

Health Care: A Career For Life

RADIATION THERAPIST (NOC 3215)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Your job as a Radiation Therapist is to prepare, plan & deliver radiation therapy treatments to cancer patients requiring radiation therapy. You will be employed by cancer treatment centers in Manitoba (Winnipeg or Brandon) and across Canada. Other opportunities include education, management, commercial sales & research.

TRAINING & EDUCATION ROUTES

Cancer Care Manitoba, in conjunction with Red River College, offers a 28 month diploma program. A degree program through University of Winnipeg is proposed for the near future.

MORE INFO ON THE WEB

<https://mamrt.olasoft.com/site/RadTherapy>

What does a Radiation Therapist do?

Radiation Therapists ...

- work closely with doctors, medical physicists, patients and other members of the health care team.
- use highly specialized computer systems and radiation therapy equipment to design and implement treatment plans
- prepare and position patients for radiation therapy treatments and ensure accuracy of treatment delivery on a daily basis.
- operate or assist in the operation of a wide variety of equipment used to prepare and deliver radiation therapy treatments including treatment units, CT simulators, treatment planning computers, etc.
- generate dose distributions to determine the most appropriate treatment plan for patient.
- perform calculations relevant to planning and the delivery of treatment and verify calculations performed by other therapists.
- carry out quality control checks on processes and equipment, and participating in risk management initiatives.

Because radiation treatments often extend over several weeks, a special supportive relationship often develops between the therapist, the patient and the patient's family. Radiation Therapy involves treatment methods for long-term control and palliation of malignant diseases by use of radiation. The radiation therapist is an important member of a team of skilled professional medical staff, whose objective is to provide the best possible care and service to the patient.

Anyone considering this program is asked to check for program updates by contacting Cancer Care Manitoba.

Salary Range

\$60,000- 85,000+
(Approximate)

High School Courses

Senior 4

*Physics 40S

*Math 40S

Biology & Chemistry 40S

Program Prerequisite

In Manitoba - this program has a mandatory University I prerequisite. Must include 24 credits of post-secondary education* from a recognized college or university including but not limited to Introduction to Physics (6 credits), Anatomy and Physiology (6 credits), Introduction to Sociology (6 credits), Basic Statistical Analysis (3 credits), and Communications (3 credits).

Health Care: A Career For Life

Radiation Therapy –

Radiation Therapy is a 28-month diploma program with a mid-August entry date. Please note that the 28 months are consecutive and the academic terms are separated by clinical blocks.

This program is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills to plan and deliver radiation treatments to clients with cancer. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and critical-thinking skills so graduates will be able to individualize this treatment in a competent and compassionate manner. The program includes lectures and demonstrations in professional ethics, patient care, applied anatomy and physiology, elementary pathology, radiation therapy techniques, radiation biology, radiation protection, treatment planning, and radiation physics.

During the program, you will receive both theoretical and practical training under the supervision of qualified staff. Your practical training will lead to proficiency in the operation of linear accelerators, x-ray, and CT simulators and other specialized equipment and computer systems.. You will also learn patient assessment and teaching skills in order to provide appropriate patient care. Because cancer patients are in need of special understanding and appreciation of how they, as individuals, are affected by their illness, your training will involve the human side of the work as well as the technical skills required. The program will also provide training in protection measures and in observance of safety rules.

REGULAR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The 24 credits of post-secondary education listed are the minimum requirements. Preference will be given to applicants with high academic achievements. **For a complete list of program requirements go to <http://me.rrc.mb.ca>** You will need a good background in the sciences, a strong technical orientation, and the ability to work with care and precision. Because empathy with cancer patients is a day-to-day requirement of this type of work, you should have patience, understanding, and tolerance and be able to demonstrate these qualities on a daily basis in the best humanitarian interests of the patient.

Please note: Due to high demand, this program is open to Manitoba residents only.

Cancer Care Manitoba - School of Radiation Therapy
<http://www.cancercares.mb.ca>

The Radiation Therapy Program is a 28 month diploma program administered by CancerCare Manitoba-School of Radiation Therapy. *Application information and processing is through Red River College.*

Medical Radiologic Technology - Red River College

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Default.aspx?Link=ProgramFrame.asp?ProgCode=AVR>
This is a 24 month program leading to a diploma in Medical Radiologic Technology

Radiation Therapy - Red River College

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Default.aspx?Link=ProgramFrame.asp?ProgCode=D6>

Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy - RRC

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Default.aspx?Link=ProgramFrame.asp?ProgCode=AUF>
The 9 month program will lead to a diploma in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It is important to note that one of the other three diplomas (Medical Radiologic Technology, Radiation Therapy or Nuclear Medicine) is a pre-requisite to this program.

Anyone considering this program is asked to check for program updates by contacting Cancer Care Manitoba.