

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

2026

**Program Specific Information Packet
Radiologic Technology**



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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.

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.

- **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 (Mammo)** – 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

About the SSRT Program

Summa Health and the University of Akron (UA) has an articulation agreement to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Health Services, Radiologic Technology. Students accepted into Summa Health's Smart Start Radiologic Technology (SSRT) Program will complete their general education curriculum at UA. Radiologic Technology didactic and clinical hours will be completed at Summa Health facilities.

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 foundational coursework needed for the AAS degree and to prepare them for technical courses. The last four semesters consist of technical classes and clinical courses taught at 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 no longer than eight hour shifts a day and are generally between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., depending on 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 health screen is required for all clinical sites.***

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 at [Radiology Technology Program | Summa Health](#).

National and State Accreditations

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Services 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).

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.

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

Once obtained, this information will be posted on the program's website annually.

Program Mission

Mission Statement for Radiologic Technology Program:

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. Through a blend of rigorous instruction, hands-on experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration, we empower students to become leaders in radiologic and imaging sciences.

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Students will perform radiologic procedures consistent with entry level requirements of a registered radiographer.
 - Students will properly position patients to obtain diagnostic images.
 - Students will select appropriate technical factors.
 - Students will practice the concepts of ALARA
2. 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.
3. Students will apply effective critical thinking skills
 - Students will adapt positioning for non-routine patients.
 - Students will critique images for diagnostic quality

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

- 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 professional discipline and educational methodologies through continuing professional development.
- Assumes the leadership role in the continued development of the program.

Clinical Coordinator: Kelsey Adair B.S.R.T. (R)

adairk@summahealth.org | 234.475.0240 | Cubicle C2-54

- 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 professional discipline and educational methodologies through continuing professional development
- Maintaining current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress.

Clinical Preceptor:

- 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

Virtual Information Session

Those interested in applying to the SSRT program should watch the virtual information session video coming soon to the website and answer questions after the video.

Topics included in the virtual information session:

- Introduction to the field of Radiologic Technology
- Different modalities associated the field of Radiologic Technology
- Requirements of a Radiologic Technologist (R.T.)
- SSRT Program Requirements
- SSRT Agreement
- SSRT Application Review

This program accepts students through a **3 step Selective Admission Process:**

- **Step One - Applying to the program**
- **Step Two - Applying to The University of Akron**
- **Step Three - Applying to be an SSRT Ambassador**

Step One:

Student Application Deadline and Requirements

Applications for the Fall 2026-2028 cohort of the SSRT Program are accepted from January 21, 2026, through March 4, 2026. SSRT applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on March 4, 2026. The application deadline will be strictly enforced, late submissions will not be accepted. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure application is complete and all required documentation is uploaded prior to submission deadline. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

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 with alternates 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.

Applicants who were not selected for the current application period **must re-apply to be considered for a later application period**. Should any of the accepted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be offered acceptance to the program.

Selection Criteria and Information

Admission to the SSRT program is based upon an objective cumulative point system that includes GPA, earned high school and/or college grades, and interview with an Admissions Committee. The SSRT program requires official copies of **both** high school and college transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are allowed if currently enrolled in courses.

Helpful Tip: When requesting official transcripts, request two because if accepted into the SSRT Program, The University of Akron will also need one.

Qualified applicants are numerically ranked from highest to lowest total application points. Due to the annual quantity and quality of applicants received and seat capacity limitations, it is possible that not all qualified applicants will be invited to an interview.

Coursework in Math and Science will be given points based on grades A, B, or C that have been taken **within the past five years**. 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.
- Has medical experience or holds a Certificate in healthcare related field (Certificate or official transcript needed)
- Is in the military or honorably discharged (DD214 document needed)
- Has previously applied to the SSRT program.

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

First time attending college

Minimum GPA of 3.0+ OR GED with the same minimum equivalent GPA

ACT score of 19+ OR SAT combined score of 1030+, if applicable

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 3.0+

Step Two:

Notification of SSRT Status

If interviewed and invited to move to the second step in the process as an SSRT **Candidate**, you will:

- Sign Letter of Intent
- You will be instructed to apply to University of Akron
- Meet with an advisor
- Take any placement tests needed.

If you are invited as an SSRT **Alternate**, you will:

- Remain an alternate until the start of Summer of 2027
- If a candidate drops before the start of the Summer 2027 semester, **we will contact you** and start the UA process
- If not contacted by the start of Summer of 2027, we will send a letter thanking you and encourage you to apply for the next cohort

Letters of candidacy/alternate/denial status will be sent out to applicants via email provided on their application after overall scoring has taken place. Email correspondence is the primary form of communication that is used throughout the application process. It is the applicant's responsibility to check their email on a regular basis and adhere to deadlines regardless of circumstances.

Alternate List vs. Waitlist

The SSRT program utilizes an alternate list method. While both terms suggest a group of students who may be offered a seat if one becomes available, there is an important distinction:

- A waitlist often implies a numbered or ranked order—students are admitted strictly based on their position on the list.
- An alternate list, however, does not assign a specific order. Instead, if a spot opens up, we review all alternate candidates to determine who is the best fit based on a variety of factors, such as overall qualifications and program readiness at that time.

So, while you're not given a number or "place in line", please know that being on the alternate list means you have merit as a qualified applicant, but there is not enough space to admit everyone at the time of initial decisions. If an opportunity becomes available prior to the start of the first semester, we will contact selected alternates as quickly as possible.

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 (Fall of 2021) and have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

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 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.

