

RASC 211: Radiation Therapy Orientation

This course provides an introduction and an overview of the discipline of radiation therapy. The content includes the basic principles, practices and policies regarding the radiation therapist's role in the management of cancer, professionalism, and ethical issues in cancer care. Academic, departmental personnel, administrative structures, radiation and health safety procedures, related professional organizations, professional skills and life-long learning are discussed.

Credits: 2

Prerequisites/Permissions:

Major

Program:

Radiation Therapy Program

Radiation therapy utilizes radiation and radioactive isotopes in the treatment of disease, primarily cancer. The radiation therapists provide services for treatment of malignant and non-malignant disease. They are responsible for localizing the tumor, implementing the treatment plan, observing and evaluating clinical progress of the patient.

The therapists are also responsible for safe operation of high tech, high-energy radiation -producing equipment; and assisting in the preparation and administration of different types of radioactive material used for therapeutic purposes. The radiation therapists are professionals who not only possess superior clinical skills, but strong academic and theoretical knowledge as well. The clinical education phase of the program is designed to reinforce didactic information as it relates to clinical procedures. It is expected that through this effort, greater cohesion can be achieved between the two learning environments, thereby facilitating a greater transfer of knowledge between them.

Degree Program

The four-year integrated academic and clinical program has two divisions. The Lower Division includes the first and second years where students complete general education requirements. Individuals who successfully complete all Lower Division requirements are eligible to apply for admission into the Upper Division. The Upper Division includes didactic courses as well as a clinical education component throughout the third and fourth years. The clinical education phase of the program is designed to reinforce didactic information as it relates to clinical procedures. It is expected that through this effort, greater cohesion can be achieved between the two learning environments, thereby facilitating a greater transfer of knowledge between them. During clinical education, students have an opportunity to receive practical experience at prestigious affiliating hospitals.

Accreditation

The Radiation Therapy Program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606; 312.704.5300: www.jrcert.org. At its May 2013 meeting, the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) voted to place the Howard University Radiation Therapy Program on probation until its next comprehensive review in September 2014. Accreditation–Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the *Standards* and when the

capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened. Specific questions regarding the program and its plans regarding probation should be directed to Ms. Adrienne Harrison, M. S., R. T. (T), Program Director at 202-806-5920.

Admissions

Lower Division

Students must meet Howard University's general admission requirements.

- Cumulative grade point average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale
- Submission of program application forms and official transcript(s) by February 15th
- Background Screening and Assessment Examination

Upper Division

Students should request the program application package from the Department of Radiation Therapy. Requirements include:

The completed application package must include:

- [Completed Upper Division Application Form](#)
- Attain a minimum grade point average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale
- Statement of Interest and Goals; Biographical Sketch
- Three Recommendation Forms and Personal Interview

Technical Standards for Admissions

Individuals with disabilities will be individually considered on the basis of their ability. Reasonable accommodation for disabled students will be provided as required by law. NOTE: Should you desire to arrange for a disability accommodation in conjunction with completing the application process, please contact Dr. Elaine Bourne Heath, Special Student Services, (202) 238-2420.