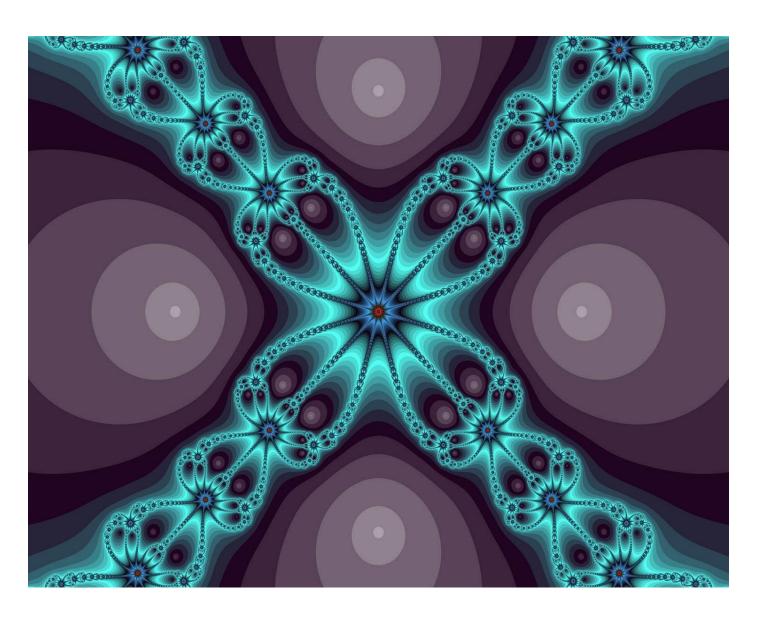


## Enrollment Snapshot of Radiography, Radiation Therapy, and Nuclear Medicine Technology Programs

A Nationwide Survey of Program Directors Conducted by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Reported December 2011





American Society of Radiologic Technologists

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Appendix A. Survey Instruments and Invitation Letter (Please contact the ASRT for a copy.) Appendix B. Verbatim responses (Please contact the ASRT for a copy.)

**On the Cover:** Fractal Challenge 2010 Runner Up by Laney T. Courtesy of the Fractal Foundation Fractalfoundation.org



## **Executive Summary**

In mid-September 2011, an invitation to complete an online questionnaire was sent via e-mail to each of the 1,008 radiography, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine technology programs listed by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). At the close of the survey on October 31, 2011, a total of 552 responses had been received, yielding an overall response rate of 55%.

	Return	Population	Percent Sampled	Margin of Error at the 95% Level
Radiography	434	751	57.8%	±3.1%
Radiation Therapy Nuclear Medicine Technology	52	123	42.3%	±10.4%
	63	134	47.0%	±9.0%
Overall	549	1,008	54.5%	±2.8%

This report summarizes findings regarding radiologic sciences enrollment based on the responses from program directors

## **Longitudinal Enrollment Trends 2001-2011**

This is the 11th in a series of annual reports from the ASRT on class enrollments in educational programs for radiographers, radiation therapists, and nuclear medicine technologists. The current report includes a section that summarizes the last 11 years of enrollment trends. See pages 13-18 for a review of those findings.

## **Demographic Analysis**

- About 41% of the programs are located in community colleges or two-year institutions, 25% are in medical centers, 22% are in universities or four-year institutions, 7% are in technical colleges, and 3% are in for-profit schools.
- Approximately 59% of program directors indicated that the terminal degree earned by graduates is an associate degree, 27% receive a certificate, and 13% receive a bachelor's degree.
- Certificate programs with an articulation agreement reported that about half (51%) award their students with an associate degree upon completion of their program, whereas 15% do not receive their degree until successful completion of the ARRT exam. In addition, 3% stated that they have no articulation agreement.
- Almost all of the programs who responded are in the United States (99%).

### **2011 Enrollment Trends**

- The mean number of students entering programs per class is 21.9 for radiography, 9.8 for radiation therapy, and 8.8 for nuclear medicine technology.
  - This produces an overall estimate of 16,454 radiography students, 1,204 radiation therapy students, and 1,175 nuclear medicine technology students entering programs for 2011.
  - These estimates represent decreases (from 1.8% for radiation therapy and 2.3% for nuclear medicine technology programs) relative to 2010 enrollments, except for radiography, which increased 3.2%.
- Radiography had the highest attrition rate, with a mean of 25.8%, compared to 21.9% for radiation therapy and 11.3% for nuclear medicine technology.

