Penn State – New Kensington
Radiological Sciences Program

Radiological Sciences FAQ Sheet
Fall 2016 Start

Program Specifics

- Penn State New Kensington's Radiological Sciences program is a comprehensive academic- and clinical-based curriculum.
- The student graduates with 72 credits and receives an Associate Degree in Radiological Sciences.
- The program begins in the fall of each year and requires 24 consecutive months (six semesters including summer sessions) to complete.
  - Program hours are specific to each clinical site and are completed in eight hour increments of time.
  - All students have five (noon – 8) rotations throughout the program beginning in the spring of the first year.
- The Recommended Academic Planner may be found on the program website under Degree Information then click on Recommended Academic Plan.
- The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

All students are given very specific policy and procedure (student, clinical and radiation protection handbooks) to follow while in the program. Current policy and procedure, mission, goals and student learning outcomes may be found on the program website [http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/45709.htm](http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/45709.htm) - go to the landing page and click on the link on the bottom of the page.

Policy & Procedure ([http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm](http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm) - go to the bottom of the landing page and click on the link).

Student Handbooks, Clinical Handbooks and Radiation Protection Handbooks are posted on the program website. You may also find program statistics to include program retention, job placement and certification exam success rate.

Recommended Academic Plan ([found on website under Degree Information then click on academic plan](http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm) - click on the degree information on the left hand side).

I noticed I have to get a C or higher in the RADSC courses and some of the other classes that have an asterisk by them. What about the other courses:

All RADSC courses (except RADSC 295) you must get a 75% (is a C) or higher to successfully pass the course. RADSC 295 you must receive an 85% (is a C) or higher to successfully pass the course. The
other required courses are minimum of a C or higher to successfully meet all requirements of the program.

I noticed on the academic plan that I have to take music. I can’t sing and not sure if I will be interested in this type of course.

All graduates of Penn State are well rounded with the quality education received. Each student must take an art and international studies course to graduate. Each course will have initials after indicating what the course is and if it is a requirement for degree major or general education. For ex, IL is the international studies component. To complete the Radiological Sciences Associate Degree the music 009 will fulfill 2 requirements both the art and international studies. If you choose not to follow the recommended academic plan you must make sure to fulfill all requirements to satisfy the degree. Please remember the RADSC courses are sequential in nature, you have to take and successfully pass one course to move on to the next.

**What is a Blended (Hyrbid) Learning Course? Will I take any Blended Learning courses while in the program?**

Yes, currently the program has blended courses dispersed throughout the curriculum.

Sample Syllabus Statement about Blended Courses

The official Penn State description of a hybrid (=blended) course can be found at the bottom of https://www.registrar.psu.edu/staff/isis/aruac.cfm and states:

Hybrid courses are specific packages of online and face-to-face content and processes organized to reduce or replace the number of required class sessions in order to improve effectiveness and flexibility for instructors and students and/or to achieve other efficiencies. Hybrid courses reduce by approximately 40% or more the number of required classroom sessions, although some classroom sessions are required.

At Penn State New Kensington, blended courses typically replace between 25 – 50% of face-to-face class time with activities done outside of the classroom. Examples of out of class activities include reading assignments, writing assignments, projects (both group and independent), quizzes, video lectures, problem sets and online discussion. The time needed to succeed in a blended course is not less than a traditional course, but it is organized differently.

Students taking a blended course at Penn State New Kensington are expected to:

- Have access to a computer with reliable internet connectivity (campus computers are available for those without access elsewhere).
- Refer to the detailed course schedule to complete out of class assignments on time and be prepared to participate in face-to-face class activities.
- Communicate promptly with their instructor about any problems they are having with either the out of class or face-to-face course material.
- Show respect for each other and for the learning environment through thoughtful contributions, civil interactions and ethical behavior both in class and online.
What do Radiologic (X-ray) Technologists do?

Explanations can be found on the program website under Degree Information then click on A.S. Radiological Sciences brochure

Which clinical sites are associated with the program? Can I pick my own clinical site?

The clinical sites are listed on the program website. You must understand that by acceptance to the program you are guaranteed a clinical spot not a clinical site. (pending you have satisfied all requirements of the admissions process including contacting Debra Majetic upon receipt of your acceptance letter).

Our clinical sites are geographically dispersed. You will be assigned a primary clinical site but will perform rotations at the other clinical sites of the program. Each student will be given a clinical site schedule to include start times and clinical rotations at the beginning of each semester. It is the student’s responsibility for transportation and parking at the clinical sites.

What are the Admissions requirements?

