

Radiologic and MRI Technologists

SOC: 29-2034 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$78,980

Median Salary

272,000

Employment

+5.0%

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

7.6/10 - 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

Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills, Math skills, Physical stamina, Technical skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Radiologic and MRI Technologists are healthcare imaging professionals who use **advanced imaging technology to create detailed diagnostic images** that help physicians identify injuries, illnesses, and medical conditions. They operate X-ray, CT, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment while ensuring patient safety, image accuracy, and adherence to strict medical standards. Their work plays a critical role in diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient care.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, technology, and direct patient interaction in a clinical setting.

What Do Radiologic and MRI Technologists Do?

Radiologic and MRI technologists prepare patients for imaging procedures and operate sophisticated equipment to capture precise images of the body. Their responsibilities emphasize accuracy, safety, and patient comfort.

Common responsibilities include:

- Positioning patients correctly for imaging procedures
- Operating X-ray, CT, or MRI imaging equipment
- Explaining procedures and addressing patient concerns
- Following radiation safety and infection-control protocols
- Monitoring patients during imaging procedures
- Reviewing images for quality and diagnostic usefulness
- Maintaining detailed patient records and documentation

Differences Between Radiologic and MRI Technologists

While closely related, these roles use different technologies:

- Radiologic Technologists: Perform X-rays and may specialize in CT, mammography, or fluoroscopy.
- MRI Technologists: Operate MRI scanners that use magnetic fields and radio waves instead of radiation.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Radiologic and MRI technologists combine technical expertise with patient care skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Licensure Pathway

Becoming a radiologic or MRI technologist requires formal education and certification:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree: In radiologic technology or a related field
- Clinical Training: Supervised hands-on experience during education
- Professional Certification: Required for most positions
- State Licensure (where applicable): Required in many states
- Advanced Certification (optional): MRI, CT, or specialty imaging credentials

Requirements vary by state and employer.

Where Do Radiologic and MRI Technologists Work?

These professionals work in a variety of healthcare environments:

- Hospitals and Medical Centers
- Outpatient Imaging and Diagnostic Centers
- Physician Offices and Clinics
- Emergency Rooms and Trauma Centers
- Specialty Care Facilities

Work schedules may include nights, weekends, or on-call shifts.

How Much Do Radiologic and MRI Technologists Earn?

Earnings vary based on specialization, certification, and location:

- Radiologic Technologists: Typically earn stable healthcare salaries
- MRI Technologists: Often earn higher pay due to specialized skills
- Technologists with Advanced Certifications: May earn more with experience and specialization

Compensation often includes healthcare benefits and shift differentials.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is technically demanding and patient-focused. Technologists must operate complex equipment accurately while ensuring patient safety and comfort. The challenge lies in balancing precision, speed, and compassionate care in busy clinical environments.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Radiologic or MRI Technologist?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are interested in healthcare and medical technology
- Enjoy working directly with patients
- Are detail-oriented and safety-conscious
- Prefer structured clinical environments
- Want a respected healthcare role without medical school

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, anatomy, and physics
- Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Learn basic medical terminology
- Explore job shadowing or volunteering in healthcare settings
- Research accredited radiologic technology programs

Radiologic and MRI technologists bring medical imaging to life, combining technology, precision, and compassionate care to help physicians diagnose conditions and guide effective treatment for patients every day.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiologic-technologists.htm>