



NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

What is a Nuclear Medicine Technologist?

Nuclear medicine is a specialized branch of medical radiation technology that utilizes radioactive materials in a safe, non-invasive method in order to assess the function of body organs and systems.

Job responsibilities for Nuclear Medicine Technologists generally include:

- Operating radiation detection and imaging equipment;
- Performing in-vitro/in-vivo diagnostic procedures using radioactive materials on biological specimens, such as blood, urine and faeces;
- Recording and computer processing results of procedures;
- Checking equipment to ensure proper operation;
- Providing appropriate patient care during the examination, explaining the procedure to the patient, answering questions as fully as possible, and providing emotional support; and
- Applying radiation safety and protection measures.

A career in Nuclear Medicine Technology requires:

- Physical stamina;
- A sensitivity to a patient's physical and psychological needs; and
- A desire to help people

How do you become a Nuclear Medicine Technologist?

The following are current requirements to work as a Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologist in Saskatchewan:

- Successful completion of an accredited RTNM training program (a 2-year diploma program in didactic/clinical Nuclear Medicine technology);
- National certification by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT). The CAMRT offers three certification exam sittings per year; and
- Licensure with the provincial regulatory body, the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (SAMRT).

In Saskatchewan, Nuclear Medicine Technologists are governed by *The Medical Radiation Technologists Act*. Nuclear Medicine Technologists must also abide by the:

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Act/Regulations
- Saskatchewan Labour Laws related to radiation health and safety.
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods / Class 7

Where can you be trained to be a Nuclear Medicine Technologist?

Alberta

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

<http://www.sait.ca/calendars/daycalendar/courses/amrt.htm>

Please Note: The Saskatchewan government purchases seats in the Nuclear Medicine Technology program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). These seats are reserved exclusively for qualified Saskatchewan students on a competitive basis. The Nuclear Medicine Technology program is run jointly by SAIT and sponsoring clinical teaching hospitals in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Nuclear Medicine Technology is a two-year diploma program, consisting of 10 months at SAIT (September – June), followed by 12 months at the sponsoring hospitals in either Regina or Saskatoon (July – August).

Ontario

Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences

http://www.michener.ca/ft/nuc_med.php

What do you need to get into SAIT's Nuclear Medicine Technologist training program?

Minimum Educational Requirements are:

- A High School diploma.
- Minimum overall average of 60% in English 30; Math 30 or 31; Physics 30 or Biology 30, Chem 30 and one of Math 31, Language 30, Physics 30, Biology 30, Social Studies 30, or Science 30. (Due to competition, higher averages are likely needed.)
- Applicants must meet current SAIT application criteria – including cover letter, resume, career investigation, and personal references.
- Students are selected on an annual basis by the clinical partner sites in conjunction with SAIT on the basis of academic standing, experience working with people, knowledge of Nuclear Medicine Technology and personal attributes as assessed during an interview process.

What does a Nuclear Medicine Technologist study?

The required courses for nuclear medicine technology include:

- Radiation physics;
- Radionuclide instrumentation;
- Radiopharmacy;
- Health studies;
- Anatomy and physiology;
- Methodology;
- Quality control;
- Radiation protection; and
- Computer processing

Where does a Nuclear Medicine Technologist work?

- Regional Health Authorities (acute care hospitals)
- Private Laboratories
- Research Institutions

What is the salary of a Nuclear Medicine Technologist?

Nuclear Medicine Technologists' pay rates are according to the Service Employees International Union/SAHO Collective Agreement. <http://www.seiu.org/health/>

Related Links

**Saskatchewan Association of
Medical Radiation Technologists**
www.samrt.ca

**Canadian Association of Medical Radiation
Technologists**
<http://www.camrt.ca>

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html