Summa Health Smart Start **Radiologic Technology (SSRT) Program**

Program Specific Information Packet
Radiologic Technology

Summa Health™

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Summa Health's Smart Start Radiologic Technology (SSRT) Program! The SSRT program prepares you for a career in one of healthcare's fastest growing areas. According to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**, the job outlook for Radiologic Technologists is growing faster than average (6%) from 2023-2033.

About Radiologic Technology

Radiologic Technologists are the third largest group of healthcare professionals. Their primary responsibility is to image the human body. Technologists work in hospitals, urgent care centers, medical offices and outpatient facilities and are key members of the healthcare team.

Radiologic Technologists (also called radiographers) are healthcare professionals who specialize in the medical imaging of human anatomy in a healthcare facility. Radiographers use radiation to produce images of tissues, organs, bones and vessels that comprise the human body.

The field of radiology has seen remarkable advancements that revolutionize diagnosis and treatment planning. These advancements underscore radiologic technology's critical role in improving patient outcomes and healthcare accessibility while paving the way for groundbreaking medical achievements.

About the SSRT program

Summa Health and the University of Akron (UA) have a consortium agreement to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Health Sciences, Radiologic Technology. Students accepted into the SSRT Program will complete their general education curriculum at UA. Radiologic Technology didactic and clinical hours will be completed at Summa Health.

The degree is made up of two areas of concentration: Foundational (General Education) courses at the UA, and the Technical (Radiologic Technology) clinical and didactic courses. The first and second semesters (Fall and Spring) are completed at UA, where students will take 25 credit hours of foundational coursework needed for the AAS degree and to prepare them for technical courses. The last four semesters consist of 45 credit hours of the technical major at Summa Health.

The technical component curriculum includes instruction in patient care and management, radiation protection, imaging procedures, quality assurance, recording and media processing, equipment maintenance, interpersonal communication, and professional responsibility through an integration of classroom, laboratory and clinical education. The radiographer is a skilled healthcare professional qualified to provide patient services using imaging modalities as directed by qualified physicians.

Program graduates are eligible to apply to take the national examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) for certification and registration as medical radiographers. Please visit the Radiography Program website for more information on the program and the profession.

The SSRT accepts 10-15 students into the program each year. Should the applicant be accepted to enter the SSRT, the student must pass the routine physical, drug testing and background check at Summa Health. The student must be able to perform all required technical and physical standards of a student in the Radiologic Technology Program.

SSRT Program Radiologic Technology Faculty and Staff

Academic Program Director: Sherri Cole Ph.D., MBA, RT(R)(M) (ARRT)

colesh@summahealth.org | 234.475.0099 | Office C2-47

Program Director: Reports to the Manager, Clinical Training & Development.
Works to provide the administrative and educational functions for the operation of the School of Radiologic Technology. Master's degree or higher, plus specialized training in Radiologic Technology or equivalent experience. Registered ARRT and Ohio License. Four to five years of experience required. Possess proficiency in the areas of curriculum design, program administration/evaluation, instruction and advising.

- Assuring effective program operations.
- Overseeing ongoing program accreditation and assessment processes.
- Participating in budget planning,
- Participating in didactic and/or clinical instruction, as appropriate.
- Maintaining current knowledge of the professional discipline and educational methodologies through continuing professional development.
- Assumes the leadership role in the continued development of the program.

Clinical Coordinator: Reports to the Program Director. Minimum bachelor's degree. Proficient in curriculum development, supervision, instruction, evaluation and academic advising. Two years clinical experience in the professional discipline and one year's experience as an instructor in a JRCERT-accredited program. ARRT certification and Ohio License registration in radiography.

- Correlating and coordinating clinical education with didactic education and evaluating its effectiveness
- Participating in didactic and/or clinical instruction
- Supporting the program director to assure effective program operations
- Participating in the accreditation and assessment processes
- Maintaining current knowledge of the professional discipline and educational methodologies through continuing professional development
- Maintaining current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress.

Didactic Faculty: Reports to the Program Director. Bachelor's degree, plus proficient in subject matter, course development, instruction, evaluation and academic advising.

- Preparing and maintaining course outlines and objectives, instructing, and evaluating student progress
- Participating in the accreditation and assessment process
- Supporting the program director to assure effective program operations
- Participating in periodic review and revision of course materials
- Maintaining current knowledge of professional discipline
- Maintaining appropriate expertise and competence through continuing professional development.

