

MISSION AND GOALS

In step with the mission and goals of the Medical Center, the mission and goals of the Vanderbilt Nuclear Medicine Technology are to train knowledgeable, talented, and compassionate students to use their acquired education and skills to provide the highest quality of patient care in their chosen profession of nuclear medicine.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Vanderbilt Program in Nuclear Medicine Technology is a 12-month training program in clinical Nuclear Medicine Technology established in 1979 as an Allied Health program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. It is designed primarily for students who have completed a minimum of three years in a radiologic technology, or equivalent, curriculum in an accredited college or university. The training program prepares its graduates for certification as Nuclear Medicine Technologists. The program has two simultaneous tracks. The students receive coursework covering the topics required by our accrediting body and at the same time participate in clinical rotations in a hospital environment under the supervision of certified technologists. It is anticipated that students will develop certain educational and administrative skills that will prepare them for possible future supervisory positions in addition to being certified nuclear medicine technologists.

The program is approved as the fourth year externship in a baccalaureate degree program at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN, Belmont University in Nashville, TN and Middle TN State University in Murfreesboro, TN. In addition, upon graduation from the program, students are awarded a certificate from the Division of Allied Health at Vanderbilt.

Technical Coordinators:

Vanderbilt Hospital: Dawn Shone, CNMT

V.A. Hospital: Amanda Hayes, CNMT

Advisors for Degree:

Austin Peay: Rex Ameigh, MSLM, BSRT(R)

Belmont: Robert Magruder, PhD

Middle TN State: M. Jo Edwards, Ed.D.

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. Prerequisites:

1. Chemistry with Lab
2. College Algebra
3. General Physics
4. Human A&P with Lab
5. Humanities Course
6. Medical Terminology Content
7. Oral and Written Communications Courses
8. Social Sciences Course

II. **GRADE POINT AVERAGE:** A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 is highly recommended, but averages above 2.5 may be considered in some cases.

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

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

V. Applicants selected for appointment to the program must successfully complete a background check before final acceptance into the program.

Qualified applicants with a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university are eligible for appointment. Students who have not received a bachelor's degree must be enrolled at Austin Peay, Belmont or MTSU and must have the recommendation of the program director at their school in order to be considered for appointment. Applicants from these three schools will receive preference in the selection process. Completed applications must be received by March 15th preceding the expected start date in August. Student selections will be completed by April 15th.

A completed application will include:

1. Application form
2. Three references
3. Official transcripts
4. 16 hours of clinical observation at Vanderbilt
5. Recommendation of the program director at the school in which the applicant is enrolled.

Student selections are made by a committee consisting of the Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, and Technical Coordinator at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Selection is based on scholastic background, references, personal interview with demonstrated motivation and commitment to the training program.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A series of courses in a classroom setting will be taught with emphasis on the following topics:

1. Patient Care
2. Cross-Sectional Anatomy
3. Nuclear Medicine Statistics
4. Nuclear Medicine & Radiation Physics
5. Radiation Biology
6. Radiation Safety and Protection
7. Nuclear Medicine Instrumentation
8. Quality Assurance & Quality Control
9. Computer Applications in Nuclear Medicine
10. Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine Procedures
11. Immunology
12. Radiation Therapy
13. Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
14. Computed Tomography (CT)
15. Radiochemistry & Radiopharmacy
16. Medical Ethics and Law
17. Healthcare Administration
18. Research Methods
19. Medical Informatics
20. Pharmacology

Passing grades in all courses are required for completion of the program.

Students will also participate in the State Technologist Meeting with Poster or Oral Presentations.

Students will also complete 16 rotations in nursing, radiopharmacy, nuclear medicine imaging, and PET with CT in Vanderbilt Adult and Children's Hospitals and the VA Hospital under the supervision of certified technologists, radiopharmacists, and nurses. A completed set of competencies in the areas documenting acquired nuclear medicine skills are required for completion of the program.

Laboratory rotations and lectures may be supplemented by special programs and seminars in 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.

On completion of the program, students receive 48 semester hours of credit which are awarded by their school completing their Bachelors Degree requirements. In addition, they receive a certificate from Vanderbilt which qualifies them to sit for national certification board exams.

FEES AND REQUIREMENTS

Tuition: Tuition for the school year 2011-2012 at Vanderbilt is \$1,800. In addition, tuition fees at the students' schools may be required.

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 transportation, housing, and other expenses.

For more information, write, call, or email:
Rita Warren, M.Ed., MPA, CNMT Clinical Coord.

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(615)-343-1188

or

James A. Patton, PhD, Program Director

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(615)-322-0508

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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		Department of Physics
Austin Peay State University		Belmont University
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or

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or

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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

Clinical Coordinator
Rita Warren, M.Ed., MPA, CNMT

Website Link:

<https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=radiologyfaculty&doc=22941>