I want to start my career as a...

Radiology Technician

What will I do?
Radiology Technicians perform diagnostic imagining, such as X-Rays, and administer radiation treatment therapy. There is wide variety of patients Radiology Techs treat, from children to older adults.

What are the important facts?

Job Growth
There will always be a need for Radiology Techs due to the need for diagnostic imagining done on a patient's broken bone or radiation treatment for patients suffering from cancer.

In California, Radiology Technicians are projected to have 470 new job openings. This means there is an expected 26% employment increase between 2014 and 2024 in the state--this level of employment increase means there will be plenty of new job openings in the field. 470 new job openings might not seem like a lot, but because Radiology Technology is so specialized this is a large number of new jobs.

Wage/Salary
Average hourly wage in San Jose begins at $46.78, with an annual salary of $97,310. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

Required Training
Radiology Technicians are required to have 2-3 years of training at a community college.

Individuals interested in becoming a Radiology Tech, can receive training through Foothill College in Santa Clara County.

What are typical tasks?

- Perform diagnostic imagining on patients.
- Position X-Ray equipment to ensure images come out clear and accurate.
- Perform radiation therapy on cancer patients.
- Operate x-rays machines in emergency and operating rooms.
- Explain procedures to patients in order to reduce anxieties.

What would make this career a great fit for me?

- Have a passion for helping people.
- Have a passion for operating technology and machines.
- Able to handle high stress situations.
- Able to operate high tech machinery, such as X-Ray, and MRI machines.
- Have a concern for others and understand how to be sensitive towards patient's needs.

Where can I get the training I need?

- Foothill College

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Step 1
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

Education & Training: Radiology Technician

Community College
 Individuals can receive training through Foothill College. The Radiologic Technology program is a 2 year program, meaning it is full-time Monday-Friday. The program includes classroom lecture and clinical hours.

- Foothill College

Step 2
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

Career Pathways for Radiology Technicians

Radiology Technicians are able to begin working in a hospital once they pass their California State ARRT National Registry Exam. Individuals are qualified to take this exam once they complete their 22 month core curriculum program. During the training program, students work with various hospitals across the Bay Area to gain the necessary experience that is needed to begin working as a Radiologist.

Before applying to the program, there are pre-requisite classes that are required. Examples of these classes are Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Medical Terminology and Chemistry. In these classes individuals need at least a C grade, BUT this is a highly competitive field—higher the grades, the higher chances of being accepted.

Employers:
- Kaiser Permanente
- Stanford Hospital
- O’Connor Hospital

Labor Market Information:
- The average hourly wage in San Jose is $46.78, with an annual salary of $97,310.
What are the Skills Employers look for in Radiology Technicians?

Employers are looking for someone who:

• Has their Associate’s Degree in Radiology Technology and their State Board license.
• Has a strong understanding of human anatomy, pathology, patient care, and radiation physics.
• Has strong communication skills. This is important because there will be some interaction with patients while taking their X-Ray or MRI.
• Is able to express sensitivity when working with patients. Some patients might feel scared or nervous about their MRI or X-Rays—it is important to know how to speak calmly in order to comfort patients.
• Is able to follow written and verbal instructions.
• Is knowledgeable on image processing and diagnostic imaging--these skills are taught through the training program at Foothill College.
• Understands how to operate medical technology and different medical machinery-- these skills are also taught through Foothill College.

Employers may also refer to me as:

• Certified Radiology Technician
• Radiology Technologist
• MRI Technologist