



Mammography Certificate Program Handbook

The Mammography certificate program at Mt. SAC is a two semester certificate program available to current Mt. SAC Radiologic Technology (RT) program students. The program provides a complete educational experience for students who wish to expand their skills into the study in the theory and practice of Mammography.

Mt. San Antonio College/ RT Department
1100 N Grand Ave, Walnut CA 91789
909-274-4750
909-274-2466

Program Mission

The mission of the Mammography Program at Mt. San Antonio College is to prepare students to become competent entry level Mammographers. The program will provide a comprehensive curriculum in the study and clinical practice of Mammography, including evolving technical skills. Our goal to provide students with the necessary clinical and academic experiences to be eligible to apply for CA state certification in Mammography.

The Mammography Program's mission is consistent with the College's mission in that it supports students in achieving their full educational potential in an environment of academic excellence.

Program Goals

1. To provide educational experiences that prepares students/graduates to enter the health care community as Mammographers
 - Program curriculum will be up to date with current California state certification educational requirements, ARRT educational requirements, and ASRT Mammography curriculum
 - Clinical experience will be in compliance with California state law
 - Program faculty will be qualified and meet requirements to maintain ARRT credentialing
 - Program curriculum will maintain clinical affiliations enabling the student to become competent entry-level Mammographers
2. To prepare clinically competent entry-level Mammographers
 - Students will develop workforce readiness skills
 - Students will apply accurate positioning skills and provide appropriate patient care
 - Students will select optimal technical factors
 - Students will utilize appropriate radiation protection and ALARA principles
 - Students will demonstrate academic and technical competence as an entry-level Mammographer.
3. To develop Mammographers who utilize exceptional communication skills
 - Students will communicate effectively with patients, clinical staff and peers
 - Students will demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills in didactic and clinical settings

4. To train Mammographers to use critical thinking and problem solving skills to perform job related functions
 - Students will use critical thinking skills in both routine and non-routine clinical situations
 - Students will adapt standard procedures for non-routine patients
 - Students will analyze images to determine diagnostic quality and make modifications as needed
5. To develop Mammographers who perform mammographic procedures professionally and compassionately
 - Students will exhibit professional work ethic, behavior and attitude
 - Students will abide by the ASRT code of ethics
 - Students will provide compassionate patient care
 - Students will use professional judgement when working with patients and others
6. To encourage students/graduates to invest in continued personal and professional growth
 - Students will identify the advantage of belonging to professional organizations
 - Students will understand the need for continued professional development and growth
 - Students will participate in professional development activities
7. To meet the employment demands of the medical community
 - Students will pass the California state certification exam in Mammographic Radiologic Technology
 - Students will secure employment as a Mammographer within one year of program completion

Program Overview

The Mammography certificate program at Mt. SAC is a two semester certificate program available to current Mt. SAC Radiologic Technology (RT) program students. The program provides a complete educational experience for students who wish to expand their skills into the study in the theory and practice of mammography. Students will have the opportunity to learn and develop competence in patient care, communication skills, critical thinking, and technical skills that will prepare the student to become a competent entry level Mammographer.

The program curriculum is designed to meet the mammography educational training requirements set forth by the FDA Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA), the California Department of Public Health Services- Radiologic Health Branch (RHB), and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The educational standards established by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) are also incorporated into the curriculum. Educational activities include lecture, laboratory activities, and hands-on clinical training at a clinical site.

The program includes:

- MQSA and RHB 40 hours of documented training specific to mammography requirement
- ARRT 16 hour structured education requirement & content specifications for the mammography examination
- Eight hours of digital mammography training
- MQSA hands-on clinical experience requirement (25 supervised mammograms)
- Course work in breast anatomy/physiology, patient care, mammography procedures, positioning, compression, interventional procedures, imaging of patients with breast implants, pathology, image evaluation, instrumentation, technique, physics, and quality assurance/quality control

All didactic courses will be offered on campus. Clinical training will be conducted at affiliated healthcare institutions (days and times will vary depending on clinical education site).

Upon completion of the program, the student receives a Certificate of Completion from Mt. San Antonio College. Once the graduate is certified as a Diagnostic CA Radiologic Technologists (CRT's), the graduate will be eligible to apply for CA state certification in Mammography. The program will make an effort to provide students the opportunity to complete all ARRT clinical requirements; however, **this training is not guaranteed.**

For more information about the Mammography Certificate Program, contact the Radiologic Technology Department.

Admission Requirements

The Mammography Certificate Program has special admission requirements and limited enrollment. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all admission requirements below are met, and all documents are submitted on time. Only complete application files will be reviewed for admission. Students must follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance to the program.

