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General Program Information

Accredited by:

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT),
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182
jrcert.org
312-704-5300

The program must abide by JRCERT Standards in order to maintain accreditation; if anyone has concerns that the program is adhering to those Standards they may submit allegations directly to the JRCERT.

University/Program Officials:

Thomas Sullivan, JD, President
Patricia Prelock, PhD, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Alan Maynard, M.Ed., A.T.C., Interim Chair, Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences
Jane Pembroke Alsofrom, M.Ed., RT(T), Program Director, Clinical Assistant Professor
Maryse Biron, M.Ed., RT(T), Clinical Coordinator, Lecturer
Havaleh Gagne, M.D., Medical Director

Advisory Committee:

The program is supported by an Advisory Committee, which meets annually in the fall. The committee is composed of the program director, clinical coordinator, medical director, clinical supervisors of all clinical sites, and one radiation therapy faculty member. Many of the clinical supervisors are graduates of the program or department supervisors, as such they fulfill a dual role of clinical supervisor and alumni or hiring manager.

The Advisory Committee reviews admission requirements, clinical and didactic curriculum content, evaluates student success and outcomes, and suggests improvements or changes to the overall program.
**Mission:**
The Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences prepares students for careers in the health sciences. Our graduates are well-grounded in both research concepts and clinical practice.

Educational Goals:
1. Graduates will be competent to function as entry-level radiation therapists in any radiation oncology environment.
2. Graduates will demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking skills in the clinical setting.
3. Graduates will demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.
4. Our graduates will demonstrate the highest professional and ethical standards.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the Bachelor’s degree concentration in Radiation Therapy, the graduates will demonstrate:
- Compassion and holistic care of people requiring radiation therapy.
- An understanding of cancer as a disease process having physical, emotional, and social effects.
- The ability to accurately deliver radiation therapy treatment.
- Effective communication skills necessary for safe, high quality care in a constantly changing and fast-paced clinical environment.
- Sound judgment and critical thinking skills in the clinical environment.
- Professional behavior with patients, family and other health care providers.
- An appreciation of the need for self-improvement through continuing education.
Assessment Plan and Program Effectiveness Data

The Radiation Therapy program assessment plan includes four goals and within those goals the assignment of Outcomes, Measurement Tools, Benchmarks, Time Frames, and Responsible Party associated with each goal.

The four primary goals are the following:

1. Graduates will be clinically competent.
2. Students will exhibit problem solving and critical thinking skills.
3. Students will communicate clearly and effectively with patients and clinical staff.
4. Students will demonstrate the value of professional growth and development.

The Program Effectiveness Data include:

1. ARRT pass rate for each cohort.
2. Job placement rate within six months of graduation.
3. Program completion rate.
4. Satisfaction survey of graduating students.
5. Employer satisfaction surveys.
Radiation Therapy
Radiation Safety Policies

Each student, in the Radiation Therapy program at the university, is issued a radiation monitor badge prior to their first clinical experience. The badges are distributed by the Clinical Coordinator in RADT 173 – Introduction to Clinical Practice at the beginning of the semester.

1. The radiation monitor badge (AKA badge) must be worn anytime the student is in the clinic. If the student does not have their radiation monitor badge they may not remain in clinic.
2. The badge must be turned into the Clinical Coordinator at the end of each month. Each student is issued a badge monthly.
3. The badge is sent to a vendor each month for processing and a monthly report of each student’s badge is returned to the Radiation Safety Office at the university.
4. The monthly reports are available to all students. The report is posted outside the Program Director’s door in Rowell 302, office D after the 10th day of each month. Each month students are required to initial the report next to their name.
University of Vermont
Radiation Safety Pregnancy Policy

PREGNANCY

While all students in the Radiation Therapy Program understand the need to adhere to and practice radiation protection policies in the clinical area, this is especially important for the female student who might be pregnant. Exposure to radiation may be harmful to the developing fetus, therefore, the female student may choose to voluntarily declare her pregnancy. Declaration of pregnancy must be made in writing and must include the approximate date of conception. Refer to Declaration of Pregnancy Form on page 5 of this Handbook.

The declared pregnant student will be advised as to the radiation and occupational hazards to her unborn child by the Radiation Safety Officer at the clinical education center in consultation with the Program Director and Clinical Coordinators and will be monitored by them throughout her pregnancy.

For the declared pregnant student, the NRC limits the dose to the embryo/fetus to 0.5 rem (5mSV) over the entire pregnancy. All efforts will be made to avoid substantial variation above a uniform monthly exposure rate (0.05 rem/month) (0.5 mSV/month). The student will be issued an additional badge (belly badge). Refer to NRC Regulatory Guide 8.13 in Appendices of this Handbook.

The declared pregnant student must inform her physician of her enrollment in the Radiation Therapy Program and obtain a written statement of her/his recommendations for continuing in the program.