## **2011 Student Capacity**

- About 54% of radiography and 48% of radiation therapy program directors reported that they are at full enrollment. Only 18% of nuclear medicine technology programs reported full enrollment.
- Of those programs that are not at full enrollment, the mean number of additional students that could be accommodated per program is 7.6 for radiography, 6.1 for radiation therapy, and 7.2 for nuclear medicine technology.
  - This produces an estimate of 2,637 additional students that could be accommodated in radiography programs, 388 in radiation therapy, and 796 in nuclear medicine technology programs.
- The mean number of qualified students turned away per program was 37.1 for radiography, 14.3 for radiation therapy, and 8.0 for nuclear medicine technology.
  - This produces an estimate of 14,978 qualified students turned away in radiography, 846 in radiation therapy, and 187 in nuclear medicine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. ARRT-recognized educational programs. <a href="www.arrt.org/index.html?content=http://www.arrt.org/nd/listOfSchools.ndm/listSchools&iframe=yes">www.arrt.org/index.html?content=http://www.arrt.org/nd/listOfSchools.ndm/listSchools&iframe=yes</a>. Accessed August 2011.



## **Near-Term Changes**

- About 10% of radiography program directors, 8% of radiation therapy program directors, and 5% of nuclear medicine technology program directors reported that they plan to decrease enrollments.
- About 4% of radiography program directors, 10% of radiation therapy program directors, and 13% of nuclear medicine technology program directors plan to increase enrollment.

### **Job Placement of Graduates**

- About 81% of radiography students, 82% of radiation therapy students, and 58% of nuclear medicine technology students were able to find employment in their discipline within six months of graduating in 2010.
- This employment rate represents a decline from 2009 of 1.4 percentage points in radiography and 13.1 in nuclear medicine technology, with an increase of 4.5 percentage points in radiation therapy.
- When asked why students haven't been able to find employment after graduation, the most common reason among all three disciplines (52.3%) was "too many graduates in relation to the number of open positions."

### **Radiation Safety in the Classroom and Curriculum**

- Both DR (95.4%) and CR (87.2%) are prevalent imaging technologies used at clinical sites, with only 27.3% of sites having access to film/screen technologies.
- 89% of on-campus labs use CR technologies, with 59% using film/screen.
- Specific radiation safety education unique to the discipline is provided for 84.4% of radiography, 60.4% of fluoroscopy, and 53.1% of computed tomography.
- 65.6% of programs teach safety content as a stand-alone course.
- Radiation safety is typically taught by a radiologic technologist (94.6%).
- 65.1% of respondents knew the quarterly mrem threshold, with a mean of 253 mrems needed to warrant an investigation.
- The majority of programs (70.4%) use the program director to counsel students with high dosimeter readings, and reports are most frequently given to students on a monthly or quarterly basis (39.1% and 34.1% respectively).

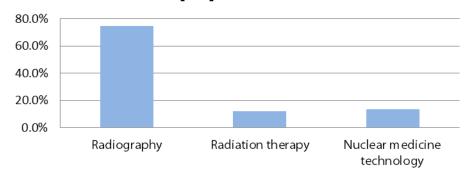


## **Demographics**

## 1. Indicate your program type.

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Population Distribution	
Radiography	434	79.1	751	57.8
Radiation therapy	52	9.5	123	42.3
Nuclear medicine technology	63	11.5	134	47.0
Total	549	100	1008	54.5

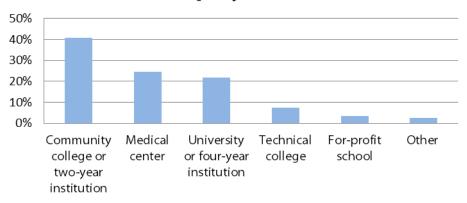
# Sample return percent of population



## 2. What is your place of employment?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Community college or two-year institution	224	40.6
Medical center	135	24.5
University or four-year institution	121	21.9
Technical college	41	7.4
For-profit school	18	3.3
Other	13	2.4
Total	552	100

# What is your primary place of employment?

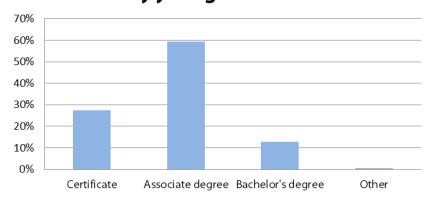




## 3. What is the terminal degree earned by your graduates?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Certificate	141	27.3
Associate degree	307	59.4
Bachelor's degree	66	12.8
Other	3	.6
Total	517	100

## What is the terminal degree earned by your graduates?

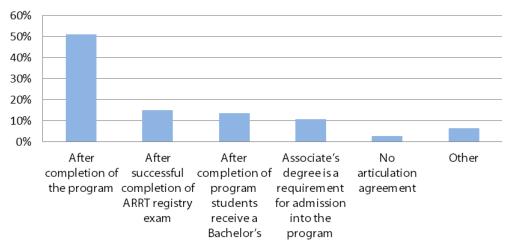


## 4. If yours is a certificate program with an articulation agreement, when do your graduates receive their associate degree?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
After completion of the program	71	51.1
After successful completion of ARRT registry exam	21	15.1
After completion of program students receive a bachelor's*	19	13.7
Associate degree is a requirement for admission into the program*	15	10.8
No articulation agreement*	4	2.9
Other	9	6.5
Total	139	100

