

## NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

The Nuclear Medicine Technology is a technical program that prepares the technologist to perform imaging procedures by administering radioactive materials to patients in a clinical setting. The program is designed to provide the student the knowledge and skills to enter the field as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist and successfully write the certification examinations of the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) and/or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) upon successful program completion. Mississippi Delta Community College will present a certificate of completion in Nuclear Medicine Technology to all graduates. Students receive traditional classroom instruction on campus and clinical experience with actual patient contact by rotations through affiliated hospitals, clinics, and radiopharmacy.

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program runs for 12 consecutive months. Students receive traditional classroom instruction and laboratory experience during the program.

Affiliated hospitals include Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Greenwood-Leflore Hospital in Greenwood, Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, and Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in Clarksdale. Radiopharmacy laboratory experience is gained at Cardinal Health in Jackson, Mississippi and/or Tupelo, Mississippi. Clinical assignments are at the discretion of the college faculty.

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program is operating under the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, phone (404) 679-4501 and with the approval of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and the Nuclear Medicine Certification Board. The program is seeking accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT), PMB 418#1 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. East, Suite C., Polson, Montana 59860-2107, phone (406) 883-0003, e-mail: [www.jrcnmt.org](http://www.jrcnmt.org).

### Legal Limitations for Employment as a NMT:

According to Mississippi State Law, an individual may not be eligible for employment in a health care agency if the person has ever been convicted of a felony, or plead guilty to, or plead nolo contendere to a felony of possession or sale of drugs, murder, manslaughter, armed robbery, rape, sexual battery, sex offense listed in Section 45-33-23 (f), child abuse, arson, grand larceny, burglary, gratification of lust or aggravated assault, of felonious abuse and/or battery of a vulnerable adult.

All applicants should be aware of the other eligibility requirements to write the ARRT and/or NMTCB licensing exams by reviewing the eligibility requirements at [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org) and [www.nmtcb.org](http://www.nmtcb.org).

### MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. All applicants must have completed an accredited program in Radiologic Technology.
2. All applicants must submit an 18 or better on the ACT or have a GPA of at least 2
3. All applicants must take an entrance test at their own expense. Applicants may take the exam once a year only. If the HOBET (or a comparable allied health entrance exam) has been taken within the previous 3 years applicants may submit a copy of these scores.
4. Applicants accepted under items 1-4 above are admitted tentatively pending:
  - (a) Completion of CHE 1213 Gen. Chem. & CHE 1211 Gen. Chem.Lab, and NMT 2511 Intro. to Nuclear Medicine with a "C" or better (MAT 2323 Statistics is recommended but not required);
  - (b) acceptable pre-admission drug screen;
  - (c) evidence of having begun Hepatitis B vaccination series
  - (d) successful completion of background check,
  - (e) completed physical examination form signed by a physician,
  - (f) documentation of current CPR certification.
5. Students seeking readmission to the program or transfer credit from another Nuclear Medicine program are considered on an individual basis according to the Health Science readmission and transfer policies.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Applicants must have the following documents on file in the Health Sciences office by May 1 to be considered for admission to the Nuclear Medicine Program:

- MDCC application for admission or readmission
- MDCC application to the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program
- An official high school transcript from an approved high school or GED equivalency score
- An official college transcript, if college work has been completed
- ACT score
- Signed, notarized Healthcare Criminal History Background Affidavit
- HOBET test score
- Reference form

Students are encouraged to submit all parts of the application well in advance of the deadline. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for admission.**

## SELECTION

No applicant will be considered unless the minimum admission requirements are met. Requirements are based on ACT scores, GPA scores, HOBET, graduation from an accredited Radiologic Technology Program and reference(s) submitted in a timely manner. All applicants to the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program are considered on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. The number of applicants accepted is limited due to the nature of the program. Applicants will be notified by letter of acceptance or non-acceptance to the program. The acceptance letter will include specific instruction regarding all requirements that must be completed prior to admission. These requirements are listed below:

- completion of CHE 1213 Gen. Chem. & CHE 1211 Gen. Chem. Lab, and NMT 2511 Intro. to Nuclear Medicine with a “C” or better. MAT 2323 Statistics is recommended but not required for admission.
- satisfactory completion of First Aid CPR (HPR 2211) taught during the summer or current CPR card.
- reading comprehension assignment, if indicated by the HOBET/ACT score(s)
- satisfactory background check (see Policy on Admission to Health Science Program)
- health evaluation form completed by a physician or nurse practitioner
- proof of Hepatitis-B vaccination, MMR vaccination and Mantoux TB skin test
- acceptable pre-admission drug screen

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students who are accepted into the program must:

- be aware that, in addition to the regular college fees, Nuclear Medicine Technology students will incur expenses for such items as uniforms, books, supplies, liability insurance, background check, Hepatitis B vaccination series, national certification examination fees, state Society of Nuclear Medicine dues, registry review seminar, and graduation fees (if applicable).
- assume responsibility for their own transportation to the college campus and clinical agencies.