Clinical Preceptor: Proficient in supervision, instruction, evaluation. Two years of experience in the professional discipline. ARRT certification and Ohio license registration in radiography.

- Maintaining knowledge of program mission and goals
- Understanding the clinical objectives and clinical evaluation system and evaluating student's' clinical competence
- Providing students with clinical instruction and supervision
- Participating in the assessment process, as appropriate
- Maintaining current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress and monitoring and enforcing program policies and procedures.

Clinical Staff:

- Understanding the clinical competency system
- Understanding requirements for student supervision
- Evaluating student's clinical competence, as appropriate
- Supporting the educational process
- Maintaining current knowledge of program clinical policies, procedures, and student progress.

National and State Accreditations

The SSRT is partnered with the University of Akron (UA) in delivering an exceptional education and training to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Health Sciences, Radiologic Technology. Together, the general education (two semesters), are general education courses at UA and the program's didactic and clinical education is taken in the last four semesters at various Summa Health hospitals and medical facilities. Collectively, the clinical rotations provide a sufficient number and variety of radiographic procedures to offer students a well-balanced, supervised clinical experience. Clinical rotations are generally between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., depending on the scheduled services. During the second year of the program, students will rotate through three to four weeks of off-shift and weekend rotations. The entire semester clinical schedule will be posted before the start of each semester. Transportation to and from the clinical sites is the student's responsibility. ***Note: a clear criminal background check and drug screen is required for all clinical sites.***

Program graduates work in a variety of radiology departments in hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, urgent care, veterinary offices, research and medical laboratories, federal and state agencies and industry. The radiologic technology field offers a wide variety of sub-specialties including surgery, orthopedics and trauma. Radiographers can also continue their education in many of the post primary or secondary programs in mammography, CT, MRI, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, etc.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Sciences from UA's College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) is approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Summa Health System hospitals and facilities are nationally accredited by The Joint Commission. All radiologic equipment at Summa Health has state registration and inspection through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Program Accreditation

The SSRT program is seeking accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

Program Mission

Mission Statement for Radiologic Technology Program:

The Radiologic Technology Education Program at Summa Health is committed to developing skilled and compassionate professionals equipped to meet the evolving needs of healthcare. We strive to provide a comprehensive and inclusive learning environment that fosters academic excellence, professional integrity, and personal growth. Through a blend of rigorous instruction, hands-on experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration, we empower students to excel in their studies in radiologic science and graduate as entry level technologists. Our mission is to prepare graduates who are dedicated to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care and contributing to the health and well-being of diverse communities.

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

To accomplish this mission, the radiologic technology program embraces the following goals:

- Students will perform radiologic procedures consistent with entry level requirements of a registered radiographer.
  - Students will position patients to yield diagnostic images.
  - Students will select appropriate technical factors.
  - Students will perform appropriate radiation safety practices.
- Students will communicate effectively in the clinical setting.
  - Students will communicate effectively through informative speech.
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate through written correspondence pertaining to healthcare.
- Students will develop and apply effective critical thinking skills.
  - Students will adapt positioning for non-routine patients.
  - Students will critique images for diagnostic quality.

Career Opportunities

The SSRT program provides an intense curriculum of didactic and clinical training that prepares the student to work confidently in the diagnostic imaging field. Radiologic Technologists use radiation to provide detailed images of the tissues, organs, bones and vessels of the human body, producing quality diagnostic examinations while providing essential patient care. After passing the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) national certification exam, there are many options available to advance one's career in the imaging field.

To accomplish this mission, the radiologic technology program embraces the following goals:

- **Computed Tomography (CT)** – uses a collimated X-ray beam to image a patient in thin sections
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)** – uses a magnetic field and radio frequencies to create sectional images of the body
- **Nuclear Medicine Technology (Nuc Med)** – a branch of radiology that involves the introduction of radioactive substances into the body for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes
- **Mammography (Mammos)** – radiography of the breast
- **Bone Densitometry (DEXA)** – uses dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA or DEXA) to detect osteoporosis
- **Radiation Therapy** – assists in the treatment of cancer and other diseases by administering radiation to a specific area of the patient's body
- **Cardio-Interventional Imaging (IR)** – performs procedures involving the injection of iodinated contrast media for diagnosing and treating diseases of the heart and blood vessels
- **Vascular-Interventional Imaging (IR)** – performs procedures involving the injection of iodinated contrast media for diagnosing and treating diseases involving the major vessels and organs
- **Radiologist Assistant (RA)** – an advanced level radiographer who extends the capacity of the radiologist in the diagnostic imaging environment, thereby enhancing patient care
- **Ultrasound (U/S, Sonography)** – uses high frequency sound waves to produce images from within the body for diagnostic or treatment purposes
- **Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) Administrator** - is a medical imaging technology that provides economical storage and convenient access to images from multiple modalities
- **Educator** – teaches didactic and/or clinical procedures to imaging students

