

Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography

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Adopted by:
**The Joint Review Committee on Education
in Radiologic Technology - October 2013**



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The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) is dedicated to excellence in education and to the quality and safety of patient care through the accreditation of educational programs in the radiologic sciences.

The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. The JRCERT awards accreditation to programs demonstrating substantial compliance with these **STANDARDS**.

Introductory Statement

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography** are designed to promote academic excellence, patient safety, and quality healthcare. The **STANDARDS** require a program to articulate its purposes; to demonstrate that it has adequate human, physical, and financial resources effectively organized for the accomplishment of its purposes; to document its effectiveness in accomplishing these purposes; and to provide assurance that it can continue to meet accreditation standards.

The JRCERT accreditation process offers a means of providing assurance to the public that a program meets specific quality standards. The process helps to maintain program quality and stimulates program improvement through program assessment.

There are six (6) standards. Each standard is titled and includes a narrative statement supported by specific objectives. Each objective, in turn, includes the following clarifying elements:

- **Explanation** - provides clarification on the intent and key details of the objective.
- **Required Program Response** - requires the program to provide a brief narrative and/or documentation that demonstrates compliance with the objective.
- **Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods** - identifies additional materials that may be examined and personnel who may be interviewed by the site visitors at the time of the on-site evaluation to help determine if the program has met the particular objective. Review of additional materials and/or interviews with listed personnel is at the discretion of the site visit team.

Following each standard, the program must provide a **Summary** that includes the following:

- Major strengths related to the standard
- Major concerns related to the standard
- The program's plan for addressing each concern identified
- Describe any progress already achieved in addressing each concern
- Describe any constraints in implementing improvements

The submitted narrative response and/or documentation, together with the results of the on-site evaluation conducted by the site visit team, will be used by the JRCERT Board of Directors in determining the program's compliance with the STANDARDS.

Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography

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Standard One
Integrity

Standard One: **The program demonstrates integrity in the following:**

- **Representations to communities of interest and the public,**
- **Pursuit of fair and equitable academic practices, and**
- **Treatment of, and respect for, students, faculty, and staff.**

Objectives:

In support of **Standard One**, the program:

- 1.1 Adheres to high ethical standards in relation to students, faculty, and staff.
- 1.2 Provides equitable learning opportunities for all students.
- 1.3 Provides timely, appropriate, and educationally valid clinical experiences for each admitted student.
- 1.4 Limits required clinical assignments for students to not more than 10 hours per day and the total didactic and clinical involvement to not more than 40 hours per week.
- 1.5 Assures the security and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other appropriate program materials.
- 1.6 Has a grievance procedure that is readily accessible, fair, and equitably applied.
- 1.7 Assures that students are made aware of the **JRCERT Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography** and the avenue to pursue allegations of non-compliance with the **STANDARDS**.
- 1.8 Has publications that accurately reflect the program's policies, procedures, and offerings.
- 1.9 Makes available to students, faculty, and the general public accurate information about admission policies, tuition and fees, refund policies, academic calendars, clinical obligations, grading system, graduation requirements, and the criteria for transfer credit.
- 1.10 Makes the program's mission statement, goals, and student learning outcomes readily available to students, faculty, administrators, and the general public.
- 1.11 Documents that the program engages the communities of interest for the purpose of continuous program improvement.
- 1.12 Has student recruitment and admission practices that are non-discriminatory with respect to any legally protected status such as race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin, and any other protected class.
- 1.13 Has student recruitment and admission practices that are consistent with published policies of the sponsoring institution and the program.

- 1.14 Has program faculty recruitment and employment practices that are non-discriminatory with respect to any legally protected status such as race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin, and any other protected class.
- 1.15 Has procedures for maintaining the integrity of distance education courses.

Standard Two:
Resources

Standard Two: **The program has sufficient resources to support the quality and effectiveness of the educational process.**

Objectives:

In support of **Standard Two**, the program:

Administrative Structure

- 2.1 Has an appropriate organizational structure and sufficient administrative support to achieve the program's mission.
- 2.2 Provides an adequate number of faculty to meet all educational, program, administrative, and accreditation requirements.
- 2.3 Provides faculty with opportunities for continued professional development.
- 2.4 Provides clerical support services, as needed, to meet all educational, program, and administrative requirements.

Learning Resources/Services

- 2.5 Assures JRCERT recognition of all clinical settings.
- 2.6 Provides classrooms, laboratories, and administrative and faculty offices to facilitate the achievement of the program's mission.
- 2.7 Reviews and maintains program learning resources to assure the achievement of student learning.
- 2.8 Provides access to student services in support of student learning.

Fiscal Support

- 2.9 Has sufficient ongoing financial resources to support the program's mission.
- 2.10 For those institutions and programs for which the JRCERT serves as a gatekeeper for Title IV financial aid, maintains compliance with United States Department of Education (USDE) policies and procedures.

Standard Three
Curriculum and Academic Practices

Standard Three: The program's curriculum and academic practices prepare students for professional practice.

