

RADIATION THERAPY MAJOR

Is Radiation Therapy For Me?

Find out by answering the following questions. If you answer yes to most of them, read on to learn more. If not, try one of the other **Major Profiles**.

| | No | Yes |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Are you investigative, enterprising, realistic, or social? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would you enjoy working under pressure and with hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would you enjoy working in an area with risk associated with it? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you enjoy investigating and looking for solutions to proposed problems? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you like chemistry, biology, physics or science in general? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you an independent worker? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would you enjoy a job where you stand for the majority of the time or a non-desk job? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What is Radiation Therapy?

The radiation therapy specialization prepares students for a clinical internship. Radiation therapists use various types of ionizing radiation in the treatment of human diseases, primarily cancer. The primary responsibility of the Radiation Therapist is to implement the treatment programs prescribed by a radiation oncologist and planned in conjunction with a physicist and dosimetrist. Practitioners of radiation therapy must possess qualities such as good judgment and compassion towards patients.

What Courses Will I Take?

- Introduction to Radiation Therapy
- Patient Care and Management
- Radiation Physics
- Oncologic Pathology
- Clinical Dosimetry

What Are Some Related Majors?

- Health Sciences
- Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Biology
- Chemistry

What Skills Will I Develop?

The radiation therapy program is designed to prepare students for professional opportunities in a variety of growing healthcare fields. Various skills are necessary in areas such as communication, critical thinking, data-analysis, decision making, and observation. In response to emerging technologies, many areas of specialization have evolved that ensure the expertise of the healthcare personnel fulfilling critical roles.

Where Could I Work?

Graduates may find employment in hospital or commercial clinical laboratories, research laboratories or public health facilities. Positions within biomedical corporations, including research and development, quality assurance and sales or service may also be prospective sources for employment.

Related Careers

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | Cardiovascular Technologists | Medical Laboratory Technologist |
| Material Scientist | Pathology Assistant | Medical Technician |

Employment Outlook

Employment of radiation therapists is expected to grow by 20 percent between 2010 and 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 3,400 new jobs over the 10-year period. The risk of cancer increases as people age, so an aging population will increase demand for radiation therapists. Early diagnosis and the development of more sophisticated treatment techniques will also increase employment (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13).

Salary Expectations

The median annual wage of radiation therapists was \$74,980 in May 2010 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13).

Where Can I Get More Information?

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| Oakland University School of Health Sciences | www.oakland.edu/shs/ |
| Academic Advising at OU | www.oakland.edu/advising |
| Major Exploration at OU | www.oakland.edu/firstyearadvising |
| American Society for Radiation Oncology | www.astro.com |