The declared pregnant student may continue in both didactic and clinical education courses. If the student feels that she cannot continue in the program, she may apply for a leave of absence and reenter the program after the birth of her child. Reentry will be at the beginning of the appropriate semester if space is available.

A student may undeclare her pregnancy in writing at any time.
Radiation Safety Pregnancy Policy

Pregnancy Policy Process:

1. Students will receive Radiation Safety Information on the first day of the RADT 173 – Clinical Practicum I. At that time all students will receive the application for a film badge, along with that application all female students will receive a copy of the pregnancy policy.
2. Students will return the application for a film badge to the instructor. Film badges will be distributed to all students.
3. All female students will return a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the pregnancy policy to the instructor.
4. This acknowledgement of the pregnancy policy will be scanned and filed in to the student's electronic record.
I, _______________________________ have received a copy of the University of Vermont’s Radiation Safety Pregnancy Policy.

Name (Please print)

________________________________________  Date

Signature

May 13, 2011
Radiation Therapy Program
Professional Behaviors

Professionalism is an attribute you should be developing as you become involved in your professional courses. It requires you to develop specific behaviors consistent with those of professionals in Radiation Therapy practice. These behaviors are part of the objectives for the clinical practicum courses and will be considered as part of the grade evaluation for the course. The following objectives describe behaviors characterizing a professional that you will be evaluated on during your assigned clinical affiliate and as well as in UVM courses and laboratories. To develop the attributes of a professional you should:

- Arrive in the clinic and all classes at the expected time.
- Show an interest in the professional courses, display propriety and good judgment in appearance, behavior and speech.
- Cooperate and offer to help others when his or her own work is completed.
- Demonstrate preparedness by timely and careful completion of required reading and writing assignments and maintain an organized and efficient work environment.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient information and releasing information only to authorized persons.
- Behave with complete honesty and accept responsibility for own mistakes instead of ignoring them or hiding them.
- Advocate the importance of professional association.
- Adhere to the dress code and observe clinical safety rules in all professional courses.
- Keep the work area clean, safe and well supplied.
- Adapt to unexpected changes in scheduling and display good judgment in assigning priorities when faced with several tasks.
- Treat all patients, staff members and visitors respectfully at all times. Accepting constructive observations and heed instructions immediately.
- Failure to follow professional guidelines may result in your immediate dismissal from clinic.

December 5, 2008; Updated January 8, 2013
Essential Functions

The essential functions include additional non-academic requirements of our programs, comprising the physical, emotional and professional demands of the majors. All MLRS students are responsible for the essential functions outlined in this handbook. After reviewing the essential functions, you will have a clearer understanding of the program’s expectations. Throughout your professional studies, your ability to meet these functions will be evaluated and assessed.

If at any time you do not meet the essential functions, you may be discontinued from the program and the major.

All RADT students are responsible for the following interdisciplinary functions:

Cognitive functions - The student must be able to thoroughly, efficiently and reliably:

- recall, interpret, extrapolate and apply information from a variety of sources, including reading material, lecture, discussion, patient observation, examination and evaluation/assessment;
- possess and apply mathematical skills and determine what data are needed to solve problems;
- analyze, synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources, including, for example, reading material, lecture, discussion, and patient evaluation/assessment;
- apply knowledge, skills, and values learned from course work and life experiences to new situations.

Affective functions – The student must be able to:

- establish professional, trusting, empathetic relationships with a variety of individuals;
- demonstrate respect and engage in non-judgmental interactions regardless of, for example, an individual’s age, gender, race, socio-economic status, religion, life-style, and/or culture;
- work independently and effectively in groups under time constraints;
- meet externally established deadlines;
- be an active and engaged learner in classroom, lab and clinical settings;
- maintain alertness and concentration with cognitive, communication and psychomotor tasks for as long as three hours at a time within the academic environment, and as long as ten hours at a time within the clinical environment;
- identify sources of stress and develop effective coping behaviors;
- recognize and respond appropriately to potentially hazardous situations;
- prioritize requests and work concurrently on at least two different tasks;
• project an image of professionalism including appearance, dress, and confidence;
• possess the psychological health required for full utilization of abilities;
• recognize emergency situations and take appropriate action.

Communication functions – The student must be able to:
• attend selectively and in a controlled and respectful manner to various types of communication, including the spoken and written word and non-verbal communication;
• relay information in oral and written form effectively, accurately, reliably, thoroughly and intelligibly to individuals and groups, using the English language; and
• read and write English proficiently (typed and hand-written).

