MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging specialty used to visualize detailed structures within the human body. MRI provides superior contrast between the different soft tissues of the body. Today MRI is the gold standard in multiple medical specialties.

Magnetic resonance imaging tests use special equipment that utilizes a constant and powerful magnetic field and radiofrequency energy to create clear pictures of internal body structures. The pictures allow medical professionals to identify where physiological problems occur in the body and thereby assist the healthcare professionals to treat issues accordingly.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

MRI technologists are required to complete a magnetic resonance imaging education program and pass a certification examination from a national certifying agency. Students must have an interest in scientific and technical skills, possess strong math skills, communicate effectively, demonstrate good judgment, be mature and responsible in their approach to other persons and their duties, and be able to interact compassionately and effectively with individuals ranging from healthy to terminally ill.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum cumulative GPA is 2.7 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum ACT scores are 22, with no subsection lower than 20 OR Minimum SAT score of 1020

Professional course work in the magnetic resonance imaging program is concentrated in the last year of the curriculum. Students may enter as a freshman or as a transfer, depending on availability. Once admitted to the program, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.70 to remain in good standing.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Magnetic Resonance Imaging students are encouraged to join and participate in the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapeutics Club.

WHY CHOOSE SLU

- Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with SLU faculty and fellow students
- Interprofessional focus of core curriculum to build a team approach to health care
- Flexible curriculum that allows adding a minor or studying abroad
- Medically relevant coursework ideal for pre-professional studies
- Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects or papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences
- Pre-Med and Pre-Physician Assistant curriculum options

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates can work as technologists in hospitals and clinics. They may also seek positions in information technology, healthcare administration, sales and training, imaging labs, teaching and other related fields. Magnetic Resonance Imaging provides an excellent pre-med curriculum allowing many students to pursue graduate or professional health programs.

There are many opportunities for magnetic resonance imaging technologists in various locations. Jobs can be found in the following settings:
- Medical and surgical hospitals
- Freestanding clinics
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES
Magnetic resonance imaging technologists have many responsibilities that encompass a wide range of skills. MRI technologists are not exposed to ionizing radiation and are not required to monitor their exposure to the magnet. Some responsibilities of the MRI technologist include:

- Operation of imaging, laboratory and computer instrumentation
- Empathetic and instructional approach to patient care
- Preparation of contrast agent
- Performance of quality control procedures
- Application of accepted standards of MRI safety and protection

EARNINGS POTENTIAL
The salary range for an MRI technologist depends on geographic location, years of experience, and education. The median annual wage is $65,960, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Membership in professional organizations offer the magnetic resonance imaging technologist the opportunity to attend conferences, workshops and classes in all areas of magnetic resonance imaging.

To learn more about the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) Section for Magnetic Resonance Technologists (SMRT) go to www.ismrn.org/smrt. For more information on the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) go to www.asrt.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Phone: 314-977-2570
Email: dchs@slu.edu
Website: MIRT.SLU.EDU

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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING
TWO PLUS TWO OPTION FOR STUDENTS WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN RADIOGRAPHY

Saint Louis University offers a two-plus-two opportunity that is designed to assist students from community colleges in choosing their courses that will fulfill the core requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RADIOGRAPHY

For those students who currently have, or are working towards an AAS degree, Saint Louis University allows for a maximum of 64 credit hours to include a 28 credit hour block for AAS Radiography Program Professional portion and 36 credit hours that are general earned at the community college can be applied towards the bachelor’s degree in magnetic resonance imaging.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum admission criteria include:

- AAS degree in Radiography awarded
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale
- Successful completion of the ARRT registry exam in radiography, and meets the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Program’s technical standards

WHAT IS MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging speciality that uses large magnets and radio waves to visualize and analyze detailed structures of the human anatomy for the purpose of diagnosis. MRI provides superior contrast between the different soft tissues of the body.

WHAT IS AN MRI TECHNOLOGIST?

MRI technologists are allied health professionals skilled in the art of science of diagnostic imaging. The practice of magnetic resonance imaging encompasses multidisciplinary skills. MRI technologists are not exposed to ionizing radiation and are not required to monitor their exposure to the magnet. The responsibilities of the MRI technologist include:

- Operation of imaging, laboratory and computer instrumentation
- Empathetic and instructional approach to patient care
- Preparation of contrast agent
- Performance of quality control procedures
- Application of accepted standards of MRI safety and protection

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for magnetic resonance imaging technologists in various locations. Jobs can be found in the following settings:

- Medical and surgical hospitals
- Freestanding clinics
- Physician Offices
- Research institutions

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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