

Nuclear Medicine Technology

Doisy College of Health Sciences



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Accreditation Information

The program was accredited in 1971 by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, in cooperation with the American College of Radiology, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging and the Technologist Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. This accreditation has been continuous to date.

Further information on the Joint Reviews Committee in Nuclear Medicine Technology is available at jrcnmt.org.

Program Goals

1. Provide education in the technical skills and underlying principles of Nuclear Medicine for the purpose of achieving clinical and scholarly excellence. Graduates will possess a high degree of competence in handling radionuclides and in the performance of nuclear medicine procedures.
2. Prepare qualified nuclear medicine technologists who are capable of establishing and evaluating new procedures and assuming leadership roles within the profession.
3. Foster integrity and a desire for knowledge within the graduate that will grow into a pursuit of lifetime learning that encompasses not only their profession, but the health and wellness of society.
4. Graduates will possess the tools for communication and collaboration with other healthcare professionals, with the ability to foster holistic care rooted in good science and evidence based practice.

Technical Standards

Purpose: This is a non-discriminatory policy that describes the intellectual, social, and physical capabilities required to perform the tasks of a nuclear medicine technologist. The mission of the program is to educate a practitioner in Nuclear Medicine Technology. Therefore, students must meet these standards to pursue the program coursework and work within the field.

All applicants and students of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program must be able to perform each of the standards stated in this policy.

In some cases the use of adaptive devices may be permitted in order for the student to meet selected technical standards.

Nuclear Medicine Technologists are required to:

- Intellectually understand the conceptual, integrative and quantitative ability to analyze information and data. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structure. Understand and apply clinical instructions given by departmental personnel.
- Tolerate physical and emotional stress and continue to function effectively. Demonstrate emotional stability and psychological health in day-to-day interaction with patients, staff, family members and others. They must be adaptable, flexible and able to function in the face of uncertainty. A student must be able to develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and colleagues. They must have a high level of compassion for others, motivation to serve, integrity and a consciousness of social values. They must possess sufficient interpersonal skills to interact with people from all levels of society, all ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems.
- Clearly communicate, verbally and in writing, with the patient, families, personnel and others to disseminate information about patient care and work duties. Candidates must be able to speak and hear at a level that allows them to elicit and convey information, accurately perceive nonverbal communication, and describe changes in patient mood, activity and posture, and recognize and respond to an emergency or urgent situation. Must demonstrate normal or corrected hearing to discern audible signals on camera imaging equipment, phones, and timing devices.
- See with normal or device corrected vision. They must possess the ability to discriminate various color combinations that indicate radiopharmaceutical distribution on both display devices and recorded images. A student must be able to observe patients accurately and completely, both from a distance and at close range. They must be able to use a microscope with accuracy.
- Read, extract and apply appropriate information and instructions contained in patient requisitions, notes, and medical charts. Have the ability to read and comprehend technical and medical information.

Technical Standards Continued

- Have the manual dexterity to perform various nuclear medicine procedures, such as patient imaging, venipuncture, camera quality control, preparation of radiopharmaceuticals, radiopharmacy quality control, drawing and assaying of doses, and radiation surveys. Motor skills must include the ability to extend hands and arms in any direction. You must be able to hold, grasp, and turn with the hands, and possess the ability to coordinate eyes, hands and feet rapidly and accurately.
- Lift, transfer and move patients from wheelchairs, stretchers and beds to imaging tables. Lift, move, reach or push nuclear medicine equipment weighing approximately 30-35 lbs, (e.g. collimators, generators, etc.). Endure an eight-hour clinical day with a minimum of four to six hours of standing or walking.
- Submit to and receive a satisfactory report on criminal background checks and drug testing for substances of abuse.

Clinical Sites

Clinical education requirements will place the student in the patient care setting in various clinical areas throughout the St. Louis Metro area; therefore, a student must have reliable transportation to get to the clinical sites. Students will travel to several of the following sites for their clinical rotations:

Barnes Jewish Hospital

1 Barnes Jewish Hospital Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-454-7502

Missouri Baptist Medical Center
3015 N. Ballas
St. Louis, MO 63131
314-996-5535

Cardinal Health Radiopharmacy

1909 Belt Way Dr.
Overland, MO 63114
314-428-2906

St. Anthony's Medical Center
10010 Kennerly Rd
St. Louis, MO 63128
314-525-1170

Christian Hospital

11133 Dunn Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63136
314-653-4350

Saint Louis University Hospital
3635 Vista Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Nuc Med:314-577-8047
PET: 314-577-8801

GE Healthcare Radopharmacy

1623 Lotsie Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-427-6888

St. Luke's Hospital
232 S. Woods Mill Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
314-205-6518

