

Graduation

The commencement ceremony on campus will not be taking place in-person this December due to COVID-19. Therefore, a virtual graduation will be taking place; similar to the May commencement.

“Couch Commencement” — a virtual celebration will take place to honor our graduates. Students will be asked to join the wall of graduates by submitting an image and words of thanks and encouragement. Graduate students will be indicated; videos of congratulations from your departments will be posted, as will speeches and pomp and circumstance! It will “open” on December 20th at 10 a.m.—this is not a live-streaming event; all supporters can engage with it at their convenience. For more information about commencement, visit the [UWL Commencement Website](#).

Admissions

Observation

Due to the COVID pandemic restrictions, several applicants reached out with concerns that they were not able to fulfill the medical dosimetry observation time required for the application to the program. We knew this would be a problem for several applicants. Therefore, with the assistance of the current cohort students, program officials developed a virtual medical dosimetry observation for applicants to complete and then proceed with their application essay. It is not ideal, but the only option we had for this year due to the circumstances.

Interviews

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, it is possible that several clinical sites will be prohibited from allowing applicants into their facilities for interviews during this upcoming admissions cycle (February 2021). As we approach the interview scheduling date, we will be reaching out to all internship sites to determine their status. For

fairness policies, it will be all virtual or all on-site; not a mixture of both methods. Therefore, if there are any sites that will not be able to accommodate on-site interviewing, we will make the decision to do all virtual (video conference) interviewing.

Accreditation Site Visit

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) accreditation site visit took place on campus November 5th and 6th. The site visit had been delayed due to site visitor illnesses and COVID-19. Although the site visit was not typical due to COVID restrictions, the visit went very well. Our exit summation demonstrated that the program, internship sites, and students are all doing a great job. We must wait for an official report from the JRCERT and respond to any potential concerns, if needed. Otherwise, we are hoping for another 8-year accreditation. We appreciate all of the clinical preceptors/instructors/staff, students, UWL staff, and others for taking time out of their busy schedule to participate in this accreditation site visit.

MEDICAL DOSIMETRY | WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

Clinical Internship Updates

Changes to Clinical Preceptor/Instructor Evaluations

A new Clinical Instructor evaluation has been created in Typhon. The 2020 students are testing its “effectiveness” and ease of use. Anne Marie is awaiting feedback from the 2020 students and instructors for implementation in the 2021 year.

In 2021, the students will be required to submit a clinical instructor evaluation each semester to assure that all clinical instructors are receiving timely student feedback.

COVID-19 Updates

A policy has been created for student remote planning in response to the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions. This policy outlines the approval and requirements that must be in place for any student who is mentored from a distance. This policy can be found on the [Current Student website](#): and the [Clinical preceptor website](#):

MR Screening requirements

Students working or observing in a MR area must comply with program policies as well as policies at the clinical internship site. All students are required to complete a MR safety screening document and those will be uploaded to the student records in Typhon.

2021 Spring Semester Schedule

The Clinical Orientation period will begin for students on Monday, January 11, 2021. They will spend 8 hours/day, 5 days/week in the clinic. Anne Marie will be contacting all 2021 Clinical Instructors in early December to provide details regarding this orientation and the clinical management system, Typhon. On Monday, January 25, 2021 formal classes will begin and students will spend 6 hours of scheduled time in the clinic, for 5 days/week (30 hours/week).

**It is important to note that there will be NO SPRING BREAK during the Spring 2021 semester.*

Classes will end on Friday, May 7, 2021. Please refer to the schedules for all classes and all semesters found on the [Current Student website](#):

Typhon

All clinical instructors are encouraged to check their profile in Typhon to assure current board certification, facility address, resume/CV, and a photo are uploaded to complete their profile.

Social Media

Just a reminder that our program has a Facebook and LinkedIn page. If you have an account, please follow us. On our Facebook page, we post updates regularly while also posting job openings for current students and/or alumni. If you have a job opening or something you would like to share on our program FB page, let Nishele know and we will post it for you.



