

Tyler Junior College

Radiologic Technology Program

FAQ

Most of the following questions are answered in the program's Application Documents, or in the curriculum found at the program website in the links below. Please reference these documents for answers to questions prior calling or emailing the department chair.

"How do I sign up for the x-ray class?"

There is no single class. We offer an associate degree program. Students who enter the program are enrolled in a set curriculum of classes every semester until graduation. The curriculum can be found here: https://www.tjc.edu/directory_record/129/

"Do I have to take all of the general education classes as 'prerequisites' before I can apply?"

No. The only true prerequisites class is BIOL2401 or equivalent. The other classes will increase your chances of getting in but that is the only class that has to be completed to apply.

"When do classes start? When can I apply?"

We take applications every Spring for the following Fall semester.

"Do you only start a new class once a year?"

Yes. We only begin the program once per year in the Fall semester.

"How can I find out more about the program?"

I encourage you to spend some time on the program website. More than likely your questions can be answered in this FAQ or in the program's application documents/application packet on the program website. https://www.tjc.edu/downloads/download/59/radiologic_technology

"What are the minimum requirements for application?"

The minimum requirements are listed in the curriculum and the application packet at the links above. In short, the minimum requirements for application are BIOL 2401 or equivalent, a 2.5 GPA and complete the HESI test with a minimum score of 80. We require applicants to job shadow in a hospital setting for 8 hours prior to the end of the application period.

"Do I have to take all of the non-x-ray classes that are in the curriculum before I can apply?"

No. The other classes may help you get in, but the only class required to apply is BIOL2401 or an equivalent.

"I took a biology class, but it wasn't BIOL2401. Can my class be substituted for BIOL2401?"

Maybe. You will need to contact and academic advisor (903 510-2662) and have them assess the transferability and similarity of the class.

"I don't have one or more of the pre-requisites. Can you make an exception for me?"

The pre-requisites are set and agreed on by the program advisory committee. Our accreditation requires us to equitably follow our admission requirements. To make an exception would require

a change in admission requirements, agreed to by the advisory committee, and would not likely be implemented until the following year.

“Do I need to meet with someone from the program?”

No. There is no requirement to meet. We will meet with you at the orientation meeting in June or the interview. The information on the steps to apply to the program are provided in this document and in the application documents on the program website.

“What is ‘job shadowing’?”

Job shadowing is an 8 hour requirement for application that places the student in a clinical site to observe in a diagnostic radiography setting. It exposes applicants to a typical work setting who may be less aware of the requirements and duties of the job. The requirements for job shadowing can be found in the program website in the applications documents link (3 documents):

https://www.tjc.edu/downloads/download/59/radiologic_technology

“If I have had legal trouble, does that mean that I can’t enter the program?”

Not necessarily. If there are any issues that may show up on a background check, applicants are required to complete and return a positive determination for an ethics pre-application with the ARRT (arrt.org). This has to be returned prior to the first orientation date (first week in June).

“What if I do have a criminal record but I don’t complete the pre-application?” You will be ineligible for the current year.

“If I don’t complete the pre-application, how will you know that I have a criminal history?” Part of the acceptance is to complete a background check and drug screen. If any criminal offense shows up on your background check and you have not provided clearance from the ARRT indicating that a pre-application was completed, you will be ineligible.

“If I have a criminal record but I complete the pre-application, I’ll be eligible?” By program standards yes. HOWEVER, at least 2 hospitals (one of which being either UT East Texas or Christus Trinity other Frances both on Beckham in Tyler) have to approve you to be a student at their facility. If we can’t place you in one of the aforementioned facilities and at least one other hospital, you won’t be able to participate in practicum courses and will be ineligible.

“I didn’t complete the pre-application but my record is insignificant. I know everything is going to be ok” and “Can I take another drug test and submit to frequent and or random drug tests if I fail the original drug test?” Our clinical sites expect us to follow our policies. They require drug screens and background checks for new hires. In the event that a new hire is ineligible for employment because of criminal history, they wont work. Likewise, if a student has a similar history or test, the student will be ineligible.

“You mentioned a drug screen, do I have to complete that?” Yes. The drug screen and background check are due at the same time. If you are offered a seat in the program you will be “conditionally accepted.” 2 of those conditions are completing and passing the background (either no criminal record or evidence of a criminal record that has already been reported and cleared by the ARRT pre-application) and passing check and drug screen (meaning no evidence of drugs in your system).

