The program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee for Nuclear Medicine Technology and graduates are eligible for national certification examinations.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

I. Satisfactory completion of three years of college credit at an accredited college or university.
   A. CHEMISTRY: A minimum of 10 semester hours or equivalent of General Chemistry.
   B. PHYSICS: A minimum of 10 semester hours or equivalent of General Physics.
   C. MATH: A minimum of 6 semester hours of college algebra. Statistics also recommended.
   D. BIOLOGY: Approximately 20-24 semester hours or equivalent including Human Anatomy and Physiology, Hematology, Bacteriology, and Clinical Analysis.
   E. COMPUTER SCIENCE: 6 semester hours or equivalent including Introduction to Computer Science.

II. GRADE POINT AVERAGE: A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 is recommended, but averages above 2.5 will be considered.

III. Students must have a baccalaureate degree or be eligible for that degree at the completion of the program.

IV. Applicants should be of good moral character, personable, and able to relate to patients.

Qualified applicants from any accredited college or university are eligible for appointment, but qualified students from Austin Peay, Belmont and MTSU will receive preference. Completed applications must be received by March 15th preceding the expected start date in August. Student selections will be completed by April 30th. Student selections are made by a committee consisting of the Program Director, Medical Director, Educational Director, and Technical Coordinator with the recommendation of the degree advisors. Selection is based on scholastic background, references, personal interview and motivation. A complete application will include:

1. Application & verification form
2. Three references
3. Official transcripts
4. 16 hours of clinical observation & verification form

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Patient Care: Basics of patient monitoring, CPR, EKGs, aseptic techniques, venipuncture, blood drawing, moving and lifting patients, and the handling of emergencies.

Math and Statistics: Basic review including algebra, scientific notation, logarithms, exponentials, and statistics.

Atomic and Nuclear Physics: Structure of the atom, nuclides, natural and artificial radioactivity, decay processes, and interactions of radiation with matter.

Radiation Biology and Radiation Safety: Biological effects of radiation on organ systems, radiation risks, handling of radioactive materials, decontamination, and disposal procedures. Overview of State and Federal regulations.

Radionuclide Chemistry and Radiopharmacy: Review of basic chemistry, radionuclide production, labeling procedures, chromatography, isotopes and technetium radiochemistry. Organization, record keeping, quality control, and preparations and dispensing of doses.

Clinical Nuclear Medicine Imaging: Routine and special imaging procedures. This course is divided into sections according to organ systems, with each section including the anatomy and physiology of the system, imaging procedures, procedure interpretations, and imaging techniques. The first three topics are taught by physicians with the imaging techniques being taught by technologists.

Clinical In Vitro Nuclear Medicine: In Vitro studies of kidney and hematopoietic systems. In Vitro lab techniques.
Computer Applications: Computer terminology and description of current data acquisition systems. Students receive direct hands-on experience with up-to-date computer systems and programs involving laboratory automation and analysis of data from static and dynamic studies.

Clinical Nuclear Medicine Laboratory: Lab rotations in radiopharmacy, nursing, imaging, and in vitro under certified technologist supervision at Vanderbilt Hospital and imaging at the VA hospital.

Laboratory rotations and lectures are supplemented by special programs and seminars for the Department of Radiology in an effort to ensure a well-rounded educational experience in Nuclear Medicine Technology.

Students are expected to be in lecture and/or laboratory Monday through Friday (8:00 am to 3:00 pm) during the 12-month training period. Two weeks of holiday break and one week of spring break are included in the program.

FEES AND REQUIREMENTS

Tuition: Current tuition for the program at Vanderbilt is $1,600. In addition, students are required to register at Austin Peay State University, Belmont University or Middle Tennessee State University in order to qualify for a degree.

Books: Some of the required books are provided at no cost by the program.

Health Insurance: Students are required to be covered by health insurance during training and documentation must be provided. Vanderbilt student insurance is available as an option.

Malpractice Insurance: Students are covered by the University’s blanket malpractice policy.

Immunizations: Students must document immunity to rubeola and rubella, and document varicella titer, two negative TB skin tests, tetanus/diphtheria booster within the past 10 years, and completion of series of 3 hepatitis-B vaccines or informed refusal.

Dress Code: Students are required to dress in a professional manner. Uniforms are not mandatory.

Rules and Regulations: Copies of student rules and regulations and the appeal process are available upon request. Students receive a detailed handbook on the first day of the program. Students are responsible for their own transportation, housing, and other expenses.

For more information, write, call, or email:
rita.warren@vanderbilt.edu
(615)-343-1188
or
James A. Patton, PhD, Program Director
jim.patton@vanderbilt.edu
(615)-322-0508
Department of Radiology, CCC-1124 MCN
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN 37232-2675

For more information on the baccalaureate program, write, call, or email:
Rex Ameigh or Dr. Robert Magruder
Department of Biology or Department of Physics
Austin Peay State University or Belmont University
Clarksville, TN 37044 or Nashville, TN 37212
(931)-221-7791 or (615)-460-6421
ameighr@apsu.edu magruderr@mail.belmont.edu

M. Jo Edwards, Ed.D. mjedwards@mtsu.edu
Middle Tennessee State University
P.O. Box 81, 1301 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132 (615) 898-2905
or
Jennifer Braswell, Coordinator, MTSU Health Career Programs ibraswel@mtsu.edu
P.O. Box 68, Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-5465

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Vanderbilt University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; its admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other University-administered programs; or employment. In addition, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation consistent with University nondiscrimination policy.

Program in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences

Nashville, Tennessee

Program Director
James A. Patton, PhD

Medical Director
William H. Martin, MD

Educational Coordinator
Rita Warren, M.Ed., MPA

Website Link:
http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/radiology/education/nmtechnology.php