<sup>\*</sup>From coded responses

## When do your graduates receive their associate degree?





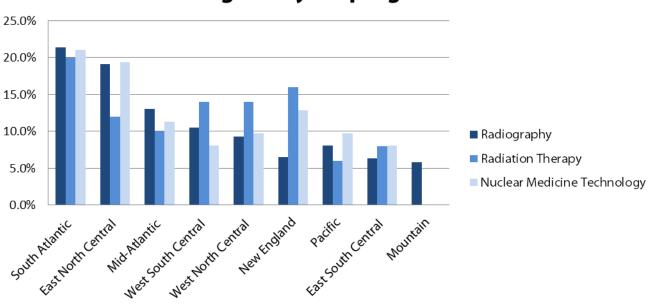
## 5. In what country is your program located?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
United States	548	99.3
Canada	4	.7
Total	552	100

## 6. In what region is your program located?

Region	Statistic	Radiography	Radiation Therapy	Nuclear Medicine Technology	Total
South Atlantic	Count	92	10	13	115
(DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)	%	21.4%	20.0%	21.0%	21.2%
East North Central	Count	82	6	12	100
(WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)	%	19.1%	12.0%	19.4%	18.5%
Mid-Atlantic	Count	56	5	7	68
(NY, PA, NJ)	%	13.0%	10.0%	11.3%	12.5%
West South Central	Count	45	7	5	57
(OK, TX, AR, LA)	%	10.5%	14.0%	8.1%	10.5%
West North Central	Count	40	7	6	53
(ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO)	%	9.3%	14.0%	9.7%	9.8%
New England	Count	28	8	8	44
(ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)	%	6.5%	16.0%	12.9%	8.1%
Pacific	Count	35	3	6	44
(AK, WA, OR, CA, HI)	%	8.1%	6.0%	9.7%	8.1%
East South Central	Count	27	4	5	36
(KY, TN, MS, AL)	%	6.3%	8.0%	8.1%	6.6%
Mountain	Count	25	0	0	25
(ID, MT, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM)	%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%
Total	Count	430	50	62	542ª
Total	%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## In what region is your program located?



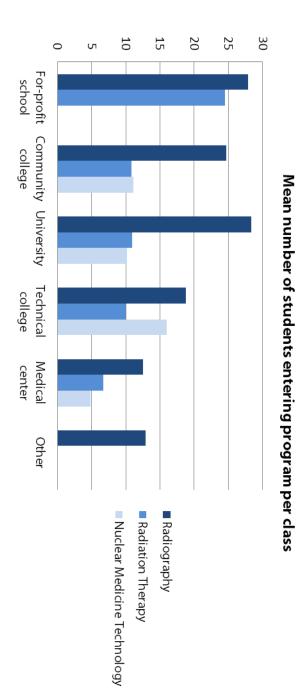


# **2011 Enrollment Analysis**

# 7. How many students entered your program?

12.9	546	19.2	7.1	62	8.8	6.5	52	9.8	12.8	429	21.9	Total
7.5	11	12.9							7.5	11	12.9	Other
6.8	135	10.5	2.9	20	4.8	4.1	20	6.7	6.8	95	12.5	Medical center
6.6	41	18.5			16.0		_	10.0	6.6	39	18.8	Technical college
15.8	118	22.2	9.1	24	10.2	5.3	16	10.9	15.5	78	28.3	University or four-year institution
11.7	224	22.6	5.8	17	11.1	4.6	13	10.8	11.3	24.7 191	24.7	Community college or two-year institution
20.1	17	27.5		•		21.9	2	24.5	20.7	15	27.9	For-profit school
SD	Z	Mean number of students entering program per class	SD	z	Mean number of students entering program per class	SD	Z	Mean number of students entering program per class	SD	z	Mean number of students entering program per class	
		Overall	уду	chnolo	Nuclear Medicine Technology		ару	Radiation Therapy		hy	Radiography	

# How many students entered your program?

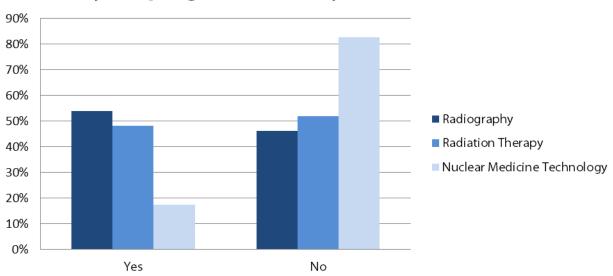




## 8. Is your program currently at full enrollment?

		Radiography	Radiation therapy	Nuclear medicine technology	Overall
Yes	Count	233	25	11	269
	%	53.8%	48.1%	17.5%	49.1%
No	Count	200	27	52	279
	%	46.2%	51.9%	82.5%	50.9%
Total	Count	433	52	63	548
	%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Is your program currently at full enrollment?



