the class beginning in July of the same calendar year.

9. I have completed the Admission Criteria Checklist and all of the prerequisite courses. How do I apply to MStL?

When you have completed the prerequisite courses or have enrolled in any remaining prerequisite courses, you must take the Admission Criteria Checklist to the Health Sciences office at KCC. They will confirm the checklist and provide your information to MStL who will then contact you to explain the application process and provide the application. MStL does not accept any applications until this point in the process.

10. What does the application process at MStL consist of?

Application materials include the application, mandatory essay requirement and payment of a \$25 non-refundable application fee. The application fee must be postmarked by January 15 to be considered eligible. There are no exceptions to this postmark deadline. The online app and essay must also be submitted by January 15.

## 11. What happens after MStL receives my application packet and all transcripts?

After the January 15 application deadline, application materials are reviewed and scored by the Admissions Committee.

Prerequisite course transcripts are evaluated to determine if you meet the following criteria:

- You have completed all prerequisite courses with a grade of C or above
- Your GPA is a minimum of 2.50 from all prerequisite courses
- You attempted no prerequisite course more than twice
- You will be considered unqualified if you do not meet all three of the criteria. You will be notified of this decision. If you are currently enrolled in the remainder of the prerequisite courses, the Admission Committee will apply the criteria above to the courses you have completed and consider you conditionally qualified to continue in the process. Upon completion of any courses you are enrolled in, your transcript will be re-evaluated. If you do not meet all three criteria listed above at that time, you will be considered unqualified.

Next, your GPA and essay are scored by the committee to determine the top 30 candidates who will be offered a personal interview. Rated interviews will be conducted beginning in late February. Once all interviews are completed, the top 12 applicants will be offered conditional positions in the program. All interviewees will be notified of the committee's decisions by early April. All applicants will be kept informed of their standing throughout the process via mailings. The number of students accepted annually is subject to change.

The MStL program is an equal access/equal opportunity institution in compliance with state and federal laws and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or marital status.

## 12. What do you mean by “conditional positions?”

If you are accepted, you will be required to have a physical examination, drug screen, provide proof of required immunizations and complete a criminal background investigation. If you fail to meet any of these criteria, you will not be allowed to begin the program. You are responsible for the cost of the physical exam and required immunizations.

## 13. When does the MStL program begin?

Classes begin in early July and continue for 24 consecutive months. Graduation typically occurs in mid-June, two years after beginning the program.

14. What if I have taken some or all of the prerequisites at another college?

You must still apply to KCC and follow the process outlined above. KCC has the sole decision whether or not to accept classes as transfer credit. Also, if you do not already hold an academic degree, you must complete 16 semester hours of credit at KCC to meet established residency requirements. Since our certification agency now requires that you have a degree to be eligible for certification, earning a degree from KCC in conjunction with MStL is the only option for those that don't already have a degree.

15. How can I learn more about the MStL program?

You will find the Student Handbook, Clinical Handbook, financial aid information and relevant consumer information online at [isrt.org/resourcecenter/mstl.aspx](http://isrt.org/resourcecenter/mstl.aspx). These documents contain all program policies, including refund policies, transfer credit, etc.

Information is current as of December 2016, but is subject to change without notice.

# Consumer Information

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Five-year average credentialing examination pass rate is defined as the number of graduates who pass, on first attempt, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification examination compared to the number of graduates who took the exam within six months of graduation.

- MStL average pass rate 2011 - 2015 = 98% (51/52)

Five year average job placement rate is defined as the number of graduates employed in the radiologic sciences compared to the number actively seeking employment in the radiologic sciences within 12 months of graduation.

- MStL average job placement rate 2011 - 2015 = 100% (51/51)

Program Completion Rate is defined as the number of students who complete the program within 150% of the stated program length.

-2015 graduates - 91.6% (11/12)

Median Loan Debt

- 2015 graduates - \$16,197 (10/12)

Statistics complete and accurate as of 07/2016.

For more consumer information visit [unitypoint.org/cedarrapids/radtech](http://unitypoint.org/cedarrapids/radtech). Program effectiveness data is available online at [jrcert.org](http://jrcert.org).

