

## DEGREE(S)

+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Radiation Therapy

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Radiation therapy is a field in which the radiation therapist prepares and treats already diagnosed cancer patients with high-energy radiation using highly specialized equipment. A radiation therapist helps plan and administer prescribed doses of radiation to affected areas as directed by a radiation oncologist.

A radiation therapist is a health care professional skilled in the art and science of medical radiation treatment. Therapists are primarily concerned with the design and administration of radiation therapy treatment, in addition to issues of daily well-being for patients with cancer. A therapist is responsible for administering the prescribed treatment dose of radiation using high-energy linear accelerators. These treatments are provided to cure the patient or to control the disease, thereby improving the patient's quality of life. Therapists also monitor patient's reactions for radiation side effects and keep highly accurate records of treatment and equipment use.

This profession combines the great satisfaction of helping others during a difficult time in their life with sophisticated technological equipment and scientific techniques. Radiation therapists work as part of a multidisciplinary health care team with radiation oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, nurses and other medical specialists to provide the best treatment and support available to their patients.

Students are encouraged to participate in all of the activities that Saint Louis University offers. This includes all of the organizations, facilities and events that encompass student life. Radiation therapy students are encouraged to join and participate in the functions of the professional organizations in the St. Louis area.

## ABOUT THE FACULTY

The faculty and staff in the department of radiation therapy are dedicated to the scholarship and success of all students. All professors, assistant professors and instructors are credentialed and provide a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the program.

## CURRICULUM

Advantages to earning your B.S. in radiation therapy at Saint Louis University include:

- + Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with SLU faculty and fellow students
- + A curriculum with an interprofessional focus that emphasizes a team approach to health care
- + Instruction by professionally credentialed faculty
- + Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects/papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences
- + Pre-med and pre-physician assistant curriculum options

ADMISSION.SLU.EDU

### Contact

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dchs@health.slu.edu

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### Graduate Programs

For a full listing of programs, visit [graduate.slu.edu](http://graduate.slu.edu)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Factors considered for admission include academic performance, class rank, college admission test scores and high school profile.

- + ACT composite score of at least 22, with no subsection lower than 20, or equivalent SAT scores
- + Minimum GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale

Professional coursework in the radiation therapy program is concentrated in the fourth 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 GPA of 2.7 to remain in good standing.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- + Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences Alumni Association offers a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- + Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at [finaid.slu.edu](http://finaid.slu.edu).

## WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

- + The radiation therapy program has a strong science-based curriculum, which prepares students interested in postgraduate professional programs or immediate job placement.
- + The professional component of the radiation therapy program has small class sizes and low student-faculty ratios, providing more individualized attention to the students.
- + Students gain clinical experience from multiple clinical sites, which are all conveniently located in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Students do not need to relocate for clinical rotations.

There are also many opportunities for radiation therapists in various locations. Graduates can work as radiation therapists in hospitals and clinics, and they also may seek positions in areas such as information technology, health care administration, equipment sales and training, and teaching.

Some graduates further their education to pursue careers in dosimetry and medical physics. Radiation therapy provides an excellent pre-med curriculum. Many students attend graduate school part-time with assistance from their place of employment.

Some jobs are classified as traveling jobs where the employee provides temporary help to departments that are short-staffed for a short period of time. These therapists travel regularly, with the length of stay and the location varying.

Major focus areas for radiation therapists are:

- + Primary care of patients
- + Delivery of treatments using linear accelerators or similar equipment
- + Simulation

The general salary range depends on geographic location, years of experience and education. The median annual wage for radiation therapists is \$72,910 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The radiation therapy program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). For accreditation standards and activities and program outcome information, visit [jrcert.org](http://jrcert.org).

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