MEDICAL DOSIMETRY | WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

Program Effectiveness Data

Program effectiveness data is reported to the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) annually. The information is also required to be posted on our program website. The effectiveness data for the 2019 cohort is as follows:

- Outcome (Employment): 5 year average job placement rate as a medical dosimetrist after graduation.
Benchmark: Job placement rate \geq 75% within 12 months of graduation.
- Outcome (Attrition): Annual program completion rate.
Benchmark: program completion rate \geq 90% within the normal length of the program.
- Outcome (Exam Pass Rate): 5 year average MDCB exam pass rate.
Benchmark: Pass rate \geq 75% at first attempt within 12 months of graduation.

COHORT	EMPLOYMENT			ATTRITION			EXAM PASS RATE		
	Sought	Gained	Cohort	Admitted	Graduated	Cohort	Attempted	Passed	Cohort
2019	21	21	100%	25	23	92%	20	18	90%
2018	28	28	100%	29	28	97%	28	27	96%
2017	28	28	100%	30	28	93%	28	26	93%
2016	18	18	100%	19	18	95%	17	17	100%
2015	24	24	100%	24	24	100%	23	18	78%
5 year avg			100%			95%			92%

Recent Publications

Featuring recent publications from our students/staff.

- Keil J, Carda J, Reihart J, Seidel M, Lenards N, Hunzeker A. A dosimetric study using split x-jaw planning technique for the treatment of endometrial carcinoma. *Med Dosim.* 2020; 45(3):278-283. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddos.2020.02.001>
- Eskens M, Nguyen H, Deere W, Lenards N, Hunzeker A, Tobler M. A Retrospective Evaluation of Mixed Energy Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy for Anal Cancers with Lymph Node Involvement. *Med Dosim.* 2020; 45(4):339-345. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddos.2020.04.002>
- Lenards N. A Quantitative Comparative Study of Medical Dosimetry Graduates With and Without Prior Radiation Therapy Certification. *Med Dosim.* 2020; 45(4):374-381. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddos.2020.05.005>
- Deiter N, Chu F, Lenards N, Hunzeker A, Lang K, Mundy D. Evaluation of Replanning in Intensity-Modulated Proton Therapy for Oropharyngeal Cancer: Factors Influencing Plan Robustness. *Med Dosim.* 2020; 45(4):384-392. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddos.2020.06.002>

MEDICAL DOSIMETRY PROGRAM 2020 Clinical Educator Award

The 2020 Clinical Educator Award is presented to:

HEATHER PARKS, CMD, R.T.(T)

*Northwestern Medicine Delnor
Cancer Center, Geneva, IL*

Current students submitted nominations for the 2020 Clinical Educator award. Nominations were evaluated based on the quality of their submissions and the qualifying characteristics provided in the nomination.

Congratulations to the 6 outstanding Clinical Educators who were nominated for this respected award:

Mark Addington: *The James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute at Ohio State University, Columbus, OH*

Paul Archer: *University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI*

Heather Parks: *Northwestern Medicine Delnor Cancer Center, Geneva, IL*

Tayisiya Polishchuk: *Massey Cancer Center at VCU Health System, Richmond, VA*

Greg Williams: *University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT*

Wes Zoller: *The James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute at Ohio State University, Columbus, OH*

This year has been especially challenging for clinical instructors and students who were banned from the clinic due to COVID-19 restrictions. Remote treatment planning required a more innovative approach to teaching and learning and created additional stress for both instructors and students.



The student submission for her nomination:

"I cannot thank my clinical instructor, Heather Parks, enough. She is, not only a great medical dosimetrist herself, but she is an amazing instructor. [Heather] really values her role as a mentor and is very serious about giving us the best educational clinical experience. During the COVID pandemic, unfortunately I had to do most of my clinic internship remotely. Sensing the lag in normal progression, [Heather] went out of the way to help get me caught up to where I should be. She has taken multiple hours out of her day to meet with me online via Microsoft Teams and review plans or teach me techniques. She has even taken time out of her personal life to log on at night, after she's already off the clock, to assist me. Heather has always encouraged me to reach out to her on weekends if I have any questions. Even with her busy schedule, she looks through old cases and assigns practice patients that I can work on in my own time. Heather offers advice if I get stuck on a homework assignment and checks in with me weekly for my thoughts and feelings on my own progression and what she can do to fill any gaps. This year has been full of obstacles, but Heather has helped me stay focused and feel supported."