

# **RADIATION THERAPY PROGRAM**

## **GUIDELINES FOR ADVISING-ADMISSIONS TIPS**

- **General application information:**
  - A minimum of three (3) courses from Areas D and/or F must be completed at the time of application.
    - The most competitive applicants will have completed all core curriculum requirements in Areas A, D and F at the time of application.
      - **NOTE:** It is difficult to rank the applicant or evaluate their Math/Science GPA if the applicant has not completed their math/science prerequisites by the time of the interview.
  - The program is strongly math and physics based:
    - The eight (8) hour laboratory course sequence required for Area D is Introductory Physics I with lab and Introductory Physics II with lab.
    - The additional math/science course recommendation for Area D is a math course.
    - The approved guided elective in Area F is any Area D math or science course.
    - Pre-Calculus is required in Area A, D or F.
  - Applications completed after the application deadline (May 1<sup>st</sup>) will be considered on a space-available basis only.
  - A minimum Overall GPA of 2.5 is required
  - A minimum Math/Science GPA of 2.3 is required (minimum 2.5 recommended)
  - References should be from previous/current college professors who are qualified to assess the applicant's academic, research and/or clinical experience as well as the applicant's potential as an undergraduate student in the Radiation Therapy program.
    - References should have known the applicant for 3 months or more.
    - Reference from friends, family, classmates or co-workers will not be accepted.
    - References must be Radiation Therapy Program specific – references submitted for other academic programs (i.e. nursing, respiratory therapy, etc.) will not be accepted.
  - The application essay should be:
    - Unique, specific and relevant to the Radiation Therapy Program
    - Essays must be Radiation Therapy Program specific – essays submitted for other academic programs (i.e. nursing, respiratory therapy, etc.) will not be accepted.
      - Do not copy/paste the essay and just change the name of the program to which the applicant is applying
  - Job shadowing is not required, but is highly recommended if available.
    - Job shadowing is not an applicant ranking criteria and is not used in admissions decisions.
    - The program's clinical affiliates do not offer job shadowing.
    - Applicants are responsible for making arrangements for job shadowing at their respective healthcare facilities should they elect to job shadow.
- **General interview information:**
  - The Radiation Therapy Admissions Committee will not begin reviewing completed applications until February.
  - Personal interviews will be scheduled between February and May.
    - Only the most qualified applicants will be invited for a personal interview.
    - Interviews are approximately one (1) hour in length.

- Interviews are conversational and consists of questions/scenarios and responses.
- An invitation to interview does not guarantee program acceptance.
- By May 30, every applicant should have an admission decision
- Applicants do not have to complete all core curriculum requirements to apply or to be invited for personal interview, but must be in progress and complete before start of the program while maintaining the minimum GPA requirements.
  - Applicants with more than six (6) unmet core requirements will not qualify for a personal interview.
  - NOTE: The following accommodations may be considered on a case by case basis and only in extreme circumstances:
    - A maximum of two (2) courses only in Areas B, C or E may be deferred.
      - Medical terminology, math, and science courses may not be deferred.
    - Deferred courses must be completed by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester in the program.
    - Students must register for the deferred courses in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester (Fall) and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (Spring) in case they are unsuccessful in a course and it has to be repeated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester (Summer).
    - Transfer students who are allowed to defer courses and who have completed less than 60 credit hours in the core requirements will be required to complete an additional Wellness course and two (2) Activity courses by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester in the program.
- **General ranking and admissions information:**
  - The program averages forty (40) applicants
  - The program's applicant ranking and admissions guidelines include:
  - The overall GPA has a weighting factor of 3; (maximum of 12 points).
  - The overall math/science GPA has a weighting factor of 4; (maximum of 16 points).
  - Applicants are awarded points based on the number of published core curriculum requirements that are unmet at the time of the interview; (maximum of 3 points):
    - 3 points are awarded if the applicant has 0 – 1 unmet core curriculum requirements.
    - 2 points are awarded if the applicant has 2 – 3 unmet core curriculum requirements.
    - 1 point is awarded if the applicant has 4 – 6 unmet core curriculum requirements.
  - 1 point is awarded if the applicant has earned a Bachelor degree; (maximum of 1 point).
  - 5 points are awarded if the applicant has current and unencumbered certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) or American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS); (maximum of 5 points).
  - 1 point for each of the following is awarded if the applicant is a/an: certified nursing assistant (CNA), emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic; (maximum 3 points).
  - The average interview score has a weighting factor of 0.10; (maximum of 10 points).
    - Every applicant is asked the same questions and scored using a rubric.
  - The total maximum points that can be earned for applicant ranking is 50 points.
    - The applicants ranked #1 – #8 are accepted.
    - Depending on the number of applicants and quality of the applicant pool, one (1) or more applicants may be selected as alternates starting with the applicant ranked #9
      - If an accepted applicant declines, acceptance is extended to the highest ranked alternate until the opening is filled and program capacity is met. The remaining applicants are rejected.