## PROGRESSION:

A Nuclear Medicine Technology student must maintain a grade of “C” in all NMT, courses to progress in the program. Students who do not maintain a “C” will be dismissed from the program.

## PREGNANCY POLICY:

Female students who become pregnant or suspect pregnancy are encouraged by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) to notify the Nuclear Medicine Program Director **immediately!** Notification must be made in writing. A student has the right to not declare her pregnancy, in which case, the student will be treated as though she were not pregnant. Once a student has declared her pregnancy, she also has the right to undeclare her pregnancy at any time. This is in accordance with Federal and State laws. Confidentiality is assured if necessary.

Students who have declared the pregnancy will receive counseling concerning continuation of studies during pregnancy. Pregnancy is **not** grounds for dismissal, but radiation exposure must be limited during this time for the protection of the fetus. Radiation overdose in the first trimester has been known to cause birth defects and health problems. This is of utmost importance to the health of the unborn child. The radiation dose to the expectant mother (and fetus) must not exceed 0.5 rem during the entire period of gestation.

Below are the recommendations concerning the student’s progression in the program:

- Students in the first semester may withdraw from the program. They may return at a later date as determined by the student and Program Director.
- Students in the second semester or beyond of the program will be given the option of withdrawing and starting over after the baby is born in the semester in which they withdrew.
- Pregnant students who chose not to withdraw from the program must acknowledge in writing having received counseling and assume all risk for possible damage to the unborn fetus. The student will be offered a monitoring device to wear at waist level to monitor fetal exposure during gestation. Readings will be monitored closely by the Program’s Radiation Safety Officer. The student will continue in the program and have the option of performing all required procedures and proceed with limitations in the hot lab, PET area, etc.

## POLICY ON READMISSION TO THE NMT PROGRAM

Students seeking readmission to the program or transfer credit from another Nuclear Medicine Technology Program are considered on an individual basis according to the health sciences readmission or transfer policies.

## COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

“Mississippi Delta Community College complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.” The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Lynda Steele, Vice President of Administrative Services, Stauffer-Wood Administration Building, P. O. Box 668, Moorhead, MS 38761, 662-246-6558. The students’ contact is: The Center of Learning at 662-246-6251.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

Performance Standards

The following performance standards provide descriptions of basic cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor standards for successful nuclear medicine technology program completion. Reasonable accommodations will be examined in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any disability must be declared at the beginning of the program, if no disability is declared the student will be expected to perform at the same standard expected of all students in the program.

In order to successfully complete the nuclear medicine technology program the student must be able to do the following:

***Essential Observation Standards***

**The Nuclear Medicine student must be able to:**

- Observe clinical demonstrations of patients being scanned for pathological conditions
- Read and comprehend text, numbers, graphs displayed in print and on a computer monitor
- Display visual and tactile ability sufficient to safely assess and care for patients

***Essential Movement Standards***

**The Nuclear Medicine student must be able to:**

- Move freely and safely about the Nuclear Medicine department
- Reach bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in wheelchairs
- Travel to numerous imaging rooms for practical experience
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged standing and frequent patient transfer to imaging tables
- Maneuver nuclear medicine imaging system collimators
- Use an electronic keyboard to operate nuclear medicine instruments and computers
- Maneuver heavy, lead radionuclide dose containers

***Essential Communication Standards***

**The Nuclear Medicine student must be able to:**

- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform nuclear medicine procedures
- Clearly instruct patients prior to nuclear medicine procedure
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding nuclear medicine tests
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals verbally and in a recorded format
- Independently prepare patient history prior to nuclear medicine examinations

***Essential Intellectual Standards***

**The Nuclear Medicine student must be able to:**

- Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis, comparison, and self-expression
- Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance

***Essential Behavioral Standards***

**The Nuclear Medicine student must:**

- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks with realistic constraints

- Possess the emotional stability necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty and a distracting environment
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals
- Adapt to working with unpleasant odors
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care professionals. Promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving and patient care
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible

The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The student must be able to critically evaluate her or his own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve. The student must be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments.