What if I refuse to complete the drug screen? The drug screen is

“Do I have to pass the drug screen?” Yes. You have to test negative for having evidence of drugs in your system.

“What if I fail my drug screen?” You will be ineligible for NHS programs 1 year.

“What if I use substances that are known to cause a drug screen to show false positive?” If the test cannot differentiate between those products and the actual drug, we have to assume that testing positive would indicate drug use. I would not recommend not using those products for a period of time sufficient enough to not be detected on a drug screen.

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“I really messed up my GPA 10 years ago. For the last few years I’ve done really well. My GPA is below 2.5. Does that mean I don’t qualify?”

Not necessarily. If your bad grades are 5 years ago or more and all course work from the most recent 5 years or better are at least 2.5 GPA, the program will calculate your GPA based on the last 5 years.

“If I have all of that, I’ll get in?”

Not necessarily. We are a selective admissions program meaning that we will take the applicants with the highest scores, interview those students and select the students with the highest combined scores from their course work, test scores and interview scores.

“Is there a waiting list?”

No. Every application period is distinct from the previous. We don't use waiting lists. We will select the most qualified applicants for each class. You must reapply every year.

“Is it hard to get in? How many applications do you get? How many student do you take?”

It can be challenging, but every application period is different. We receive as few as 50 applications (usually between 50 and 80). We've seen as many as 205. The better your scores are the better your chances of being accepted.

“I’ve taken a different health occupations placement test than the one you require. Will that suffice?”

No. The testing requirements and their impact on your application can be found in the application documents on the program website

“I am exempt from college testing. Do I still have to take an entrance test for the program?”

Yes. The placement test is mandatory.

“Where do I go to take the placement test?”

You can schedule the test to be taken at the TJC testing center. All updates to your application have to be submitted on or before that orientation meeting date.

What if I can't test in time for the April 15 application deadline?

You can still apply. As long as we receive your test scores no later than the June orientation meeting, we can still update your application and your test scores will apply.

What if I don't have all of my documentation by the June orientation meeting?

Unfortunately, you won't qualify for admission this year. You are welcome to attend the meeting and gain more information if you want to.

"What will help to increase my chances of being accepted into the program?"

The points grid in the application packet in the program website should help you gain insight. The HESI scores, GPA, grades in specific classes and the more general education classes you have completed, the better your chances are of being interviewed. Good interview skills will also help. You could also try to find a job that would give you direct patient care experience. You might consider retaking the HESI. The HESI can be retaken every 6 months. If you have scored B's and C's in BIOL2401 and BIOL2402, consider retaking them.

"I have taken similar course to the ones you require. Will I have to retake the exact classes that you list in your curriculum?"

Not necessarily. You will need to talk to an NHS academic advisor to be sure that your class satisfies the same requirements as the classes we list. If your class and ours line up closely enough, course substitutions can be made. For example if you have taken a 3 hour humanities class, we might substitute it for our course. A 2 hour class will not satisfy the requirement for our humanities. An Intro to Human Anatomy class won't satisfy the requirement for A&P1, but an A&P class with a different course number than BIOL2401 might. We will make substitutions to satisfy the degree requirement, but will not substitute classes that are specifically mentioned in the applicant document for points. You will need to see an academic advisor to be certain that your classes will transfer and will satisfy TJC's requirement for similarity.

"When can I apply for the Radiologic Technology Program?"

We accept applications from January 20 through April 15 every year. In a year where April 15 falls on a weekend, we will accept applications until the following Monday. If you mail your application, it must be postmarked by April 15. Please do not email your application. Ensure that you include the selective admissions application, the program application signature sheets, shadowing paperwork, official transcripts.

"I am taking BIOL2401 in the Spring semester. I guess it's too late to apply for this year?"

Not necessarily. Any course work that you have in progress can be completed and your application updated at the end of the semester. HESI scores and ARRT Ethic Pre-application results can also be submitted after the end of the application date, but all updates have to be submitted no later than the orientation date in June.

"Can I take BIOL2401 in the Summer and still get in in the following Fall?"

No, all of your requirements for application have to be completed prior to the first orientation date, usually held the first Thursday in June. Completion of courses in the Summer semesters will be too late.

“So if I don’t have BIOL2401 or an equivalent by Summer, I’ll have to wait a year?”

Yes.

“I have taken BIOL2401 and BIOL2402, but it has been a long time. Does that matter?”

