

**UWL Radiation Therapy Program
Observation in Radiation Therapy
Student Expectations**

Thank you for taking the time to explore the wonderful world of radiation therapy. During these next 40 hours, you will have the opportunity to observe the many functions and duties of a staff radiation therapist, as well as the other members of the radiation therapy team. At the end of your time in the radiation therapy department, you will be evaluated by the therapists you have worked with. This evaluation will be scored and utilized in your program application. Make the most of your experience and leave a great impression of your desire to pursue the field of radiation therapy.

- Students should observe the entire process of radiation therapy treatment delivery, simulation and treatment planning.
 - If possible, observe a physician consultation, weekly treatment visit, and follow up appointment
- Questions are encouraged by you as a student of the therapists you are working with. Make sure to limit the questions to outside of the treatment room.
- You should introduce yourself to all patients and staff members.
- Professionalism should be maintained throughout the observation period with all staff and patients.
- Students are encouraged to take initiative by going into the treatment room without prompting by therapists and seek out learning opportunities.
- Students should document observation hours to submit to the program with your application.
- CONFIDENTIALITY of patient information must be maintained ethically and by law. No patient situations or names are to be discussed outside of the department or with anyone not involved in the care of the patient.
- General dress and appearance requirements
 - It is important for the student to look and act professional when visiting the radiation therapy department.
 - You should not wear jeans, capris, leggings, shorts or athletic wear.
 - Shirts should not be revealing and should not have plunging necklines or be shorter than the waistband of the pants.
 - No body piercings other than ears are allowed in most facilities.
 - Shoes should be clean and have a closed toe. Socks or hosiery should be worn.
 - Some departments may offer you a lab coat to wear.
 - Phones should be seen or heard during the observation period.
 - Note: Students who do not follow dress code requirements may be sent home to change.

Here is a list of suggested activities to observe during your 40 hours of observation:

- Patient consultation with radiation oncologist
- Weekly on treatment visit
- Follow up patient visit
- Simulation
- Treatment planning
- Treatment delivery
- Communication with the patients by the radiation therapist
- Immobilization device fabrication
- Discuss side effect management with staff
- Optional:
 - Attend a tumor board or conference, chart rounds
 - Observe brachytherapy or special procedures