Radiation Therapy specific Psychomotor functions – The student must be able to:
• accurately and reliably inspect and observe the skin, facial expression, anatomical structures, posture and movement of others;
• examine and evaluate/assess blood pressure, and lung and heart sounds;
• accurately and reliably read equipment dials and monitors;
• feel pulses, skin condition, muscle and tendon activity, and joint and limb movement;
• negotiate level surfaces, ramps and stairs to assist patients/classmates appropriately;
• lead patients/classmates through a variety of examinations and treatments typically requiring sitting, standing, squatting and kneeling on the floor or treatment table;
• move from one surface level to another (e.g., floor to stand, stand to treatment table);
• react and effectively respond quickly to sudden or unexpected movements of patients/classmates;
• manipulate dials, knobs, and other small to large parts and pieces of equipment;
• maintain activity throughout an eight to ten-hour work day;
• transport self/patients from one room to another, from one floor to another;
• put on and take off clothing, including gowns, masks and gloves;
• exhibit sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate small equipment such as syringes for intravenous injections; perform CPR; and treat acutely ill patients without disturbing sensitive monitoring instruments and lines;
• manipulate another person’s body in transfers, positioning, and other treatment or diagnostic techniques;
• move dependent real or simulated patients, generating lifting forces of up to 75 pounds;
• lift or carry up to 34 pounds;
• reach above, reach out, and reach below to accomplish treatment; and
• work safely with potential chemical, radiologic, and biologic hazards using universal precautions.
University of Vermont
Clinical Internship Policy

Student Responsibilities:
1. Fulfill all RADT requirements for graduation.
2. Dress Code - Students will adhere to the dress code of the affiliate site. This includes wearing proper identification and a whole body radiation monitor at all times.
3. Attendance – Students will be in attendance 40 hours each week or according to the schedule set by the clinical affiliate. Students will have the week of UVM spring break off unless they make other arrangements approved by the Program Director (Jane Alsofrom) in his/her absence: Clinical Coordinator at UVM (Maryse Biron), and the Clinical Supervisor at the Affiliate site. All RADT students are allowed two (2) personal days off during the affiliation period. These days may be used for sick days OR personal time off, including job interviews, and professional meetings. All planned absences require a minimum of one week notification and/or approval of the Affiliate Student Coordinator.
4. Professional Behavior - Students will behave professionally following the guide established by the MLRS department. Failure to adhere to MLRS or affiliate department professional expectations may be cause for termination from the clinical site. See Attached MLRS Professional Behaviors
5. Daily On-line Report - Students must submit a daily on-line report to the UVM Clinical Coordinator and the Program Director, failure to do so will affect the final semester grade.
6. Clinical Competencies - Students must complete all required competencies. They must compile and submit all the completed clinical competencies to the UVM Program Director (Jane Alsofrom) in his/her absence to the UVM Clinical Coordinator. (Maryse Biron)

Clinical Affiliate Responsibilities:
1. Clinical Supervision and Access Policy – Students are always directly supervised during their clinical experiences. The degree of supervision is commensurate with the amount of experience and competency of the student. At no time are students ever placed in a position of doing clinical work as replacement for a certified therapist. The affiliate will allow students access to all areas of the Radiation Oncology department as necessary for their clinical experience. The student will have access to an internet-connected computer in order to access their UVM e-mail and so they may submit their online clinical reports.
2. Schedule – The clinical affiliate will provide a rotation schedule to fulfill all the requirements of the clinical internship. A copy of this schedule will sent to the Clinical Coordinator at UVM and available to each student. Any significant changes in the rotation schedule will be communicated to the student and Clinical Coordinator at UVM.
3. **Orientation** – Students will participate in the required Orientation at each institution and they will be provided a structured orientation to their affiliate department.

4. **Student Evaluation** – The Clinical Supervisor at each site will be responsible for compiling evaluations for each student at the end of each clinical rotation. The compiling of all the final competencies is the responsibility of the student as they must submit them to the UVM Program Director (Jane Alsofrom) in his/her absence to the UVM Clinical Coordinator (Maryse Biron).
**Professional Courses:**
Students must earn a grade of “C” or better in all course listed below:

**RADIATION THERAPY**
- ANPS 19 and 20: Anatomy and Physiology
- MLRS 140: Radiation Science
- MLRS 141: Advanced Radiation Science
- MLRS 175: Medical Imaging
- MLRS 215: CT Procedures
- MLRS 296: Leadership and Management in Healthcare (effective 2012 cohort)
- RADT 152: Principles of Radiation Therapy
- RADT 176: Clinical Oncology
- RADT 244: Patient Care Issues
- RADT 270: Dosimetry Concepts
- RADT 275: Dosimetry
- RADT 277: Techniques
- RADT 280: Quality Assurance & Treatment Planning

**CLINICAL PRACTICA**
- RADT 173: Clinical Practicum I
- RADT 174: Clinical Practicum II
- RADT 223: Clinical Practicum III
- RADT 274: Clinical Practicum IV