Radiation Therapy
IU School of Medicine

ABOUT THE MAJOR

Radiation Therapy involves the use of different forms of ionizing radiation for the treatment of benign and malignant tumors. Radiation therapists administer the prescribed dose of ionizing radiation to specific sites of the patient’s body as directed by a physician. They operate various types of equipment, including high-energy linear accelerators, and work with radioactive materials. Radiation therapists also observe the clinical progress of the patient, note the first signs of complication, and determine when treatment should be withheld until a physician may be consulted.

Skills and abilities this major develops include: effective communication, ability to think critically and problem-solve in a healthcare environment, ability to perform radiation dose calculations, ability to assess treatment plans and apply basic research methods, and ability to evaluate a patient’s therapeutic responses.

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER GRADUATION

Career Opportunities
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of radiation therapists is expected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Because the risk of cancer increases as people age, an aging US population should increase demand for radiation therapists.

Salary Information
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual median wage for Radiation Therapists in the state of Indiana was $81,400 in 2016. The annual median wage nation-wide was $80,160.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary.)

Graduate & Professional School Paths
Radiation Therapy majors may pursue advanced degrees in the following areas: Radiological Sciences, Business Administration, and other science or technical areas.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

IU School of Medicine
medicine.iu.edu/hpp

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
www.asrt.org

Radiologic Society of North America
www.rsna.org

Sample Coursework:
• Human physiology
• Sectional anatomy
• Simulation/treatment procedures
• Physics of radiation oncology
• Clinical dosimetry I & II
• Radiation and cancer biology

Possible Careers:
• Staff radiation therapist
• Chief radiation therapist
• Department manager
• Medical dosimetrist*
• Pharmaceutical sales representative
• Educator*

* = Career option requires additional training or education

Where Could I Work?
• Hospitals
• Physician Offices
• Outpatient Centers

Complementing Interests:

Social Realistic Investigative
Get your interest code at go.iupui.edu/interests

Have questions for Academic & Career Development? Schedule an appointment:
acd.iupui.edu (317) 274-4856