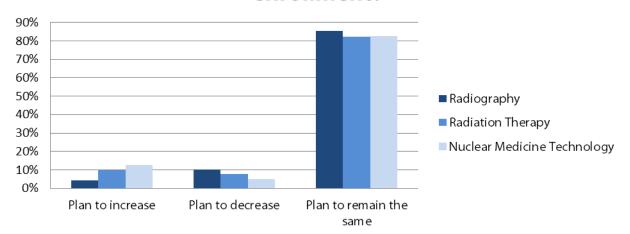
	Radi	ograp	hy	Radiat	ion th	erapy	Nucle tec	ar med hnolo		C	verall	
	Mean	N	SD	Mean	N	SD	Mean	N	SD	Mean	N	SD
9. If you are not at full enrollment, how many additional students could be accommodated by your program?	7.6	196	8.1	6.1	25	4.4	7.2	51	9.1	7.4	272	8.0
10. How many qualified students did you turn away this fall?	37.1	408	45.8	14.3	47	18.7	8.0	61	13.7	31.6	516	42.8
14. Attrition rate	25.8%	405	26.5 %	21.9%	48	29.9%	11.3%	57	20.4%	24.8%	510	26.6%



## 11. Do you plan any changes related to enrollment?

		Radiography	Radiation therapy	Nuclear medicine technology	Overall
Dlan to increase	Count	19	5	8	32
Plan to increase	%	4.4%	9.8%	12.7%	<b>5.9</b> %
Diagram de aveces	Count	44	4	3	51
Plan to decrease	%	10.2%	7.8%	4.8%	9.3%
Diagram to many in the case of	Count	369	42	52	463
Plan to remain the same	%	85.4%	82.4%	82.5%	84.8%
Tatal	Count	432	51	63	546
Total	%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Do you plan any changes related to enrollment?

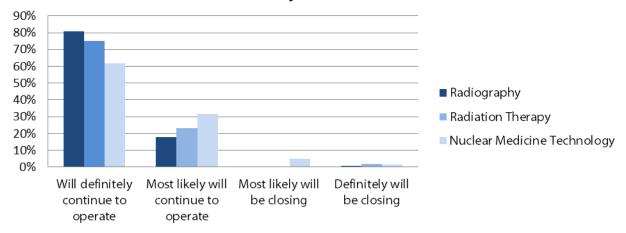




## 12. How viable is your program over the next few years?

		Radiography	Radiation therapy	Nuclear medicine technology	Overall
Will definitely continue to energic	Count	350	39	39	428
Will definitely continue to operate	%	80.6%	75.0%	61.9%	78.0%
Most likely will soutions to energe	Count	78	12	20	110
Most likely will continue to operate	%	18.0%	23.1%	31.7%	20.0%
Most likely will be sleeing	Count	2	0	3	5
Most likely will be closing	%	0.5%	0%	4.8%	0.9%
Definite housill be also in a	Count	4	1	1	6
Definitely will be closing	%	0.9%	1.9%	1.6%	1.1%
Total	Count	434	52	63	549
Total	%	100%	100%	100%	100%

# How viable is your program over the next few years?



## 13. If your program is closing, how many more years will it continue to operate, including this academic year?

Program type	N	Mean Years	SD
Radiography	8	2.9	3.0
Radiation therapy	2	0	0.0
Nuclear medicine technology	4	1.5	1.3



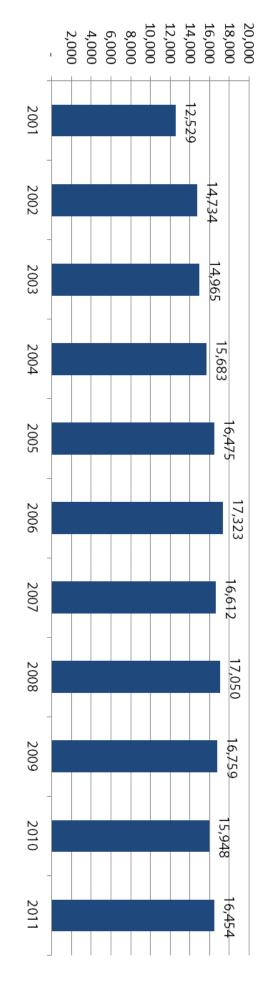
# **Longitudinal Enrollment Trends 2001-2011**