USDE required Gainful Employment Disclosure is available online at <http://www.unitypoint.org/cedarrapids/radiologic-gainful-employment-disclosure.aspx>.

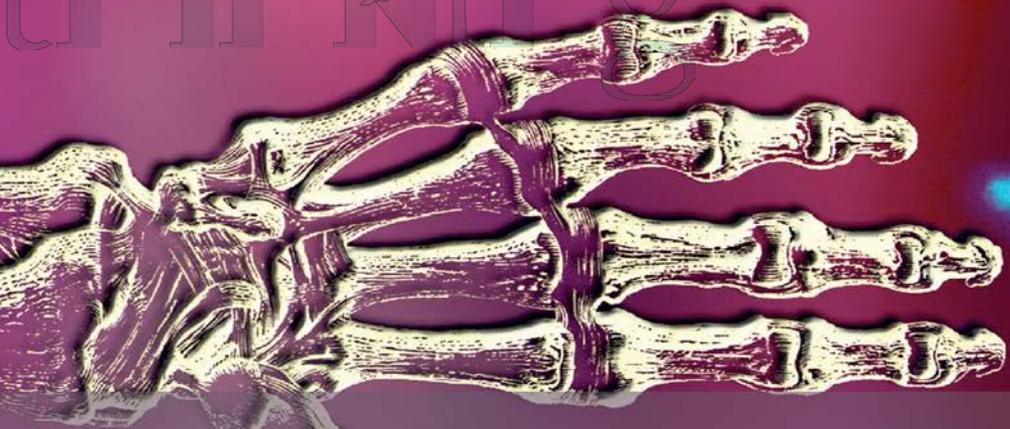
Per 34CFR668.43(b) the program must publish the complaint process used by the state authorization entity, should enrolled or prospective students have complaints related to state laws such as fraud or false advertising. In Iowa, the "constituent request for review" may be found online at <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/constituent-request-review>.

Equal Opportunity:

The Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology recruits students and employs faculty who are the most qualified people available, without regard to race, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, national origin, ancestry, religion or disability.

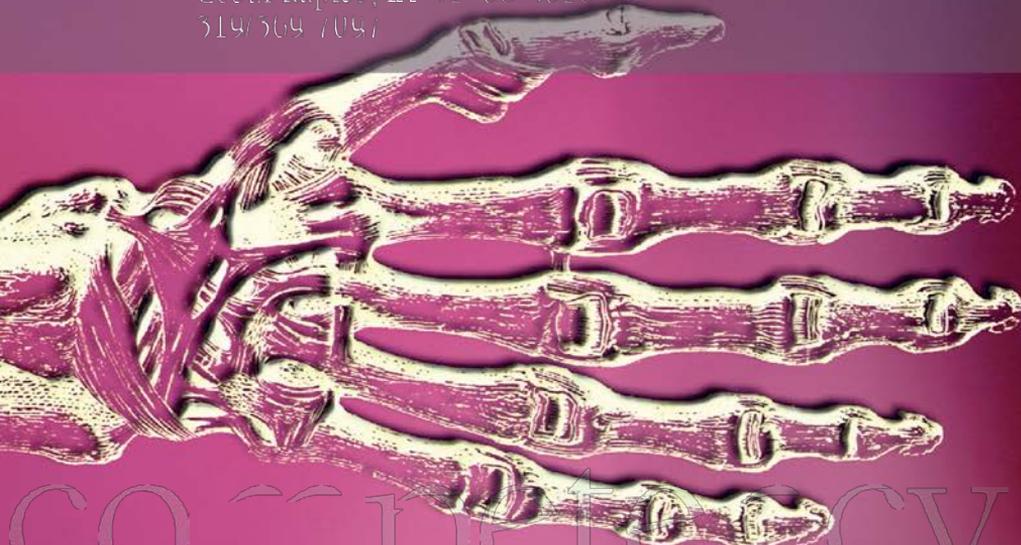


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thinking



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competency