If you have completed them within 7 years of when you would begin the program, no. If it has been more than 7 years, you will need to either retake the course or take a refresher course. See an academic advisor for the specifics on a refresher course. If your scores on your older classes were less than an A, you may consider retaking the class to improve your grade, your GPA, your points and your chances of earning a seat in the program.

“What if I retake the HESI or a BIOL class and I get a worse score than I originally had?”

We will always take the higher of the two scores.

“I don’t want to be idle for a year. What can I do?”

We recommend completing BIOL2401 in a regular long semester. Take it in the Fall and BIOL2402 in the Spring. Take College Algebra and any of the other general education courses listed in the curriculum. You could also try to find a job that would give you direct patient care experience.

“When is the meeting in June and is it mandatory?”

It is mandatory for all students who have applied with the qualifications to enter the program in the Fall. It generally is held the first Thursday in June in the Southside Room in the Rogers Nursing and Health Science Building. It will begin at 1:00.

“What are the requirements for the work experience points?”

Work experience is not required for application. We award up to 6 points to applicants who have worked with patients in direct care previously. EMS, nurse aids, orderlies and transporters are the most common types of work experience. We DO NOT award points for Volunteer hours, candy striping, check in and scheduling help, work in a veterinarian’s office and pharmacies.

“What do I need to turn in to apply?”

The application is available on the program website. The program applicant packet checklist can be used to make sure you complete all steps. You need to submit the Selective Admissions Application, the signature pages only from the program application packet (NOT THE WHOLE PACKET), your OFFICIAL transcripts from ALL of the colleges you’ve attended, your shadowing paperwork and any documentation for direct patient care work experience that you may have.

“Can you just view my grades through the TJC computer system? I already provided my official transcript to the registrar’s office”

We need you to submit your transcripts to the program. Due to the volume of applications that we receive in some years, it is time prohibitive to look up all academic records. Transfer credits are often absent of GPA or grades for the classes taken outside of TJC. Official copies of your previous college transcripts are required to accurately credit course work from other colleges. In the absence of official transcripts, the program can only award grades of “C” for transfer coursework in calculation of GPAs for the application.

“Where do I turn in my application?”

You can either hand deliver it to Suzanne Garrigan, second floor faculty offices, office number 2.243 in the Rogers Nursing and Health Science Building, 1200 E. 5th Street in Tyler, or you can mail it to:

Suzanne Garrigan
Radiologic Technology
P.O. Box 9020
Tyler, Texas 75711-9020

PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION

“When will I know if I will be interviewed?”

We will schedule interviews at the orientation in June. The interviews will be 2 weeks after the orientation.

“How are the interviews used?”

The 40-45 applicants with the highest points will be interviewed. Your interview points will be added to the points earned for grades, HESI scores, GPA, etc., and the top 26 will determine who is selected for the class.

“When will I know if I got in?”

Letters will be sent within 4 weeks of the interview. If you interviewed, you will receive a letter informing you of your status. You will either be offered a seat in the program, considered an alternate or that you are not being considered for the upcoming class. “Alternate” status means that if a person who is offered a seat decides not to attend, you may be called to take their place.

“How many applicants are accepted and how many are alternates?”

We accept 26 students every Fall. We will send out 5 alternate letters. Some years we call up all 5 alternates and sometimes we don't have to call any. There is no way to predict when or if an alternate will be accepted.

“What reason will an alternate be called?”

Some people apply to multiple programs. If a student applies to 2 programs and is selected for both, they can only enroll in one. If an accepted student chooses a different program, we will send the alternate with the highest combined points an “acceptance” letter.

“If I am accepted into the program, do I have to have immunizations?” Yes, annually, you will need to have the flu shot. You will need an annual TB test. In the even that you test positive for TB, you will need to have an annual chest x-ray that diagnoses no active disease. In addition, you will need to provide documentation that you have had the varicella vaccination (or that you had chicken pox), the MMR, the hepatitis B series, T-dap and meningococcal vaccinations.

“If I have had the chicken pox, how do I get documentation?” Documentation should come from a 3rd party. Your doctor is possible. Your parent will work in absence of a doctor. A last case scenario would be from you.

“What are the costs for the program?” The cost depends on residency status. If you are considered “in district,” the program costs a little more than \$12,000. Out of district but in state costs will be just over \$16,000. Out of state costs will be just over \$18,000. This is the “out the

door” cost for tuition, books, fees, uniforms, monitoring devices and supplies. Food, housing and transportation are not included.