

The ARRT: Current Status and Function

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American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

This is the first article in a series of profiles on organizations that are actively involved in nuclear medicine technology. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists has registered over 2,400 nuclear medicine technologists and will continue to register approximately 600 new technologists each year.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists was established in 1922 for the purpose of standardizing medical assistance in the area of x-ray technology. Today it lists more than 72,000 x-ray, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy technologists in its directory; it operates with an annual cash flow of a half million dollars; and it tests and certifies graduates from over 1,000 AMA approved schools. It is the official certifying body for the second largest group of paramedical personnel—only nursing is larger.

Examination Content

The examination in nuclear medicine technology is based directly on the approved curriculum for educational programs. Subject matter is emphasized in the examination to the same degree of emphasis as applied to that subject in the curriculum. The following includes the subjects found on the examination and the number of questions on each subject: administrative procedures, 5 questions; mathematical concepts, 20 questions; radiation physics, 14 questions; interaction of radiation with matter, 5 questions; radiation units, 4 questions; introduction to radionuclides, 13 questions; radiation protection, 6 questions; radiobiology, 7 questions; nuclear instrumentation, 28 questions; radionuclide chemistry, 1 question; and clinical nuclear medicine technology, 96 questions.

All ARRT examinations are produced by the ARRT with input by invited consultants in various specialties such as, radiation physics, radiation safety, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, etc. The finished examination is provided to Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey,

which then schedules, administers, scores, reports results, and analyzes the performance of the candidate.

Registration Requirements in Nuclear Medicine

I. Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- A. Candidates must be citizens of the United States or shall have filed a Declaration of Intention or a Petition for Naturalization for United States citizenship.
- B. Candidates must have had a high school education, or the equivalent thereof, as witnessed by such documentary evidence as the Board of Trustees shall deem acceptable.

II. Required Education in Nuclear Medicine Technology:

- A. Basic Requirements: Candidates shall have successfully completed at least one year of education in a school of nuclear medicine technology accepted by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists as being equivalent to the Essentials and Curriculum which have been approved by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, The American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the American College of Radiology, and by the Registry of Medical Technologists (ASCP). In addition, candidates must meet at least one of the following sets of conditions:
 1. Graduation from an AMA-approved program in x-ray technology.
 2. Certification as an x-ray technologist by the ARRT.
 3. Certification as a medical technologist by the Registry of Medical Technologists (ASCP).
 4. Registration as a professional nurse.
 5. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.

B. Alternate Qualifications: As an alternate to the basic requirements, candidates may meet one of the following:

1. The successful completion of a program of formal education in nuclear medicine technology which has been approved by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association.
2. The successful completion of a formal education program of at least two years in nuclear medicine technology in a school accepted by the ARRT.
3. Graduation from a four-year high school program plus at least five years of full time (40 hours per week) experience in a clinical radioisotope laboratory accepted by the ARRT.
4. Certification as an x-ray technologist by the ARRT plus at least two years of full time experience in a clinical radioisotope laboratory accepted by the ARRT.
5. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution plus at least two years of full time experience in a clinical radioisotope laboratory accepted by the ARRT.

New Application Fees

As of January 1, 1974 the application fee for ARRT examinations will be increased to \$25. All repeat examinations will cost \$15.

Considering the tremendous increase in production costs during the past ten years, it is remarkable that Registry fees have not increased during that time. This was possible because of the regular

development of new automated procedures, by applying more efficient administrative procedures to all processes, and by constantly improving the processing techniques. Nonetheless, during the last three fiscal years, Registry costs have exceeded income. Fortunately, the reserve fund has been sufficient to absorb this excess. However, the Registry is now contracting for administration of all examinations with an independent testing agency (ETS). This contract is very expensive and the costs involved depend on the number of candidates. It was expected that this contract would require an increase in the application fee schedule.

New Application Forms

The Registry application form has been revised and is now available from the office in Minneapolis. Requests for application materials are processed promptly, but should be submitted well in advance of the filing deadline.

May 1974 Examinations Scheduled

The May 1974 certifying examinations in nuclear medicine technology will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 1974. To be processed for that examination, applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1974 to the Registry office in Minneapolis.

For further details on registration programs, foreign reciprocity, and continuing education opportunities of the Registry write: Roland C. McGowan, R.T. (ARRT), Executive Director, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, 2600 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55405.