NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY, B.S.

Saint Louis University’s Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT) prepares graduates for entry-level positions as nuclear medicine technologists.

Nuclear medicine is a medical specialty that uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials to diagnose and treat disease using gamma or PET/CT scanners. Nuclear medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure. It is a method of gathering information that may otherwise be unavailable, require surgery or necessitate more expensive diagnostic tests.

Today, nuclear medicine offers procedures that are helpful for a broad span of medical specialties, from pediatrics to cardiology and oncology. There are almost 100 different nuclear medicine imaging procedures available that include every major organ of the human body.

Program Highlights

Advantages to earning your B.S. in nuclear medicine technology at Saint Louis University include:

- Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with faculty and fellow students
- A flexible curriculum which allows adding a minor or studying abroad
- Medically relevant coursework ideal for pre-professional studies
- Pre-medicine and pre-physician assistant curriculum options
- Student-tailored educational curriculum and individual mentorship by faculty in the NMT profession
- Strong science curriculum which aids in preparation for immediate job placement as well as a future graduate-level education

Curriculum Overview

SLU’s nuclear medicine program includes all basic sciences, as well as an intensive NMT curriculum that includes 1,000 hours of clinical practicum. The nuclear medicine technology program offers curriculum tracks in pre-physician assistant and pre-medicine. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate is eligible for national certification to become a certified nuclear medicine technologist (CNMT).

Nuclear medicine technology students are encouraged to join and participate in the functions of the Saint Louis University Clinical Health Sciences Club.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

Professional coursework in the nuclear medicine technology program is concentrated in the last year and a half of study. Students in the NMT program have opportunities to conduct research and produce projects and papers that are acceptable for publication and could be presented at professional conferences.

Careers

The benefits of SLU’s nuclear medicine technology program also include several career opportunities. Graduates can work as technologists in hospitals and clinics. Students may seek positions in information technology, health care administration, sales and training, radiopharmacy labs, teaching and other related fields.

Nuclear medicine provides an excellent pre-med curriculum. About 20% of graduates proceed to graduate school, with about 50% of the remaining class enrolling in graduate school within five years of employment. Many students attend graduate school part-time, with assistance from their place of employment.

Career advancement opportunities from the position of staff technologist may lead to areas of administration, education, sales or research.

A nuclear medicine technologist has many responsibilities that encompass a wide range of skills. Some responsibilities include:

- Preparing, calibrating and administering radioactive chemical compounds, known as radiopharmaceuticals.
- Performing diagnostic imaging procedures using radiation-detection technology.
- Administering radioactive tracers used to image the organs of the human body.
- Operating imaging technology, laboratory and computer instrumentation.
- Providing images, data analysis and patient information to the physician for diagnostic interpretation.

The median annual wage for nuclear medicine technologists is $76,820 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Admission Requirements

Factors considered for admission include academic performance, class rank, college admission test scores, and high school profile.

Admission criteria include:

- Preference is given to students with an ACT composite score of at least 22, with no subsection lower than 20 or equivalent SAT scores
- Minimum GPA of 2.70/4.00

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships**: Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences offers a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- **Financial Aid**: Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://finaid.slu.edu.

Accreditation

The Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology
820 W. Danforth Rd. #B1
Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the Jesuit value of Cura Personalis as they perform diagnostic imaging procedures.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate effective communication when speaking with both patients and other healthcare professionals in the nuclear medicine department.
3. Graduates will be able to use knowledge, facts and data to assess problems and find solutions as they relate to nuclear medicine imaging procedures.
4. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to translate didactic knowledge into clinical practice as a nuclear medicine technologist.
5. Graduates will be able to exhibit professional characteristics expected of nuclear medicine technologists.

Requirements

Students in Saint Louis University’s nuclear medicine technology major take the following courses.

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### Pre-Physician Assistant and PA Scholar Track

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#### Nuclear Medicine Technology

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Total Credits: **140**

### 2+2 Option for Students with Associate Degree in Radiography

Total semester credits vary based on applicable courses completed in the applicant’s undergraduate program. A specific course plan is individually designed for each applicant.