Enrollment Snapshot 2011

2,637	% 7.6	46.2%	25.8%	16,454	21.9	57.7%	751	2011
7.6 2,490	%	43.7%	23.3%	15,948	21.2	64.8%	751	2010
3.7 1,088	9%	40.0%	20.8%	16,759	22.5	60.1%	746	2009
8.4 2,073	1%	33.3%	21.1%	17,050	23.0	70.1%	742	2008
7.1 1,558	.%	30.2%	17.8%	16,612	22.8	67.9%	729	2007
7.0 1,142	%	22.6%	18.4%	17,323	24.0	73.7%	723	2006
7.4 1,104	%	20.9%	18.1%	16,475	22.8	65.5%	715	2005
7.5 1,106	%	21.7%	20.5%	15,683	22.9	68.7%	684	2004
5.8 741	!%	21.2%	21.6%	14,965	23.4	71.4%	639	2003
8.7 1,688	1%	30.9%	23.6%	14,734	23.4	67.5%	631	2002
	:%	50.2%	21.6%	12,529	21.2	75.4%	590	2001
Mean number of Estimated total additional students that could be accommodated per program for those not at capacity Estimated total	<u></u> p a S	Percent of programs not at full capacity	Mean attrition rate	Estimated total students enrolled for all programs	Mean number of students entering program	Percent of programs responding to survey with enrollment data	ARRT- recognized programs	Year



# ESTIMATED TOTAL ENTERING CLASS ENROLLMENT FOR ALL RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAMS

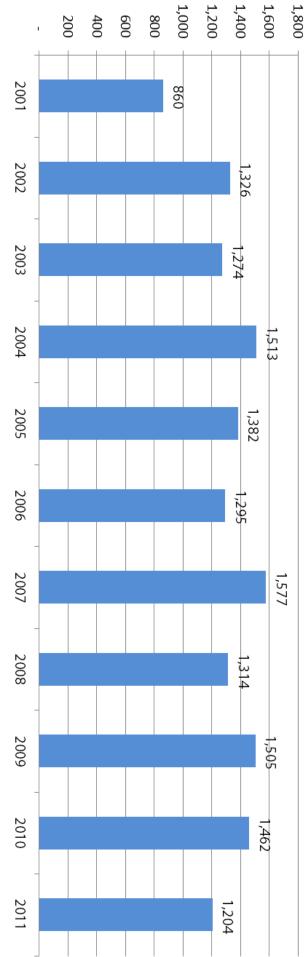




2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	Year
123	122	122	125	122	118	113	105	101	95	86	ARRT- recognized Year programs
44.1%	57.4%	49.2%	49.6%	54.1%	67.8%	56.6%	55.2%	57.4%	59.9%	60.5%	Percent of programs responding to survey with enrollment data
9.8	12.0	12.5	10.5	12.9	11.0	12.5	14.4	12.6	14.0	10.0	Mean number of students entering classroom
1,204	1,462	1,505	1,314	1,577	1,295	1,382	1,513	1,274	1,326	860	Estimated total students enrolled for all programs
21.9%	18.3%	10.9%	14.4%	15.2%	16.6%	16.8%	11.9%	18.0%	11.1%	18.1%	Mean attrition
51.9%	49.3%	55.5%	58.6%	51.5%	49.3%	32.1%	30.5%	44.6%	48.0%	44.4%	Percent of programs not at full capacity
6.1	7.9	3.7	4.5	6.3	6.4	3.4	12.5	4.4	5.7		Mean number of additional students that could be accommodated per program for those not at full capacity
388	475	243	330	395	373	124	400	200	261		Estimated total additional students that could be accommodated per program for programs not at full capacity
14.3	18.0	15.8	33.0	13.3	21.6	24.5	13.4	13.6	9.1		Mean qualified students per program turned away
846	1,112	869	1,708	931	1,291	1,880	974	758	449		Estimated total qualified students turned away