Memorial Hospital of Belleville

4500 Memorial Dr.
Belleville, IL 62226
314-257-5009

VA Medical Center
915 North Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63106
Nuc Med:314-289-6348
PET: 314-289-7925

Mercy Hospital St. Louis

615 S. New Ballas
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-251-6463

Roles and Responsibilities of the NMT Advisory Committee

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The role of the NMT advisory committee is specific and should be considered of a consultant-advisory nature. The NMT Advisory committee has the responsibility to make recommendations to the NMT Program Director concerning curriculum, recruitment, placement, and the assessment of the NMT program. Each NMT advisory committee member will provide advisement on the development, operation, and evaluation of the NMT program. The NMT Advisory committee meets at least once per year and attendance to these scheduled meetings is required. The following scope of work will assist committee members in understanding their role and responsibilities and provide guidance on how they can best provide support for the NMT program. The following are suggested beginnings and should not be considered exhaustive.

Create a Link between the Nuclear Medicine Community and the NMT Program

- Provide a line of communication between the NMT program and employers.
- Serve as an advocate for the NMT education and workforce.
- Identify employment needs and labor demands in order to develop, implement, and revise long-range plans.
- Communicate global market changes and trends to assist the program in planning the future of the didactic and clinical components of the program.
- Support NMT program efforts to attain and maintain national standards through accrediting, licensing agencies, and other certifying bodies.

Review and Make Recommendations for Curriculum Revisions

- Assess the effectiveness of current curriculum and recommend appropriate changes to maintain the highest quality of an educational environment.
- Assist faculty in identifying specific skills needed for employment and job success of program graduates.
- Facilitate affiliation agreements.

Identify Resources that Support and Contribute to the Success of the Program

- Recommend qualified individuals for employment.
- Identify employment opportunities for students.
- Share state-of-the-art technology by providing training opportunities for students and faculty.
- Serve as guest speakers and/or mentors.
- Provide recommendations for improving admission criteria and procedures.
- Review, evaluate, and recommend facility and/or equipment improvements.
- Assist in the placement of program graduates.

Additional Program Requirements and Fees

Criminal Background Check

A majority of the Doisy College of Health Science's learning experience facilities mandate that criminal background checks be performed on all persons having any opportunity for patient/client interaction. This includes employees and volunteers, as well as students. A CBC revealing a charge and/or conviction for certain crimes could result in a ban from participation in learning experiences and thus prevent graduation. Therefore, every student in the Doisy College of Health Sciences whose academic program requires her/him to participate in learning experiences in an affiliate facility will be required to undergo the level of CBC required by their major department and/or the affiliate facility.

The Office of Clinical Education Compliance has a detailed policy that outlines the procedure for obtaining a CBC through the University. Please refer to the [Office of Clinical Education Compliance](#) or your department for a copy of this policy.

The timing of a CBC will be in concert with the student's program/department or affiliate facility policies. A single negative check does NOT preclude the requirement of additional checks at a future time. Students should be aware that any affirmative results from a CBC could restrict ability to participate in a learning experience and therefore restrict ability to complete degree requirements. In addition, the lack of an acceptable report on a CBC could bar the student from sitting for licensure examinations and thus from practice in certain professions.

In the event that a student's CBC is reported "affirmatively" the student will have the opportunity to contest the report by requesting an additional CBC. In the event that an Affirmative CBC is confirmed, the compliance officer will notify the designated program/department official.

Drug Screen

A pre-placement drug screen is required for accreditation standards in the affiliated hospitals in which University faculty and staff work. To comply with these standards and federal regulations, Saint Louis University will require that a pre-placement drug screen occur for students in clinical placement where there will be occupational activities in a University affiliated hospital, clinical site, direct patient contact, or employment.

The student will be advised of the pre-placement drug screen requirement prior to beginning the program. The candidate will be provided with instructions for scheduling the drug screen in Student Health.

If the candidate satisfactorily completes the drug screen, and it is negative, Student Health will notify the Program Director.

Candidates who have a positive drug screen are interviewed by an independent Medical Review Officer who determines if there is a legitimate reason for the presence of a controlled substance. The results of this interview are provided to Student Health and made available to the program.

In the event of a positive result, the Program Director and student will be notified of the positive drug screen. The student will be counseled, and further action regarding the student's enrollment in the program will be considered. The student will be advised that a positive test may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Other **required immunizations/screenings required** for clinical placement:

Respiratory Fit Test

Provided at SLU Student Health

Two Step Tb/PPD Screening

Provided at SLU Student Health

Annual Flu Shot

Provided at SLU Student Health

Poster Printing

Provided at SLU Instructional Media Center

Students are required to prepare and present a research poster as part of their coursework. Students may be required to pay for the cost of printing this poster which is provided at the SLU Instructional Media Center.