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Total Credits: **143**

Transfer Credits

- Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab
- Biology I with Lab
- College Algebra
- Composition and Rhetoric I
- Composition and Rhetoric II
General Chemistry I 4  
General Chemistry II 4  
General Psychology or Sociology 3  
Medical Terminology 3  
Professional Communication 3  
Statistics 3  
Survey of Calculus 3  

Classes to be completed at Saint Louis University  
HIM 4750 Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine 3  
HSI 3400 Anatomy & Physiology II 4  
& HSI 3310 and Anatomy & Physiology I Lab  
HSCI 2000 The U.S. Health Care System 3  
HSCI 3200 Health Law and Policy 3  
HSCI 3700 Research Methods 3  
PHIL 1050 Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality 3  
or HCE 2010 Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics 3  
THEO 1000 Theological Foundations 3  

Nuclear Medicine Technology  
NMT 4000 NMT Procedures I 3  
NMT 4100 Radiation Protection 3  
NMT 4310 Radiation Physics 2  
NMT 4320 Radiochemistry and Radiopharmacy 3  
NMT 4330 Nuclear Med Instrumentation 3  
NMT 4340 NMT Procedures II 3  
NMT 4350 Nuclear Medicine Information Systems 3  
NMT 4430 Emerging Technologies 3  
NMT 4900 Nuclear Medicine Clinical Practicum III 12  
NMT 4700 NM Clinical Practicum I 4  
NMT 4710 Senior Seminar 1  
NMT 4800 NMT Clinical Practicum II 2  
NMT 4910 Senior Seminar II 2  
NMT 4960 Capstone in Nuclear Medicine 1  

Total Credits 137  

Continuation Standards  
Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.70 to remain in good standing.

Roadmap  
Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Standard Track  

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### Pre-Medicine Track

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**Spring**

| ! HSCI 3400   | Anatomy & Physiology II                         | 4       |
| & HSI 3410    | and Anatomy & Physiology II Lab                 |         |
| NMT 4350      | Nuclear Medicine Information Systems            | 3       |
| NMT 4000      | NMT Procedures I                                | 3       |
| NMT 4100      | Radiation Protection                            | 3       |
| XXXX          | Fine Arts Elective                              | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                     | **16**  |

**Year Four**

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**Spring**

| ! NMT 4430    | Emerging Technologies                                         | 3       |
| NMT 4900      | Nuclear Medicine Clinical Practicum III                       | 12      |
| NMT 4910      | Senior Seminar II                                              | 2       |
| ! NMT 4960    | Capstone in Nuclear Medicine                                   | 1       |
|               | **Credits**                                                     | **18**  |
|               | **Total Credits**                                               | **140** |

**Program Notes**

Curriculum is designed to address SLU’s School of Medicine requirements and is subject to change. If applying to a medical school at another institution, please consult its website for specific requirements.

**Pre-Physician Assistant Track**

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| Year Two     |                                                 |         |
| Fall         | ![BIOL 3020 & BIOL 2420] Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | 3       |
| ![CHEM 2410 & CHEM 2425] Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory | 4       |
| HSCI 3200    | Health Law and Policy                            | 3       |
| SOC 1100     | Introduction to Sociology                        | 3       |
| THEO 1000    | Theological Foundations                          | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **16**  |

| Year Three   |                                                 |         |
| Fall         | ![BLS 4510 & BIOL 3400] Medical Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology II | 4       |
| ![HIM 4750 & HSCI 3700] Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine and Research Methods | 3       |
| ![HSI 3300 & HSI 3310] Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology I Lab | 4       |
| XXXX: Healthcare/Medical Ethics |                                  | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **17**  |

| Spring       |                                                 |         |
| ![HSI 3400 & HSI 3410] Anatomy & Physiology II and Anatomy & Physiology II Lab | 4       |
| NMT 4350     | Nuclear Medicine Information Systems             | 3       |
| NMT 4000     | NMT Procedures I                                 | 3       |
| NMT 4100     | Radiation Protection                             | 3       |
| XXXX         | Fine Arts Elective                               | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **16**  |