Program Costs and Smart Start Agreement

Applicants are required to pay for any transcript requests fees, UA application fee, Placement Testing (if needed) and any other costs that **arise prior to being accepted** into the Smart Start Program.

Applicants **that are accepted** into the SSRT program will be required to apply to Summa Health's Smart Start Ambassador Program and as per the Agreement will become a Summa Health employee and have 100% of tuition paid per semester as long as the student fulfills the requirements to remain in the program. The accepted student will receive a conditional acceptance explaining that employment will become official only after the student passes all employment requirements successfully. (Drug screen, background check, Immunizations, etc.)

Radiologic Technology Student Physical and Technical Job Requirements

ASRT Technical Standards Information

All students are required to meet and maintain the ASRT program's established Technical Standards. Students must demonstrate the ability to deliver radiologic technology services in a safe and effective manner under the supervision of an ARRT registered and certified Radiologic Technologist.

All students must meet the academic and technical standards for admission or participation in the SSRT program with or without reasonable accommodation. The technical standards outlined below are necessary skills and abilities for successful completion of this program. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any limitations that might interfere with meeting these standards.

Technical Standards

- Lift, move and transport patients (in excess of 50 pounds) to and from various ambulatory devices, (wheelchair, stretcher, hospital bed and radiographic table) without causing undue pain or discomfort to patient or oneself.
- The ability to spend prolonged periods of time walking, standing, sitting, bending, reaching, pushing and pulling.
- Position patients for various radiologic examinations. This requires physical touch.
- Manipulate X-ray equipment into proper positions, including fixed and mobile units. This requires upper and lower body dexterity.
- Recognize audio sounds (bells, buzzers, etc.) and visually distinguish colors.
- Respond immediately to emergency situations that may otherwise jeopardize a patient's physical state if prompt care is not administered.
- Evaluate written requisitions for radiographic procedures.
- Communicate (verbal and written) the explanation of procedures and give effective instructions to a patient.
- Obtain medical histories of patients and communicate this information to appropriate members of the healthcare team.
- Visually evaluate radiographic images.

Clinical and Academic Requirements

A radiologic technologist must possess the ability, knowledge and skill to function in a variety of clinical situations and to provide a broad spectrum of patient care. All applicants for admission must be able to perform the essential clinical skills as well as the academic requirements of the SSRT Program.

The clinical and academic requirements of the SSRT Program require the student to have the capacity to observe and communicate effectively, motor ability to perform radiographic examinations, emotional stability to exercise good judgment, ability to work effectively in stressful situations, safely lift and transfer patients, and the intellectual ability to synthesize data and solve problems.

Students accepted into the radiologic technology program are required to complete and satisfactorily pass a background check and drug screen. Failure to satisfactorily pass the background and drug screen prevents the student from entering into the SSRT program.

If you are selected for admission into the SSRT Program, you must submit an acceptance form by the date that is stated on your acceptance letter.

Student Application Requirements

Application Dates: Applications being accepted now through **March 5, 2025**

The General Education pre-requisite courses begin every Fall Semester at UA. Applications for **the Fall 2025** cohort of the SSRT Program are accepted **through March 5, 2025**, for the Fall 2025 cohort that will be taking their pre-requisite courses at UA. Radiologic Technology applications must be **received by 11:59 pm EST on March 5, 2025**, to be considered for the Fall semester inaugural class.

Selective Admission Process

Selective Admission Process: This program requires a separate, program specific application in addition to the university; *all application deadlines are firm*.

The SSRT program has a competitive admission process, so not all applicants can be chosen. One class of 10-15 students are selected each year. A selective admissions policy with specific selection criteria is utilized to choose the most qualified students. The strength of the applicant pool will vary each year, with the highest qualified applications receiving first consideration.