1. Applicant must be currently enrolled as a second year student in Mt. SAC's Radiologic Technology Program
2. Submit a current copy of CPR card with program application
 - a. CPR card must be American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider, valid 2 years
3. Submit a copy of RT "Clinical Competency Requirements" log providing evidence of the following:
 - a. Competency in 29/36 mandatory procedures
 - b. Competency in 12/15 elective procedures
4. Complete health physical, background check, and other clinical site requirements (*if applicable*)
5. Complete an application. Applications are available on the [Mt. SAC Mammography Program](#) web site.
6. Submit your completed application, copy of CPR card, copy of RT ruler, and clinical requirements via email to Melissa Villegas at mvillegas32@mtsac.edu.
7. The application window is between Oct 1st – Oct 31st. Only applications submitted with completed supporting documentation (see 2, 3, & 4 above) will be considered.

Role of the Mammographer

Mammographers are highly trained professionals who work with specialized x-ray equipment to produce diagnostic images of the breast. The images assist physicians in screening patients and diagnosing pathologies such as breast cancer. Mammographers work closely with patients to provide quality care while performing various specialized breast-imaging studies. Professional duties include operating sophisticated equipment, performing breast imaging procedures, recording a patient's clinical history, preparing patients for procedures, evaluating breast images for technical quality, assisting with interventional procedures, observing radiation protection measures, and participating in quality assurance measures.

Employment Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of Radiologic Technologists is projected to grow 7% from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows and ages, there will be an increase in medical conditions which will increase demand for diagnostic imaging. In addition, federal health legislation will expand the number of patients who have access to health insurance, increasing patient access to medical care. A technologist with an associate's degree in Radiologic Science can move into a career at a hospital, healthcare clinic, or managed-care facility and earn a comfortable living. Others can obtain additional certification and training to advance their careers or to move into another specialty. Mammography is an advanced certification.

“Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, exceeded only by lung cancer. The chance that breast cancer will be responsible for a woman's death is about 1 in 36 (about 3%).” Most doctors feel that early detection tests for breast cancer save many thousands of lives each year. In recent years, increased awareness and the need for early detection of tumors and other abnormalities in the breast has increased the need for individuals with Mammography certification.

According to the 2021 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics report, Radiologic Technologists held about 250,700 jobs in the United States in 2019, with a national annual median income of \$61,900 in 2020. The annual median income for RT's in California was \$95,010 in 2020.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Radiologic and MRI Technologists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm> (visited June 05, 2021).

- **ARRT Requirements:** <https://www.arrt.org/earn-arrrt-credentials/credential-options/mammography>
- **FDA Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) Requirements (see subpart B):** <https://www.fda.gov/radiation-emitting-products/regulations-mqsa/mammography-quality-standards-act-regulations>
- **California State Certification In Mammographic Radiologic Technology Application:** <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/RHB-Certification/AppsFAQs.aspx>

Clinical Placement Policy

This policy addresses placement of students in clinical mammography rotations to observe and/or perform breast imaging.

Under this policy, all students, male and female, will be offered the opportunity to participate in clinical mammography rotations. The program will make every effort to place a male student in a clinical mammography rotation if requested; however, the program is not in a position to override clinical setting policies that restrict clinical experiences in mammography to female students. Male students are advised that placement in a mammography rotation is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of a clinical setting that allows males to participate in mammographic imaging procedures. The program will not deny female students the opportunity to participate in mammography rotations if clinical settings are not available to provide the same opportunity to male students.

The Clinical Placement Policy is based on the sound rationale presented in a position statement on student clinical mammography rotations adopted by the Board of Directors of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) at its April 2016 meeting. The JRCERT position statement is included as Addendum A to the program's policy and is available on the JRCERT Web site, www.jrcert.org (Programs & Faculty, Program Resources).



Mammography Certificate Program

Admissions Application

The Mammography Certificate Program is an advanced imaging certificate. **Applicants must be currently registered as second year students in Mt. SAC's Radiologic Technology Program,** and have demonstrated competency in a minimum number of RT clinical procedures (see #2 below).

Also, clinical sites may have additional pre-admission requirements. The applicant is responsible for completing the requirements prior to clinical placement. Applicants who do not complete the additional clinical requirements by the given due date, will not be eligible for program admission.

Directions

1. Complete the reverse side of this form
2. By the end of **Winter** semester, submit a copy of your RT "Clinical Competency Requirements" log providing evidence of the following:
 - a. Competency in 29/36 mandatory procedures
 - b. Competency in 12/15 elective procedures
3. Complete clinical site requirements (*if applicable*)
4. Email your completed application, including supporting documentation, to Melissa Villegas at mvillegas32@mtsac.edu.
 - a. The application window is open Oct 1st – Oct 31st.

**Personal Information:**

Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Home Phone #		Cell #	
Email			
Mt. SAC Student ID No.		Date of Birth	
Name of RT Program Home Base Facility (if applicable)			

(circle one)

Are you currently enrolled as a second year student in Mt. SAC's Radiologic Technology Program?

Y N

Have you completed the minimum RT competencies below?
(submit copy of RT ruler with application)

Y N

a. Competency in 29/36 mandatory procedures

b. Competency in 12/15 elective procedures

Signature: _____

Date: _____