



Nuclear Medicine Technology

College of Science & Health

Nuclear medicine technology (NMT) involves the use of small amounts of a radioactive pharmaceutical to perform complex, yet non-invasive diagnostic medical procedures. The pharmaceutical is designed to localize in a specific human organ, allowing pictures of that organ to be taken by high-tech cameras. Radioactive exposure is similar to conventional X-ray procedures.

Not only can the structure of the patient's organ be seen, but also function. For example, the muscles of a beating heart can be observed from all angles to determine the extent of damage following a heart attack.

Nuclear medicine technologists have a great deal of patient contact as well as extensive knowledge of high tech medical procedures. If you enjoy working with people, and have an aptitude for science, NMT is for you!

Undergraduate Program

Major:

- Nuclear Medicine Technology

Program Features

Students must first apply to and be accepted by the University. Students generally spend three years at UW-La Crosse taking classes, and then spend 12 months at one of our affiliated internship sites. During the winter of the second year students can apply for admission to the program. A minimum GPA of 2.5 and C's or better in the NMT courses are required to apply, and to maintain accepted status in the program. Acceptance rates are usually high.

During the winter preceding their internship, students apply to the internship sites. Student preferences for internship sites are considered during the placement process, and almost all students end up at one of their top two choices. The internship year is a mixture of classroom and clinical instruction, and often includes opportunities to conduct and present original research.

At the conclusion of the internship, students graduate from UW-La Crosse with a B.S. in NMT. It is not

necessary to earn a minor with this major, but some NMT majors do. Typical minors are chemistry, biology, business administration and Spanish. Earning a minor generally requires an additional semester or two of coursework at UW-La Crosse.

After graduation, students will need to take a national certification exam for NMT. UW-La Crosse students have a 100 percent pass rate on these exams, typically earning scores in the 80th or 90th percentiles nationwide.

UW-La Crosse is currently affiliated with six accredited hospitals of nuclear medicine technology:

- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Ministry St. Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield, WI
- Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital, Milwaukee, WI
- Aurora St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, WI
- Hines Veterans Administration Hospital, Hines, IL
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

Sample Courses

- General Biology
- General Chemistry
- General Physics
- Statistics
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Analytical Chemistry
- Nuclear Chemistry
- Sociology for Health Care
- Radiation Biology
- Radiation Physics
- Immunology
- Medical Terminology
- Cross-Sectional Anatomy
- Pathophysiology

Career Opportunities

Nuclear medicine technology is a patient-oriented field and NMTs are an integral part of the health professions. NMT has grown throughout its ~40 year history, and indications suggest that it will continue to grow both in volume and in importance in the health professions. NMTs receive:

- Immediate professional identity
- Immediate membership in the health professions
- Good job opportunities
- Immediate recognition with commensurate compensation

NMTs have several career options. Most do traditional patient care/diagnostic work in a hospital or clinic setting. NMTs can also work for a private practice or a mobile service: bringing NMT to hospitals without this capability. NMTs can advance into healthcare administration, education, conduct research into new radiopharmaceuticals, or work in the sales of new products.

Entry Level

- Laboratory Equipment and Pharmaceutical Salesperson
- Laboratory Researcher
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist (CNMT with certification)
- Radiation Researcher

Further Education

- Health Administration
- Graduate study in biochemistry, biophysics, radiation physics, radiation biology
- Health Physics
- Pharmacology
- Business Administration
- Advance Associate in Nuclear Medicine

Long Term Career Development

- Health Physicist
- Hospital Training Director
- Laboratory Administrator
- Radiopharmacist
- Researcher

Occupational Outlook

The employment outlook for NMTs remains positive. UW-La Crosse graduates have long had a strong job placement rating and command the highest salaries for any four-year degree offered at UW-La Crosse. The average base annual salary for 2008 graduates was \$54,000. This does not include signing bonuses or call-time.

Job Titles of Graduates

- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Application Specialist
- Program Director —NMT
- Research Assistant
- Radiation Safety Officer

Additional Information

Detailed information regarding the Nuclear Medical Technology Program at UW-La Crosse can be found on the program's Web site:

www.uwlax.edu/nmt

or by contacting the

Program's Director:

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4046 Health Science Center

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email: staffaro.aile@uwlax.edu

Professional Associations

Nuclear Medicine Technologists may be members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) through the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNMTS). NMTs are certified by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). The Nuclear Medicine Technology Programs with which UW-L is affiliated are accredited by The Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT).

Central Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (CCSNM)

www.ccsnm.org

SNM

www.snm.org

(703) 708-9000

SNMTS

www.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=1311

(703) 708-9000

NMTCB

www.nmtcb.org

(404) 315-1739

JRCNMT

www.jrcnmt.org

(405) 285-0546

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