In addition to meeting the initial Penn State admission requirements, all students admitted to the Radiological Sciences program must complete/have evaluated the following:

- Math, Science and SAT scores are evaluated
- Schedule Shadowing at one of our clinical sites
  (Shadowing is scheduled with the program director)
  - Provide verification of current 2 step TB test (within past 6 months)
  - Provide copy of immunization records
- Complete placement testing
- Complete a New Student Orientation session

Transfer Students

- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Meet all admission requirements of Radiological Sciences program
- Must complete change of assignment form (Penn State students only)
- Program reserves the right to have any/all transfer students complete placement testing prior to admission to the program.

Information on the application process and all forms are available on the RADSC program website.

http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm

Do I have to be drug tested or have background checks? (Please see below)

To comply with Federal and State health and safety regulations, including the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, each clinical affiliate has established a drug-free workplace policy and procedure. To provide for maximum student competency and to promote the wellbeing and safety of all patients and others at each clinical affiliate, all Radiological Science students will be required by their assigned clinical sites to submit to drug screening and a criminal background check. Clinical facilities may impose conditions such as having their faculty/staff reserve the right to remove students from a clinical assignment in the event of suspected or questionable impairment and report for a random drug screening before returning to the clinical assignment. The clinic may impose its normal work rule sanctions, such as if any drug screening is positive for any reason, the student will be removed from the clinical assignment pending an investigation which may lead to dismissal from that particular clinical site. Initial and random drug
screening is solely for compliance with a drug-free workplace of the clinical affiliates and is not a requirement of the Pennsylvania State University. All fees associated with drug screening and criminal background checks are the responsibility of the student and not included as part of the tuition or associated activity fees.

You may begin upload of the information listed below after March 1. Physicals must be within one year of the start of the program each fall. Background checks must be within six months of the start of the program in the fall of each year. **DO NOT GET THE DRUG TESTING DONE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.** Please refer to the RADSC website for more information.

- Complete the application,(follow links on program website)
  - Undergraduate Application to Penn State : [http://nk.psu.edu/Admissions](http://nk.psu.edu/Admissions)
  - Check Radiological Sciences as Choice of Major.
  - Check New Kensington as **First Choice Campus and Ending Campus.**
  - Upon receipt of acceptance letter from Penn State, contact Debra Majetic ([dak25@psu.edu](mailto:dak25@psu.edu)) at 334-6738 within 2 weeks of receipt of letter. Any student not contacting Debra Majetic may forfeit the clinical spot for the program. Attend a mandatory informational session. Register for one of the informational sessions via the Radiological Sciences website [http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm](http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm)
  - Shadow at one of the clinical affiliates. It is mandatory to shadow for eight hours but you may shadow additional hours if you so choose.
  - Schedule the mandatory 8 hour shadowing.
  - **To schedule shadowing at Allegheny General Hospital or West Penn Hospital.** Please contact me at (724) 334-6738 or email me at [dak25@psu.edu](mailto:dak25@psu.edu) with availability dates. Once your date is scheduled you will complete the steps below. Also, note it will take approximately 3 weeks to complete paperwork and confirm your shadow date from the clinical site. The clinical instructor of the clinical site will sign the form for program official so please send the form to the address on the back.
    - Go to [www.ahn.org](http://www.ahn.org)
      - Click on education in the upper right hand side
    - Under Career Exploration
      - Click Shadow/Observer Program
    - Please read the information regarding shadowing
    - Click on Next Steps Pittsburg
      - Complete the required documentation packet
    - Send the packet to the address on the back of the form.

- **To schedule shadowing at Butler Memorial Hospital.**
  Please contact Lisa Frishkorn in the Medical Staff Office at the following:
    - (724) 284-4630 or [Lisa.FrishKorn@butlerhealthsystem.org](mailto:Lisa.FrishKorn@butlerhealthsystem.org)
    - Once you have the date for shadowing scheduled, please contact me at (724) 334-6738 or email me at [dak25@psu.edu](mailto:dak25@psu.edu). Best way to reach me is via email.

- Schedule Radiological Sciences New Student Orientation through the information you will receive for New Student Orientation from Penn State or you may also schedule your RADSC new Student Orientation by clicking [http://psnk-rad-sci.reservio.com](http://psnk-rad-sci.reservio.com). Once on the site you will have options to select the date or time that best fits your schedule. Please note you must also complete the New Student Orientation form you will receive from Penn State.
  - Complete Penn State placement testing if applicable.
  - Complete Radiological Sciences physical form and PSU online health history form.
• Complete the following three background checks: (follow links on website) All information will be uploaded to Certified Background. Background checks must be completed within six months of entrance to the program.
  o Act 33/34 Clearance
  o PA State Police history check. This check will be done by Certified Background (If not a PA resident for 3 years must do history check in primary state of residence).
  o Act 73 Clearance
  o Physical completed on Penn State form.
  o All information uploaded to Certified Background (Records Management Company).
• Routine drug screening (10 panel plus ecstasy (urine). Do not get the drug screening done until instructed to do so. No sooner than 2 weeks prior to beginning clinical rotations. The drug screening will be done after September 1st of each year.
• Purchase liability insurance through Health Providers Service Organization (HPSO).
  o Make sure to put September 1st as the effective date for liability insurance.
• All forms, background checks etc. will be uploaded to Certified Background (records Management Company).
• Uniforms
• Lead markers (purchase 2 sets of markers with 3 initials, first, middle and last) in blue Lt. and red Rt.)