Program Admission Information

Selection to the SSRT program is based on an objective cumulative point system that includes high school and/or college grade point averages (GPA), final course grades from any required pre-requisite courses completed prior to the application deadline and/or any transfer courses that meet the pre-requisite requirement, a signed Technical Standards form, and any optional enhancement points.

Minimum requirements are subject to change each academic year.

It is the applicant's responsibility to inquire about these specific admission and selection criteria and to ensure that all required documents are received by the application deadline of 11:59 p.m. EST on March 5, 2025.

Selection Criteria and Information

Selection to the program is based upon an objective cumulative point system that includes earned high school and/or college grades on official transcripts submitted.

Coursework in math and science will be given points based on grades A, B or C.

Additional points may be applied if the applicant:

- Has taken chemistry, algebra and/or physics coursework in either high school or college based on the same grades of A, B or C. (Official transcripts from all high school and college/universities needed)
- Holds a Certificate in healthcare related field (Certificate or official transcript needed)
- Is in the military or honorably discharged (DD214 document needed)

To be considered for the SSRT program, applicants must have the following:

First time attending college

Minimum GPA of 3.0+ OR GED minimum of 660+

ACT score of 19+ OR SAT combined score of 1030+

OR Accuplacer Next Gen scores: Reading 250+, Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra and Statistics 263+

College with 12 or more credit hours of coursework based on the most recent college transcript

Minimum GPA of 2.75+

Advanced Placement Testing

The minimum cumulative GPA required for **acceptance into the SSRT program** is 3.0 for first time students (high school) or GED minimum of 660+, and for transfer students with a minimum of 12 credit hours is 2.75 GPA.

The Accuplacer Next Gen exam is required to determine if applicant is prepared for the general education and radiology coursework. If the scores indicate that the applicant will need to take intro Math or intro English, the applicant would not be prepared for starting the program in Fall of 2025. The applicant would be able to take their intro coursework at the University of Akron prior to the applicant deadline for Fall 2026.

Applicants will not have to take the Accuplacer exam if **any** of the following are true:

- If the applicant has an ACT score of 19+ **OR** SAT combined score of 1030+
- The applicant has greater or equal to 12 credit hours of college coursework with a GPA of 2.75+ with college level Math and/or Science coursework (within last five years)
- Applicants with a college degree that has equivalent Math and/or Science coursework

Transfer Students

Students wanting to transfer their general education course(s) to UA will need to have taken their courses within the last five years and have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

The SSRT program **does not accept** transfer students/credits from other radiologic technology programs. Acceptance of credit is always up to the receiving institution unless specified in an articulation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.

Minimum requirements are subject to change each academic year.

The Fall 2025 selection process is subject to change when extenuating circumstances arise. If any changes arise involving Summa Health's ability to adhere to the information below, the SSRT program will reserve the right to make adjustments and will make every effort to communicate these to the applicants in a timely manner.

Program Effectiveness Measures

The following data will be annually collected, evaluated and utilized to measure program achievement:

- Five-year average credentialing examination (ARRT) pass rate
- Five-year average job placement rate
- Program completion rate
- Graduate satisfaction
- Employer Satisfaction.

This information will be posted on the program's website annually..

Professional Certification and Licensure

Upon completion of the SSRT program, the graduate is prepared to take the national certification examination conducted by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT). The state of Ohio also requires all radiographers to be licensed. Radiologic licenses are obtained through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Other states may have different licensure requirements. Students, applicants and prospective students should determine any additional requirements for licensure in the state in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding state licensure can be found at: www.asrt.org/main/standards-and-regulations/legislationregulations-and-advocacy/states-that-regulate.

Equal Opportunity Educational Program

Students must respect, display tolerance of and interact professionally with a diverse population of fellow students, program staff, healthcare employees and patients. The SSRT conforms with state and federal mandates as an equal opportunity educational program. The program does not discriminate based on age, ancestry, color, disability, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, veteran status, and genetic information. In compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act guidelines (FERPA) and to protect the privacy of its students, the release of information to third parties may occur only after receiving written permission from the student.