Step Three:

SSRT Ambassador

If accepted into UA and invited to move to the third step, you will need to complete the following:

- Sign the Letter of Intent
- Employee Onboarding:
 - Background Check
 - Health Screening
 - Drug Test
 - Immunization Review
 - N95 Fit Test
- Sign SSRT Agreement

SSRT Essential Skill Requirements

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

- 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.
- Confirm the correct patient, order, and diagnosis before every procedure.
- 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 health care team.
- Visually evaluate radiographic images.

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 SSRT 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. (Health screen, background check, Immunizations, etc.)

After graduation and licensure, graduates will work for Summa Health in radiology for a minimum period of 36 months. The specific position and shift offered to employee will be determined solely by Summa Health's departmental needs. Offered shift may include days, afternoons, nights, weekends and/or holidays and specified modalities which include X-ray, CT, Mammography, MRI and IR. Summa offers on the job training in these other modalities.

Ethical Requirements

Persons convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be unable to sit for the national certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

Convictions or charges that **MUST** be reported to the ARRT include:

- Charges or convictions, including those that were stayed, withheld/deferred, set aside, or suspended (including similar offenses in a military court-martial)
- Any plea of guilty, Alford plea, or plea of no contest (nolo contendere)
- Court supervision, probation, or pre-trial diversion
- Traffic violations charged as a misdemeanor or felony
- Traffic violations that involved drugs or alcohol
- Sealed or expunged cases – The violation must be reported only if you do not have court documents that prove your charges/convictions were sealed or expunged

Conditions that do **NOT** need to be reported to the ARRT include:

- Juvenile offenses and convictions processed in juvenile court
- Speeding and parking tickets that did not rise to the level of a misdemeanor or felony and did **NOT** involve drugs or alcohol
- Charges that were dismissed if there were no court conditions required

- Sealed or expunged cases that include court documents that prove the charges/convictions were sealed or expunged
- Offenses previously reported to ARRT and for which ARRT has sent you correspondence

Any existing felony or misdemeanor convictions must be resolved by the ARRT and documentation indicating clearance to sit for the ARRT national certification examination must be submitted prior to admission into the program. Students accepted into the program must complete a background check authorization prior to entry. Students with criminal histories must provide proof of certification eligibility from the ARRT at the time of acceptance into the SSRT program. For additional information please contact:

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
 1255 Northland Drive
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55120
 651.687.0048, ext. 8580
<http://www.arrt.org>

In addition, candidates for ARRT certification are required to disclose whether they have ever had any license, registration, or certification subjected to discipline by a regulatory authority or certification board (other than ARRT). Primary pathway candidates must indicate any honor code violations that may have occurred while they attended school.

Students with a misdemeanor, felony and/or positive background check without submission of proof of certification eligibility from the ARRT will forfeit their acceptance into the SSRT program and will not be eligible for entry, no exceptions.

Immunization Requirements

The SSRT program is contractually obligated to comply with the policies of Summa Health System. Therefore, to protect students, patients, and colleagues, students are required to provide evidence of adequate immunity to the following diseases:

- TB
- Tetanus
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella
- Varicella
- Hepatitis B
- Flu

If the student objects to any immunization due to religious beliefs, he or she must submit a signed written statement stating that they have chosen not to be immunized because he or she is an adherent to a religion, the teachings of which are opposed to such immunizations.

A signed statement from the student's religious leader should be provided to support the student's legitimate objection. Students who are unwilling or unable to comply with the immunization policy must understand that some clinical agencies prohibit the presence of unvaccinated students at their facility.

While SSRT will make reasonable efforts to find appropriate alternate clinical rotations for these students, there is always the risk the student will not be permitted to complete clinical or practicum rotations which are a required part of the curriculum.

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 health screen. Failure to satisfactorily pass the background and health screen prevents the student from entering 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.

Program Curriculum Description

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

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES		
Course Name	Location	Credit Hours
English Comp	UA	3
Speech	UA	3
Mathematics	UA	3
Anatomy & Physiology I	UA	3
Medical Terminology	UA	3
Humanities	UA	3
Anatomy & Physiology II	UA	3
Social Sciences	UA	3
Intro to Health Services	UA	3

- If you are a **new college student** (meaning you have not taken any college courses), you will take the above-mentioned general education courses in the first two semesters once you have been **accepted into the program**.
- 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.
 - Math and Science coursework that transfers as general education must have been taken within the last five years.
 - If Anatomy and Physiology II has been taken within the five-year window, then the Anatomy and Physiology I course will be acknowledged.

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 second year. Once the student begins the technical curriculum, he/she should plan to be involved in radiology courses, labs, and clinicals Monday through Friday.

All technical program courses involve studying outside the classroom. Students should plan to spend at least two to 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 throughout the SSRT program.

View the University of Akron's Academic Calendar | uakron.edu/registrar/dates/acadcal.dot

TECHNICAL COURSES		
Course Name	Location	
Radiographic Procedures I	Summa	3
Methods of Patient Care I	Summa	3
Radiologic Physics and Principles I	Summa	3
Clinical Education I	Summa	3
Radiographic Procedures II	Summa	3
Methods of Patient Care II	Summa	3
Radiologic Physics and Principals II	Summa	3
Clinical Education II	Summa	3
Special Imaging I	Summa	3
Radiologic Physics and Principals III	Summa	3
Radiographic Pathology	Summa	3
Clinical Education III	Summa	3
Special Imaging II	Summa	3
Radiobiology and Safety	Summa	3
Registry Review	Summa	3
Clinical Education IV	Summa	3

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](#)

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 Technology 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.

