

RADIATION THERAPY

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Radiation Therapy is a highly specialized branch of medicine which utilizes ionizing radiation in the treatment of disease, especially cancer. The radiation therapist is a professional member of a radiation therapy team that includes physicians, nurses, dosimetrists, and physicists. Radiation therapists combine an interest in science with a strong commitment to patient care.

Professional competence requires that therapists apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology, pathology, and oncology, among other science and technical fields. Radiation therapists work closely with social workers, nurses, and physicians to assist oncology patients and their families through the physical and emotional experiences of cancer diagnosis and treatment. Career opportunities exist in hospitals, freestanding clinics, research and educational institutions, sales and marketing departments, industrial laboratories, and veterinary facilities.

A **Bachelor of Science (BS) in Radiation Therapy Technology** is offered at **Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)**. In order to apply to the Radiation Therapy program, students must complete the prerequisite coursework outlined below and have earned a minimum of 90 transferable quarter hours from an accredited institution(s). If accepted to the OHSU Radiation Therapy program, students then complete two additional years of coursework at OHSU to earn the BS in Radiation Therapy Technology.

The prerequisite coursework can be taken at **Portland State University (PSU)** and requires a good background in biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Students who wish to earn a bachelor's degree at PSU before moving on to earn the BS in Radiation Therapy at OHSU should complete the University Studies program and may want to consider a major in general science, biology, or chemistry.

Prerequisite Coursework

| OHSU Prerequisite Courses | Equivalent PSU Courses |
|--|---|
| Natural Science (minimum 35 quarter credits) | |
| College Algebra (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTH 111 (4) – Introductory College Math I |
| Chemistry & Lab (12) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 104/107, 105/108, 106/109 (15) – Introductory Chemistry w/ Lab |
| Biology & Lab (12) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 101/104, 102/105, 103/106 (12) – General Biology w/ Lab |
| Physics (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH 201/214 (5) – Intro to Physics (1st term) – required • PH 202/215 (5) – Intro to Physics (2nd term) – <i>strongly</i> recommended <p>(Note: MTH 112 (4) – Introductory College Math II – is the recommended prerequisite for Physics)</p> |
| Nutrition (3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 250 (4) – Nutrition <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHE 425 (4) – Nutrition for Health |
| Writing & Computer Literacy (minimum 6 quarter credits) | |
| Writing 121 (3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 121 (4) – Intro to College Writing (FRINQ can be used in lieu of WR 121) |
| Writing 122 (3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 222 (4) – Writing Research Papers <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 227 (4) – Technical Writing <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 323 (4) – Writing as Critical Inquiry |
| Computer Literacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not computer literate, take CS 105 – Computer fundamentals or ISQA 111 – Fundamental Computer Concepts |

(Prerequisites Continued on Back)

Prerequisite Coursework, Continued

| Arts & Letters (minimum 18 quarter credits) | |
|--|--|
| Speech (3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any SP course, but recommend SP 218 (4) – Interpersonal Communication |
| Minimum 15 credits arts/letters electives: Philosophy & Second Language recommended (15) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can take any 15+ credits of arts/letters coursework, but recommend PHL 201 (4) – Intro to Philosophy – and Foreign Language courses (foreign language courses must be at the 200 level or higher) |
| Social Science (minimum 18 quarter credits) | |
| General Psychology (3) | PSY 204 (4) – Psychology as a Social Science or PSY 200 (4) – Psychology as a Natural Science |
| Human Development (3) | PSY 311 (4) – Human Development |
| Cultural Anthropology (3) | ANTH 103 (4) – Intro to Cultural Anthropology |
| General Sociology (3) | SOC 200 (4) – Intro to Sociology |
| Another 3-4 credits of psych, anth, or soc | SOC *** or ANTH *** or PSY *** (any course, not including those listed above) |
| Suggested Additional Preparation (Recommended, Not Required) | |
| Anatomy & Physiology | BI 301, 302, 303 (12) – Anatomy & Physiology |
| Pre-Calculus | MTH 112 (4) – Introductory College Math II |
| Statistics | STAT 243 (4) – Introduction to Prob & Stats |

There is **no seven-year limit** on prerequisite coursework, but if science coursework is not recent, it is recommended that you update your knowledge by taking science courses (biology, physics, chemistry).

Postbac students & students who will have earned a bachelor's degree by the time they matriculate to the OHSU Radiation Therapy program need not complete the writing, arts/letters, and social science requirements, *with the exception of Speech (SP) and Human Development (PSY 311)*.

Completion of the preparatory courses does not guarantee acceptance into the Radiation Therapy program. Admission is limited and competitive. Most professional programs require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses, and most students accepted by professional schools have an average overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Additional OHSU Radiation Therapy Admissions Requirements:

- Minimum **90 quarter hours** (60 semester hours) of college coursework completed prior to matriculation in the radiation therapy program.
- Minimum **40 observation hours** prior to March 1 of application year. Contact Linda Yates at OHSU (yatesl@ohsu.edu or 503-494-3445) for list of clinical affiliates who will allow you to observe. Online HIPAA training program required - see <https://www.ohsu.edu/bigbrain/>.
- Two years of the same **foreign language** in high school or two quarters of the same foreign language in college.

OHSU Radiation Therapy Application Information:

- Applications may be submitted only **between January 1 and March 1**.
- The admissions committee will review applications in early March; interviews of selected applicants begin soon thereafter. **Admissions decisions are made in May**. Classes start in August.
- **Three recommendation letters** and a **personal statement** are required. OHSU recommends two letters from science faculty (one each from chemistry and biology is ideal) and one from a supervisor/employer. You may submit more than three recommendation letters if you wish. Recommendation forms are available at the OHSU Web site:
http://euston.ohsu.edu/radiation_therapy/download/recommend.pdf
- See the OHSU Radiation Therapy Web site for more information on the application process:
http://euston.ohsu.edu/radiation_therapy/

Tips & Recommendations:

- **Consider taking University Studies courses** along with Radiation Therapy prerequisites, as admission to OHSU's Radiation Therapy program is limited and competitive.
- **Personally review the OHSU Radiation Therapy Web site and the Web sites of other professional program(s)** to which you plan to apply.
- **Check periodically with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining University and pre-professional requirements, and application procedures.
- **Request letters of recommendation from professors ahead of time**, while their experience with you is fresh. Don't wait until you are in the process of applying to the program.
- **Complete a FAFSA form in January.** To obtain a financial aid packet, call 503-494-7800.

OHSU Radiation Therapy Program Contacts:

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