Admission Process

1. Applicant fills out the SSRT application and submits all unofficial transcripts for high school and/or college.
2. Applicants are accepted in the SSRT program through selective admission.
3. Applicants with the top composite scores will be sent an email inviting them to apply to the University of Akron (UA), College of Health Sciences, AAS degree in Health Sciences.
4. Applicants submit/request all **official transcripts** for high school and/or college to UA.
5. Applicant will receive an email for acceptance to UA. **This does not guarantee that the UA student will be automatically accepted to the SSRT program**. This is a separate acceptance to the UA.
6. Official transcripts will be used for the SSRT Applicant Scoring as well as determining whether the student will need to take Advanced Placement Test at UA.
7. After the application deadline closes, the Applicants that are accepted into UA will have a final score review by the SSRT Admissions Committee.
8. The top scoring applicants will be invited to a mandatory information session with the Program Director. (also provided a link to a Virtual Radiologic Technology Shadowing experience and quiz)
9. Applicants with the highest composite admission scores who have successfully completed all the steps above will be invited to apply for an employee position as an Ambassador at Summa Health.
10. Those invited to apply to Summa Health's Ambassador program **will be offered conditional acceptance into the program pending receipt of satisfactory physical exam, immunization records, criminal background check and drug testing.**
11. Student Ambassadors review and sign SSRT Program Smart Start Agreement.
12. After graduation and licensure, graduates will work for Summa Health for a period of three years.

Program Curriculum Description

The following general education courses are considered Foundational Courses and must be completed before taking the SSRT's Technical Courses.

SSRT Curriculum

YEAR 1		FALL	SPRING
Course Name	**Location**	**Credit Hours**	**Credit Hours**
English	UA	3	
Mathematics	UA	3	
Anatomy & Physiology I	UA	3	
Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	UA	1	
Medical Terminology	UA	3	
Anatomy & Physiology II	UA		3
Humanities	UA		3
Social Science	UA		3
Intro to Health Services	UA		3

YEAR 1			FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Course #	**Course Name**	**Location**	**Credit Hours**		
RADT141	Anatomy & Positioning I	SH			3
RADT181	Clinical Ed I	SH			3
RADT151	Methods of Patient Care I	SH			2
Total			**13**	**12**	**8**

- If you are a **new college student** (meaning you have not taken any college courses) you will take all the following general education courses in the first two semesters once you have been **accepted into the program**. You will be advised on the process once that occurs.
- If you have **taken college courses** or are currently enrolled at a college, your coursework will be evaluated after the application deadline for eligibility to transfer in as the required general education. This will happen once you have been **accepted into the program**. You will be advised on the process once that occurs.
  - All college coursework that transfers as general education must have been taken within the last five years.

Note: All general education courses must be passed with a **"C" grade** or higher. Courses in which a "D," "F," "W," or as a Pass/Fail was earned must be repeated with a "C" grade or higher no later than the term in which it falls on the program curriculum sheet.

The technical portion of the program's curriculum is established as a full-time, daytime program with additional off shift/weekend rotations scheduled in the last two semesters. Once students begin the technical curriculum, they should plan to be involved in radiology courses, labs and clinicals Monday through Friday.

All program technical courses involve study outside the classroom. Students should plan to spend at least three hours studying outside of class for each hour of class. Accepted students must demonstrate a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in the first two semesters at UA to be eligible for entry into the program's technical portion.

SSRT Curriculum

YEAR 2			FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Course #	**Course Name**	**Location**	**Credit Hours**		
RADT142	Anatomy & Positioning II	SH	3		
RADT152	Methods of Patient Care II	SH	2		
RADT161	Radiology Physics/Principles I	SH	3		
RADT182	Clinical Ed II	SH	3		
RADT192	Radiobiology	SH	2		
RADT261	Radiology Physics/Principles II	SH		3	
RADT271	Special Imaging I	SH		3	
RADT281	Clinical Ed III	SH		3	
RADT291	Pathophysiology	SH		3	
RADT252	Imaging Obstacles & Solutions	SH			1
RADT272	Special Imaging II	SH			3
RADT282	Clinical Ed IV	SH			3
RADT292	Cross-sectional Anatomy	SH			3
RADT262	Registry Review	SH			2
Total			**13**	**12**	**12**
TOTAL FOR DEGREE					**70**

Academic Calendar

The SSRT adheres to the University of Akron's Academic Calendar, which can be found here: Academic Calendar: Fall, Spring & Summer Dates : The University of Akron, Ohio

Summa Health™