



NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Bachelor of Science

Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing & Health Professions

Program Overview Students interested in Nuclear Medicine Technology as a career should have a strong interest in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computer technology. They should have the desire for close patient contact and direct interactions with physicians, and they should be willing to work as part of a team with other healthcare professionals. Nuclear Medicine Technologists are sensitive to patients' physical and psychological needs; they must pay attention to detail, follow instructions and operate imaging equipment that detects and maps metabolic and biochemical changes within the body.

Nuclear Medicine Technology is a medical specialty that uses safe, microquantities of radioactive pharmaceuticals for diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of many serious diseases. Nuclear Medicine Technology imaging techniques provide information about both the function and structure of every organ in the body, often identifying organ abnormalities very early in the progression of a disease. This early detection allows a disease to be treated early in its course, when there may be a more positive prognosis.

Career Opportunities The graduate is qualified to take a national exam to become a registered Nuclear Medicine Technologist. Certification is available from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and from the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. Nuclear Medicine is considered to be a field at the forefront of modern clinical medicine and technological development.

As a highly specialized member of the health care profession, Nuclear Medicine Technologists have a wide variety of career options in: the clinical setting (hospitals, outpatient imaging facilities, research laboratories, regulatory agencies), industry sales and technical specialists of radiopharmaceutical and imaging equipment, entry into medical or graduate schools, and careers in education or administration in the specialty

Professional School Opportunities Students who have graduated from the Nuclear Medicine program have entered Graduate School in the following disciplines: Medical School, Law School, Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA), Health Physics, Pharmacy, Radiation Therapy as well as a Masters in Business with concentration of Health Care Management.

Admission into the Nuclear Medicine Program The Nuclear Medicine courses begin in the third year of college. To prepare for this major, the student must complete all required immunizations including the HepB immunization series (which takes approximately 5-7 months to complete), become certified in Healthcare Provider CPR and Community First-Aid, and complete core curriculum courses and prerequisites for the major, such as Anatomy and Physiology, Chemical Principles, General Physics, Precalculus and Statistics.

After completion of approximately two years of college work, the student must apply for admission into the Nuclear Medicine program, which consists of four semesters of nuclear medicine courses. During each semester, a student is assigned to a clinical setting and will be working with patients in nuclear medicine departments throughout the city of San Antonio to gain clinical experience.

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