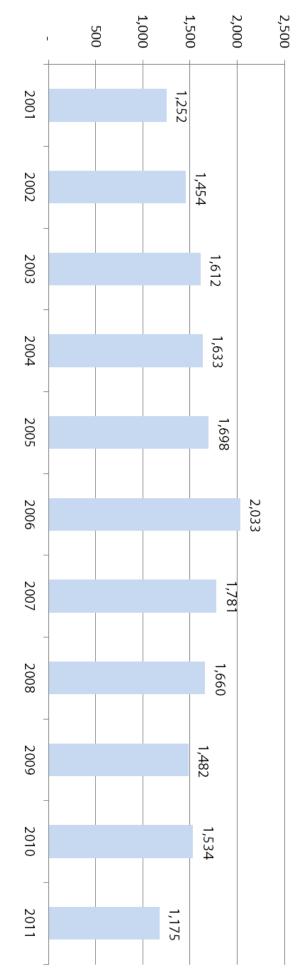




	1				T		T		T		
2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	Year
134	136	136	136	132	131	122	117	111	104	101	Peroprograms  Peroproprograms
45.7%	47.1%	47.5%	59.5%	55.3%	71.8%	51.6%	58.1%	59.5%	55.8%	62.4%	Percent of programs responding to survey with enrollment data
8.8	11.3	10.8	12.2	13.5	15.5	13.7	14.0	14.5	14.0	12.4	Mean number of students entering classroom
1,175	1,534	1,482	1,660	1,781	2,033	1,698	1,633	1,612	1,454	1,252	Estimated total students enrolled for all programs
11.3%	12.9%	7.0%	12.3%	8.3%	10.2%	8.6%	9.8%	7.1%	8.0%	11.8%	Mean attrition rate
82.5%	78.8%	63.0%	58.4%	39.7%	31.8%	30.6%	20.9%	33.3%	35.7%	53.2%	Percent of programs not at full capacity
7.2	7.0	4.3	10.0	6.3	5.7	5.1	3.6	2.7	6.7		Mean number of additional students that could be accommodated per program for those not at full capacity
796	748	416	794	331	238	191	88	180	251		Estimated total additional students that could be accommodated per program for programs not at full capacity
8.0	12.9	9.3	18.2	24.2	30.2	32.9	24.4	32.1	19.7		Mean qualified students per program turned away
187	372	473	1,032	1,916	2,697	2,786	2,258	2,375	1,381		Estimated total qualified students turned away



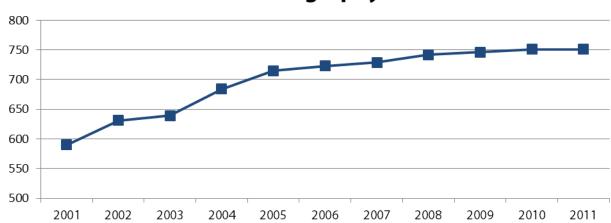
# **ESTIMATED TOTAL ENTERING CLASS ENROLLMENT FOR ALL NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**



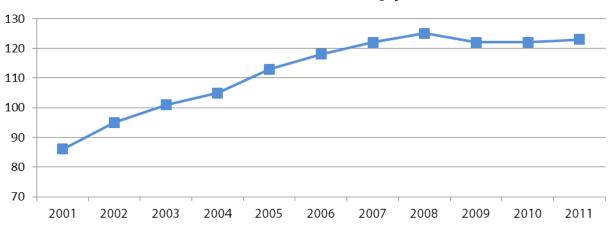


## **Number of ARRT-Recognized Programs**

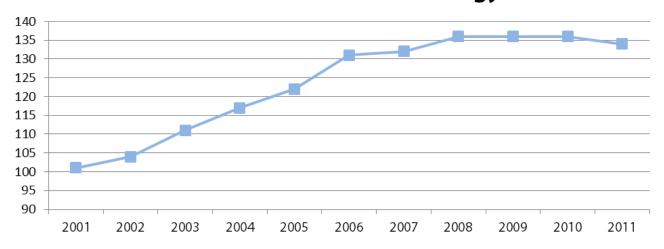




## **Radiation Therapy**



## **Nuclear Medicine Technology**





# 5. What is the job placeme

# 15. What is the job placement of students finding employment in their discipline within six months of graduation from your program?

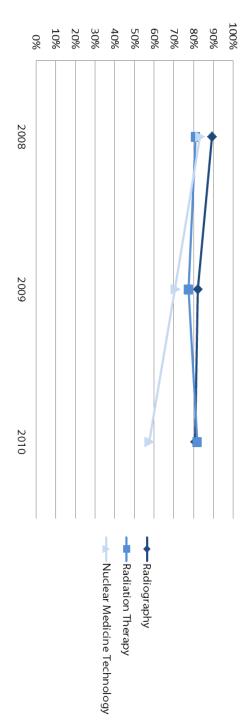
**Job Placement of Graduates** 

New England Mid Atlantic East North West North South Atlantic East South West South Mountain Pac	ÇĄ. (Ą	CentralCentral(ID, MT, WY, NV, WA, OR, WA, OR, WY, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV, NV	Central (OK, TX, AR, LA)	Central (KY, TN, MS, AL)	(DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)	Central (ND, SD, NE, KS,	Central (WI, MI, IL, IN, OH) (ND, SD, NE, KS,	•	(ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)
	Pacific		West South	<b>East South</b>	South Atlantic	West North	East North	M:4 >+	New England