• All fees associated with drug screening and criminal background checks, uniforms, lead markers, Certified Background, physical, TB test etc. are the responsibility of the student and not included as part of the tuition or associated activity fees.

• Certified Background - http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm - click on the link on the landing page for more information.

**Dress Code**

All uniforms will be purchased in the book store on campus to include a white lab coat. Please see particulars of the dress code in the student handbook posted on the program website http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm - click on the link on the bottom of the page.

**ALEKS Assessment**

Most students will have to take the placement exams once accepted to Penn State. Please make sure to have a secure internet connection and enough time to take the exam. Please refer to the following website for more information http://advising.psu.edu/aleks/index.html. Read about the score necessary on the exam to enroll in the math 021 course. If you don’t score well enough you may complete remediation and retake the exam. Any student not scoring the required percent for math 021 will have to take math 004 then math 021 (a requirement of the program) which may delay completion of the program in the established six semesters.

**Certification Eligibility Requirements**

If I was convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, will I be able to complete the program and take the registry examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)?

Eligibility for certification in ARRT primary disciplines includes requirements in three important areas: ethics, education and examination.
If a prospective student or candidate for the registry examination is concerned about whether his/her conviction record will affect eligibility, there is a way to find out in advance.

ARRT investigates all potential violations in order to determine eligibility and such investigations can cause delays in processing applications. Candidates can avoid delays by requesting a pre-application review of the violation before or during their education, rather than waiting until completing the educational program. (Candidates who anticipate graduating within six months should use the Application for Certification rather than the pre-application form). ARRT will rule on the impact of the violation on eligibility for ARRT certification. Once ethics eligibility is established, the candidate proceeds with the program or the application process.

The pre-application review form is downloadable from the “Ethics” section of the ARRT Web site, http://www.arrt.org/, or by requesting a copy by calling ARRT at (651) 687-0048, ext. 580.

Additional information may be found in ARRT Rules and Regulations and in ARRT Standards of Ethics in the Radiography Certification Handbook.

The majority of our students successfully pass the certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. The program has a 96% five year average pass rate for the certification examination.

Do I have to worry about completing clinical rotations and working with ionizing radiation?

All of our clinical sites comply with all local and federal regulations. You must understand ionizing radiation has the potential to cause biological damage and you must use proper radiation protection precautions at all times. We will review radiation protection during orientation once the program begins. Your education will continue with all of your procedures courses, your radiation protection and biology course and with each one of the competency examinations you complete during clinical rotations.

We adhere to the principle of ALARA – as low as reasonably achievable. This means you will keep both your exposure and your patient’s exposure as low as possible without compromising the diagnosis.

You will be issued a personnel monitoring device from your primary clinical site to monitor the amount of ionizing radiation you receive.

Is the program an Accredited Program?

The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (jrcert.org) and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Radiological Sciences Program is fully accredited by the JRCERT and received the maximum 8 year accreditation award in 2010. A student may file a complaint through the JRCERT. Due process will be followed with each complaint. For more information regarding accreditation status and compliance contact:

JRCERT
20 N. Wacker Drive
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
312-704-5300

Email: mail@jrcert.org

The JRCERT will post five-year average credentialing examination pass rate, five-year average job placement rate and annual program completion rate
Will I get a job when I graduate?

The projected job growth from 2012 – 2022 is approx. 21% (faster than average). Please see the Bureau of Labor Statistics for more detailed information [http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm](http://www.nk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/44310.htm) - once on the landing page click on the link at the bottom of the page. The current job market in the Pittsburgh is tight. Many of our students are taking part-time or per diem jobs and work into a full time position when available.

Do I have to leave the program if I become pregnant?

The program has an established pregnancy policy. A student may choose to declare the pregnancy in which case counseling will be provided and a second radiation monitoring device will be issued. The student will have 2 options.

To continue with the program completing all clinical rotations and academic work or to ask for a stop – out from the program, in which case, the student will step out of the program for one year. During the year the student must remain a Penn State Student and complete all the requirements as set forth by the action plan for the stop out. A more detailed explanation of the pregnancy policy is available in the student handbooks located on the program website or available upon request.

What is the tuition?

Penn State Tuition

Because Penn State’s tuition rates vary by campus, student level, program, and residency, the student tuition calculator provides specific tuition rates for individual students.

Please click on the following link for more detailed information on the tuition and costs. [http://tuition.psu.edu/](http://tuition.psu.edu/).