| Year Four    |                                                 |         |
| Fall         | ![NMT 4310] Radiation Physics                    | 2       |

| Spring       | ![BIOL 1260 & BIOL 1265] General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter and Principles of Biology I Laboratory | 4       |
| ![CHEM 1120 & CHEM 1125] General Chemistry 2 and General Chemistry 2 Laboratory | 4       |
| HSCI 2200    | Medical Terminology                              | 3       |
| PHIL 1050    | Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality     | 3       |
| PSY 1010     | General Psychology                               | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **16**  |

| Summer       |                                                 |         |
| ![PHYS 1310 & PHYS 1320] Physics I and Physics I Laboratory | 4       |
| PHYS 1330    | Physics II                                       | 4       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **8**   |

| Year Three   |                                                 |         |
| Fall         | ![BLS 4510 & BIOL 3400] Medical Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology II | 4       |
| ![HIM 4750 & HSCI 3700] Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine and Research Methods | 3       |
| ![HSI 3300 & HSI 3310] Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology I Lab | 4       |
| XXXX: Healthcare/Medical Ethics |                                  | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **17**  |

| Spring       | ![BIOL 1260 & BIOL 1265] General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter and Principles of Biology I Laboratory | 4       |
| ![CHEM 1120 & CHEM 1125] General Chemistry 2 and General Chemistry 2 Laboratory | 4       |
| HSCI 2200    | Medical Terminology                              | 3       |
| PHIL 1050    | Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality     | 3       |
| PSY 1010     | General Psychology                               | 3       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **16**  |

| Summer       | ![PHYS 1310 & PHYS 1320] Physics I and Physics I Laboratory | 4       |
| PHYS 1330    | Physics II                                       | 4       |
|               | **Credits**                                      | **8**   |

| Year Four    |                                                 |         |
| Fall         | ![NMT 4310] Radiation Physics                    | 2       |
Program Notes
Curriculum is designed to address SLU’s physician assistant program requirements and is subject to change. If applying to a physician assistant program at another institution, please consult its website for specific requirements.

Physician Assistant Scholars Track

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Program Notes
Upon completion of the bachelor's degree, students will proceed directly into SLU's graduate-level physician assistant program.

2+2 Option for Students with Associate Degree in Radiography
Total semester credits vary based on applicable courses completed in the applicant's undergraduate program. A specific course plan is individually designed for each applicant.

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Second Baccalaureate Degree Track

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Program Notes
Successful completion leads to a second baccalaureate degree in nuclear medicine technology. This option is for a student who already possesses a bachelor's degree and is motivated to become a practicing nuclear medicine technologist in an accelerated time frame.

To be considered for the second baccalaureate degree option, the applicant must have satisfactorily completed a baccalaureate degree, with a minimum GPA of 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale), including the prerequisite courses listed above.

The applicant must complete the application for the professional year and submit official transcripts of prior college work through the SLU...
admission website at https://www.slu.edu/apply (https://www.slu.edu/apply/). Application deadline is August 1.

The applicant must show satisfactory evidence of good character and physical ability to perform functions of the nuclear medicine technologist. All applicants must meet the professional performance and technical standards required by the profession. Students must also successfully complete a drug screen and criminal background check prior to the start of the professional year.

Application to the second baccalaureate option is via a competitive application process with admission granted on a space-available basis. The selection process includes a personal interview for qualified applicants.

Selection Factors: Among the parameters considered by the selection committee are:

• Applicant’s academic potential as evidenced by previous performance in college
• Specific motivation toward pursuit of a health care profession
• Evidence of sound judgment
• Interpersonal and communication skills
• Job shadowing of a nuclear medicine department is highly recommended

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (https://www.slu.edu/admission/)

For additional admission questions please contact:
Julie Miller
Recruitment Specialist
314-977-2570
dchs@health.slu.edu