

RADIATION THERAPY - BS

A degree from St. Kate's will prepare students for their role as a radiation therapist in a highly technical and patient focused environment. Students will learn to become an essential member of a treatment team which includes radiation oncologists, nurses, medical physicists, dosimetrists and others.

Radiation therapists operate high energy radiation producing equipment such as linear accelerators with advanced computer systems to administer precise ionizing radiation treatment to patients diagnosed with various diseases, mainly cancer. Radiation therapists are responsible for accurate radiation delivery, patient communication, monitoring and assessment over a treatment course of several weeks.

Radiation therapists also work with diagnostic imaging equipment to simulate and plan treatment to ensure daily accuracy in patient positioning. This includes CT scanning, Cone beam computed tomography and x-rays.

Successful radiation therapists must listen and communicate well, adapt to a variety of patients and treatment procedures, think critically, behave ethically and above all demonstrate compassion and sensitivity to patients at a vulnerable time in their lives. The radiation therapy program will complement St. Kate's values and educational mission to develop these qualities in its students.

Students will learn about the many faces of cancer and its impact on the body through studies in oncology, pathology and various multidisciplinary approaches for its treatment. Radiation physics, radiobiology and radiation safety, dose calculation and treatment planning will be taught as well as patient care focused on the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of cancer care. Off campus, students will participate in a cancer support group and a community service project which highlights patient and family interaction outside of the clinical and didactic setting.

St. Kate's radiation therapy program students will gain competency in a variety of treatment procedures via a comprehensive real-world clinical education with its many clinical partners. During the program, they will complete a portfolio project which includes didactic and clinical artifacts as well as reflections to demonstrate professional growth over time.

Graduates will receive a baccalaureate degree in Radiation Therapy, the first in Minnesota, and are eligible to sit for the ARRT national certification examination.

Career advancement in the field of radiation therapy includes lead therapist, department manager, dosimetrist, and educator.

Accreditation

St. Kate's Radiation Therapy Program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiology Technology, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 704-5300, JRCERT.org.

Admission Requirements

Acceptance into the radiation therapy major depends on the following criteria. The student must:

- Have completed an accredited associate or bachelor's degree in radiography with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale

- Have passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam for radiography
- Have completed all core liberal arts courses and elective courses (i.e., all non-major courses)

Students admitted to the major begin the 12-month radiation therapy major course sequence in September.

Prerequisite Courses for Students with a Previous Bachelor's Degree

Prerequisite college level courses must be completed before the fall start date for the radiation therapy program.

Applicants must achieve a C or higher in each course and a cumulative prerequisite GPA of 3.00 or higher.

- General Anatomy and Physiology with Lab
- Medical Terminology
- College Algebra or higher
- General Psychology
- Medical Ethics or Ethics

NOTE: Students who enter St. Kate's with a bachelor's degree *with a major other than radiography* must complete the prerequisite courses listed at the end of this section (p. 2), earn a minimum of a C in each course, earn a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0, and earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 to be eligible to apply for admission to the major. If admitted to the major, the students complete all RTT courses listed below.

The curriculum listed below is for students entering St. Kate's with a previous associate or bachelor's degree in radiography. This major is offered in the College for Adults only.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
Required Supporting Courses ¹		
PHIL 3400 or PHIL 2200W	Biomedical Ethics Ethics	4
Select one from:		4
MATH 1090	Precalculus	
MATH 1130	Calculus I	
STAT 1090	Statistical Analysis (or other statistics course)	
College algebra (not offered at St. Kate's)		
Total Credits		8

Code	Title	Credits
Major Courses ²		
RTT 3010	Introduction to Radiation Therapy	2
RTT 3015	Principles of Oncology I	3
RTT 3022	Radiation Therapy Physics I	2
RTT 3025	Pathology	2
RTT 3030	Patient Care in Radiation Oncology	2
RTT 3034	Clinical Practicum I	4
RTT 4015W	Principles of Oncology II	3
RTT 4022	Radiation Therapy Physics II	4
RTT 4025	Dosimetry and Treatment Planning	2
RTT 4030	Sectional Anatomy	2

RTT 4035	Radiobiology - Protection	2
RTT 4040	Topics in Radiation Therapy	3
RTT 4044	Clinical Practicum II	4
RTT 4065	Clinical Practicum III	5
Total Credits		40

Prerequisite Courses for Students with a Previous Bachelor's Degree in a Major other than Radiography³

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 2400	General Anatomy and Physiology with Lab	4
PHIL 3400	Biomedical Ethics	4
or PHIL 2200W	Ethics	
IPE 1020	Medical Terminology	1-2
or IPE 1030	Healthcare Teams Foundations and Medical Terminology	
PSYC 1000	General Psychology	4
Select one from:		4
MATH 1090	Precalculus	
MATH 1130	Calculus I	
STAT 1090	Statistical Analysis (or other statistics course)	
College algebra		
Total Credits		17-18

¹ Minimum grade of C required

² Minimum grade of C required

³ Minimum grade of C required

Radiation therapy majors satisfy the Writing Requirement for Majors by completing RTT 4015W Principles of Oncology II . They complete the Liberal Arts and Sciences Core Writing Requirement with three other writing-intensive courses (CORE 1000W The Reflective Woman, CORE 3990W Global Search for Justice, and another writing-intensive course in another department).

Code	Title	Credits
Fall Term		
Select one from:		4
MATH 1090	Precalculus	
MATH 1130	Calculus I	
STAT 1090	Statistical Analysis	
Spring Term		
PHIL 3400	Biomedical Ethics	4
or PHIL 2200W	Ethics	
Fall Term		
RTT 3010	Introduction to Radiation Therapy	2
RTT 3015	Principles of Oncology I	3
RTT 3022	Radiation Therapy Physics I	2
RTT 3030	Patient Care in Radiation Oncology	2
RTT 3035	Clinical Practicum I	3
RTT 4030	Sectional Anatomy	2
Spring Term		
RTT 3025	Pathology ¹	2
RTT 4015W	Principles of Oncology II	3
RTT 4022	Radiation Therapy Physics II	4

RTT 4025	Dosimetry and Treatment Planning	2
RTT 4035	Radiobiology - Protection	2
RTT 4041	Clinical Practicum II J-Term	1
RTT 4043	Clinical Practicum II	3
Summer Term		
RTT 4040	Topics in Radiation Therapy	3
RTT 4055	Clinical Practicum III	6
Total Credits		48

¹ Taken during J-Term