- The average Overall GPA of accepted applicants is 3.48.
- The average Math/Science GPA of accepted applicants is 3.37.
- The average interview score of accepted applicants is 86.50 (out of 100 possible points).
- **General post-admissions information:**
  - If accepted into the program, documentation of current CPR and First Aid certification are required prior to the start of the program in order to participate in clinical internship courses.
    - Students will be notified of how and when to complete these requirements and will be responsible for the associated fees.
    - The program does not accept certifications from online courses.
    - The program requires that all students have **BOTH** of the following certifications from the American Heart Association:
      - CPR - BLS for Health Care Providers
      - Heartsaver First Aid
    - Certifications from any agency other than the American Heart Association will not be accepted.
    - These certifications have expiration dates. If these certifications expire while enrolled in the program, students will be notified of how and when to renew and will be responsible for the associated fees.
  - If accepted into the program, criminal background check and drug screening are required prior to the start of the program in order to participate in clinical internship courses.
    - Students will be notified of how and when to complete these requirements and will be responsible for the associated fees.
    - If an adverse report is produced, there is a possibility that the student will not be accepted by the clinical affiliates. In this case, the student may be unable to complete clinical internship courses. Such circumstances would preclude the student's ability to successfully complete the program.
    - These reports have expiration dates. If these reports expire while enrolled in the program, students will be notified of how and when to renew and will be responsible for the associated fees.
    - If the program is able to secure clinical sites for the student to complete his/her clinical internship course requirements, there is a possibility that the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) credentialing organization may not allow him/her to take the national certification examination based on the adverse criminal background check and/or drug screening, irrespective of program completion.
  - If accepted into the program, documentation of a variety of immunizations are required prior to the start of the program in order to participate in clinical internship courses.
    - Students will be notified of how and when to complete these requirements and will be responsible for the associated fees.
    - Some immunizations have expiration dates. If these immunizations expire while enrolled in the program, students will be notified of how and when to renew and will be responsible for the associated fees.
    - Documentation of the Influenza (Flu) vaccination is required annually in the Fall semester. Students will be notified of how and when to complete this requirement and will be responsible for the associated fees.
- **General clinical education rotation information:**

- Students will have an opportunity to experience a variety of clinical environments by rotating through the program's clinical affiliates. Clinical affiliates are located within 75 miles of the Health Sciences campus.
- Students will be notified of how and when to complete these requirements and will be responsible for the associated fees, including but not limited to lab coat, scrub uniform, footwear, ID badge, and travel expenses. The clinical affiliates include:
  - Georgia Cancer Center Radiation Oncology (Augusta, GA)
  - Cancer Care Institute of Carolina at Aiken Regional Medical Center (Aiken, SC)
  - Doctors Hospital (Augusta, GA)
  - Radiation Oncology, LLC (Columbia, SC)
- **General program information:**
  - The program consists of five (5) semesters, including summer (total of 22 months).
  - Students are in class, lab and/or clinical Monday – Friday for an approximate total of 35 – 40 hours/week.
  - Students are generally in class and/or labs two (2) days/week and in clinical at least three (3) days/week.
  - Approximately 57% of the curriculum courses (12 of 21) have an online component (varies between 51% – 100%). The remaining curriculum courses are on-campus/face-to-face.
  - Schedules vary by semester.
    - Clinical hours are generally between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and may vary depending on the clinical affiliates' schedules, unless noted otherwise.
      - Students must adjust their clinical hours to match that of the clinical affiliate.
      - Depending on the clinical affiliate, this may require arrival as early as 6:00 a.m.
    - Class/lab hours are generally between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and may vary by semester, unless noted otherwise.
      - Some labs are conducted in the clinical affiliates after office hours.
      - Depending on the lab/semester/clinical affiliate, this may be as late as 7:00 p.m.

Revised 10-7-19