	). ~ P)									
2008	91.6%	89.7%	89.0%	90.2%	88.9%	88.6%	86.5%	89.8%	91.9% 89.3%	89.3%
2009	86.2%	80.3%	81.1%	84.1%	82.7%	86.3%	84.5%	79.1%	77.8% <b>82.2%</b>	82.2%
2010	82.1%	76.2%	80.8%	82.3%	80.1%	88.5%	85.6%	78.9%	74.2% 80.8%	80.8%
Radiati	Radiation Therapy									

2000	82.0%	85.4%	82.6%	98.4%	/0.5%	64.2%	80.1%	•	96.4%	96.4% 81.1%
2009	84.2%	83.2%	70.4%	85.3%	70.5%	63.3%	79.8%		92.0%	92.0% <b>77.4%</b>
2010	74.1%	78.5%	87.7%	79.0%	78.7%	78.3%	89.7%		93.3%	93.3% 81.9%
Nuclea	Nuclear Medicine Technology	ology								
2008	83.8%	79.4%	76.7%	86.0%	80.0%	91.2%	90.1%	87.3%	83.9%	83.9% <b>83.2%</b>
2009	63.8%	61.6%	63.6%	69.6%	72.4%	87.4%	77.0%	81.7%	76.7%	76.7% <b>70.6%</b>
2010	51.7%	50.5%	48.5%	49.5%	58.4%	72.5%	72.6%		73.1%	73.1% <b>57.5%</b>

# What is the job placement percent rate of students finding employment in their discipline?



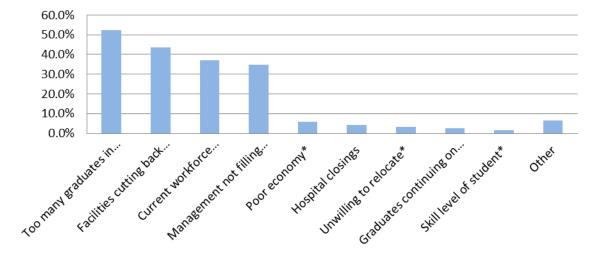


## 16. For those students who haven't been able to find employment after graduation, what do you believe is the primary reason?

	Resp	onses
	N	Valid Percent
Too many graduates in relation to the number of open positions	263	52.3
Facilities cutting back positions	220	43.7
Current workforce delaying retirement	186	37.0
Management not filling open positions	175	34.8
Poor economy*	30	6.0
Hospital closings	22	4.4
Unwilling to relocate*	17	3.4
Graduates continuing on for more education*	13	2.6
Skill level of student*	8	1.6
Other	32	6.4

<sup>\*</sup>From coded responses

## What do you believe is the primary reason for not finding employment?

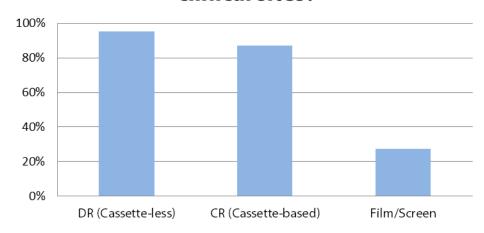




## 17. Which of the following imaging technologies are used at your clinical sites?

	Respo	onses
	N	Percent
DR (Cassette-less)	493	95.4
CR (Cassette-based)	451	87.2
Film/Screen	141	27.3

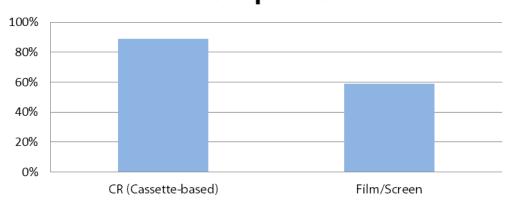
# Which of the following imaging technologies are used at your clinical sites?



## 18. Which of the following technologies are used in your on-campus lab?

	Respo	onses
	N	Percent
CR (Cassette-based)	317	89.0
Film/Screen	210	59.0

# Which of the following technologies are used in your on-campus lab?



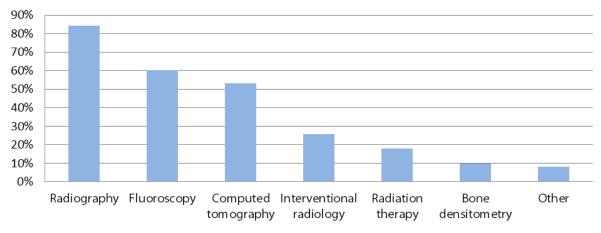


## **Radiation Safety in the Classroom and Curriculum**

## 19. For which of the following disciplines do you provide specific radiation safety education as a portion of your radiation safety course?

	Resp	onses
	N	Percent
Radiography	461	84.4
Fluoroscopy	330	60.4
Computed tomography	290	53.1
Interventional radiology	140	25.6
Radiation therapy	98	17.9
Bone densitometry	53	9.7
Other	45	8.2

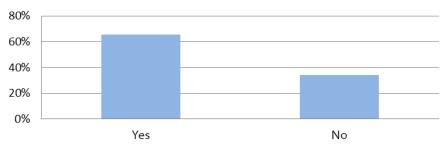
# For which of the following disciplines do you provide specific radiation safety education as a portion of your radiation safety course?