Objectives:

In support of **Standard Three**, the program:

- 3.1 Has a program mission statement that defines its purpose and scope and is periodically reevaluated.
- 3.2 Provides a well-structured, competency-based curriculum that prepares students to practice in the professional discipline.
- 3.3 Provides learning opportunities in current and developing imaging and/or therapeutic technologies.
- 3.4 Assures an appropriate relationship between program length and the subject matter taught for the terminal award offered.
- 3.5 Measures the length of all didactic and clinical courses in clock hours or credit hours.
- 3.6 Maintains a master plan of education.
- 3.7 Provides timely and supportive academic, behavioral, and clinical advisement to students enrolled in the program.
- 3.8 Documents that the responsibilities of faculty and clinical staff are delineated and performed.
- 3.9 Evaluates program faculty and clinical instructor performance and shares evaluation results regularly to assure instructional responsibilities are performed.

Standard Four
Health and Safety

Standard Four: The program's policies and procedures promote the health, safety, and optimal use of radiation for students, patients, and the general public.

Objectives:

In support of **Standard Four**, the program:

- 4.1 Assures the radiation safety of students through the implementation of published policies and procedures that are in compliance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and state laws as applicable.
- 4.2 Has a published pregnancy policy that is consistent with applicable federal regulations and state laws, made known to accepted and enrolled female students, and contains the following elements:
 - Written notice of voluntary declaration,
 - Option for student continuance in the program without modification, and
 - Option for written withdrawal of declaration.
- 4.3 Assures that students employ proper radiation safety practices.
- 4.4 Assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the direct supervision of a qualified radiographer until a student achieves competency.
- 4.5 Assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the indirect supervision of a qualified radiographer after a student achieves competency.
- 4.6 Assures that students are directly supervised by a qualified radiographer when repeating unsatisfactory images.
- 4.7 Assures sponsoring institution's policies safeguard the health and safety of students.
- 4.8 Assures that students are oriented to clinical setting policies and procedures in regard to health and safety.

Standard Five *Assessment*

Standard Five: **The program develops and implements a system of planning and evaluation of student learning and program effectiveness outcomes in support of its mission.**

Objectives:

In support of **Standard Five**, the program:

Student Learning

5.1 Develops an assessment plan that, at a minimum, measures the program's student learning outcomes in relation to the following goals: clinical competence, critical thinking, professionalism, and communication skills.

Program Effectiveness

5.2 Documents the following program effectiveness data:

- Five-year average credentialing examination pass rate of not less than 75 percent at first attempt within six months of graduation,
- Five-year average job placement rate of not less than 75 percent within twelve months of graduation,
- Program completion rate,
- Graduate satisfaction, and
- Employer satisfaction.

5.3 Makes available to the general public program effectiveness data (credentialing examination pass rate, job placement rate, and program completion rate) on an annual basis.

Analysis and Actions

5.4 Analyzes and shares student learning outcome data and program effectiveness data to foster continuous program improvement.

5.5 Periodically evaluates its assessment plan to assure continuous program improvement.

Standard Six

Institutional/Programmatic Data

Standard Six: **The program complies with JRCERT policies, procedures, and STANDARDS to achieve and maintain specialized accreditation.**

Objectives:

In support of **Standard Six**, the program:

Sponsoring Institution

- 6.1 Documents the continuing institutional accreditation of the sponsoring institution.
- 6.2 Documents that the program's energized laboratories are in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws.

Personnel

- 6.3 Documents that all faculty and staff possess academic and professional qualifications appropriate for their assignments.

Clinical Settings

- 6.4 Establishes and maintains affiliation agreements with clinical settings.
- 6.5 Documents that clinical settings are in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws.

Program Sponsorship, Substantive Changes, and Notification of Program Officials

- 6.6 Complies with requirements to achieve and maintain JRCERT accreditation.

Awarding, Maintaining, and Administering Accreditation

A. Program/Sponsoring Institution Responsibilities

1. Applying for Accreditation

The accreditation review process conducted by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) can be initiated only at the written request of the chief executive officer or an officially designated representative of the sponsoring institution.

This process is initiated by submitting an application and self-study report, prepared according to JRCERT guidelines, to:

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182

2. Administrative Requirements for Maintaining Accreditation

- a. Submitting the self-study report or a required progress report within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the JRCERT.
- b. Agreeing to a reasonable site visit date before the end of the period for which accreditation was awarded.
- c. Informing the JRCERT, within a reasonable period of time, of changes in the institutional or program officials, program director, clinical coordinator, full-time didactic faculty, and clinical instructor(s).
- d. Paying JRCERT fees within a reasonable period of time.
- e. Returning, by the established deadline, a completed Annual Report.
- f. Returning, by the established deadline, any other information requested by the JRCERT.

Programs are required to comply with these and other administrative requirements for maintaining accreditation. Additional information on policies and procedures is available at www.jrcert.org.

Program failure to meet administrative requirements for maintaining accreditation will lead to being placed on Administrative Probationary Accreditation and result in Withdrawal of Accreditation.

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