

Radiation Therapists

SOC: 29-1124 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$101,990

Median Salary

19,200

Employment

+2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Associate's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.1/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Compassion, Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills, Technical skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Radiation Therapists administer **radiation treatments to patients with cancer and other diseases under the supervision of physicians**. They operate radiation equipment, monitor patient progress, and ensure accurate and safe treatment delivery. Their work is critical in oncology, healthcare, and patient recovery.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, technology, and patient care.

What Do Radiation Therapists Do?

These professionals deliver radiation therapy, monitor patients, and maintain treatment accuracy.

Common responsibilities include:

- Preparing patients for radiation treatments
- Operating radiation therapy machines and equipment
- Administering prescribed doses according to treatment plans
- Monitoring patient reactions and reporting side effects
- Maintaining detailed treatment records and documentation
- Ensuring compliance with safety protocols and regulations
- Collaborating with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare staff

Key Areas of Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapists may focus on specific treatment methods, patient populations, or technologies:

- Treatment Planning: Following physician-prescribed radiation protocols
- Patient Care and Support: Preparing patients and providing emotional support
- Equipment Operation and Maintenance: Calibrating and operating radiation machines
- Safety and Compliance: Ensuring adherence to radiation safety standards
- Data Recording and Monitoring: Tracking treatment sessions and patient responses

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine clinical, technical, and patient care skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and clinical training:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree: Radiation therapy or related healthcare field
- Clinical Internship or Practicum: Supervised hands-on experience in radiation therapy
- Certification and Licensure: Required by state and professional boards
- Continuing Education: Maintaining certification and staying current with treatment techniques and safety protocols
- Specialized Training (optional): Advanced oncology or imaging technologies

Where Do Radiation Therapists Work?

They are employed in organizations providing oncology and patient care services:

- Hospitals and Cancer Treatment Centers
- Outpatient Radiation Clinics
- Medical Imaging Facilities
- Research and Clinical Trial Centers

- Educational and Training Institutions

Work environments include treatment rooms, hospitals, clinics, and research facilities.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical skill, attention to patient safety, and compassion. Radiation therapists must accurately deliver treatment while monitoring patient responses.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy healthcare, technology, and patient care
- Are precise, detail-oriented, and safety-conscious
- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Can work under pressure in clinical environments
- Want a career supporting cancer treatment and patient recovery

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, anatomy, physics, and healthcare fundamentals
- Participate in healthcare internships or volunteer opportunities
- Develop technical and patient care skills
- Explore accredited radiation therapy programs
- Gain hands-on experience in clinical settings under supervision

Radiation therapists administer and monitor radiation treatments, supporting patient recovery and providing critical care in oncology and medical facilities.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiation-therapists.htm>