Why was the Nuclear Medicine concentration developed?

This concentration was designed to educate students to meet a growing need for highly trained technologists who utilize rapidly developing technologies to image the distribution of radioactive agents in the body.

Successful completion of the concentration and the post-baccalaureate year provide eligibility to take the national registry exam in nuclear medicine and entry-level clinical employment in the field.

What is the role of the nuclear medicine technologist?

Nuclear medicine technologists administer radiopharmaceuticals to patients; they also operate equipment that maps drugs in the body and creates diagnostic images. After explaining test procedures to patients, technologists prepare a dosage of the radiopharmaceutical and administer it by mouth, injection, inhalation, or other means. They also are responsible for positioning patients for procedures. All of the images are produced on a computer screen or on film for a physician to interpret.

Since safety is always an issue when working with radioactive substances, technologists follow strict protocols to keep levels of exposure within safe margins for themselves, other workers, and patients.

Where do nuclear medicine technologists work?

While 7 out of 10 technologists work in hospitals, there are opportunities in physicians’ offices and diagnostic laboratories.

Is there a demand for nuclear medicine technologists?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, nuclear medicine technologists are expected to grow faster than the average through 2022. Growth will arise from technological advancement, the development of new nuclear medicine treatments, and an increase in the number of middle-aged and older persons, who are the primary users of diagnostic procedures, including nuclear medicine tests.

What is the salary range for nuclear medicine technologists?

Nationally, the median annual earnings for nuclear medicine technologists in 2012 was $70,180. Salaries are dependent upon location and length of experience. According to the New York Workforce and Industry Data, the average salary for nuclear medicine technologists in the State of New York is $79,910.
Students can declare the Health Science major at any time during their academic career. All major courses are taken during the senior year.

In order to begin your senior year courses in the major, you must have:

- a G.P.A. of at least 2.0 and have successfully completed 91 credits and have met all D.E.C/S.B.C requirements except TECH SBC requirement which will be satisfied during the senior year
- at least 16 credits in sciences, which must include HAN 200 and HAN 202 sequence, or equivalent sequence (ask advisor for information)
- 21 credits of related electives, which must include HAN 251 and HAN 312
- 10 upper division credits.

Successful completion of the following courses during the fall semester of your senior year is required:

- Health Care Issues
- Professional Ethics
- Communication Skills
- Professional Writing
- Health Informatics

If you are interested in applying to the Healthcare Quality: Coding and Reimbursement concentration, an additional course must be taken:

- HAN 395: Radiation Physics in Medicine

HOW TO BECOME A HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENT

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To declare Health Science as your major, you are required to attend an Advising Workshop. To schedule an appointment, please email Jennifer Jimenez at jennifer.jimenez.1@stonybrook.edu.

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OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

http://healthtechnology.stonybrookmedicine.edu/programs/hs

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RADIATION SAFETY, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND JOB LISTINGS, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

Professional Organizations
- U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study (USRT) www.radtechstudy.org
- Advancing Molecular Imaging and Technology www.snm.org
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board www.nmtcb.org

Occupational and Employment Information
www.bls.gov
www.rjjobs.com
www.comphealth.com
www.salary.com
www.salary.monster.com
www.labor.state.ny.us

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