## 20. Is radiation safety content taught as a stand-alone course in your program?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	357	65.6
No	187	34.4
Total	544	100

# Is radiation safety content taught as a stand-alone course in your program?



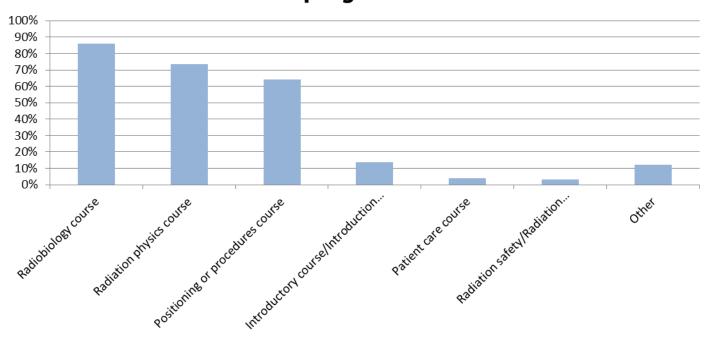


## 21. If you answered "no" to question 20, in which course is radiation safety content taught as part of the program?

	Responses	
	N	Percent
Radiobiology course	158	85.9%
Radiation physics course	135	73.4%
Positioning or procedures course	118	64.1%
Introductory course/Introduction to the radiologic sciences*	25	13.6%
Patient care course*	7	3.8%
Radiation safety/Radiation protection course*	6	3.2%
Other	22	12.0%

<sup>\*</sup>Coded from verbatim responses

# If you answered "no" to question 20, in which course is radiation safety content taught as part of the program?



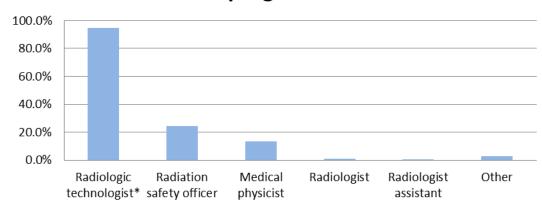


## 22. Who teaches radiation safety in your program?

	Responses	
	N	Percent
Radiologic technologist*	515	94.6
Radiation safety officer	135	24.6
Medical physicist	73	13.4
Radiologist	5	.9
Radiologist assistant	2	.4
Other	14	2.6

<sup>\*</sup>Includes program directors, instructors, and clinical coordinators

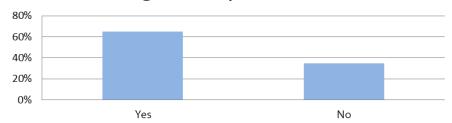
# Who teaches radiation safety in your program?



## 23. Do you know what the (quarterly) mrem threshold is to initiate a dosimeter reading investigation at your institution?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	347	65.1
No	186	34.9
Total	533	100

# Do you know what the mrem threshold is to initiate a dosimeter reading investigation at your institution?



## 24. Quarterly mean mrem threshold to initiate an investigation\*

Mean	253 (SD=242)
Percentiles	5th=25, 25th=100, 50th=150, 75th=375, 95th=600

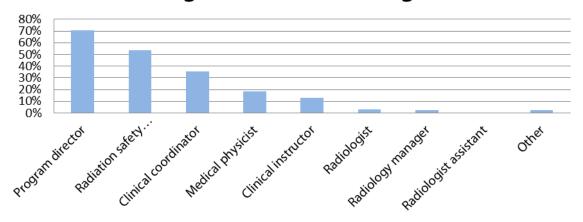
<sup>\*</sup>Responses given as yearly or monthly mrem were computed to quarterly.



## 25. Who counsels a student with an unusually high dosimeter reading?

	Responses	
	N	Percent
Program director	387	70.4
Radiation safety officer	295	53.6
Clinical coordinator	194	35.3
Medical physicist	100	18.2
Clinical instructor	72	13.1
Radiologist	16	2.9
Radiology manager	15	2.7
Radiologist assistant	1	.2
Other	13	2.4

# Who counsels a student with an unusually high dosimeter reading?





## 26. How often are students sent a copy of their dosimetry report?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	28	5.1
Annually	49	8.9
Biannually	4	.7
Quarterly	186	34.1
Bimonthly*	35	6.4
Monthly	213	39.1
Upon request*	13	2.4
24-hour online access*	8	1.4
Other	9	1.7
Total	545	100

<sup>\*</sup>Coded from verbatim responses

# How often are students sent a copy of their dosimetry report?

