CAREER

Radiological Technician

What would it be like to . . .

• operate technologically advanced computer equipment?
• perform radiological procedures?
• help to diagnose patients?

An important career in the radiology industry is that of a radiological, or X-ray, technician. A radiological technician makes sure that patients are ready for the imaging process. Technicians administer substances, such as barium sulfate, that make internal body parts visible to X rays. They also provide patients with safety equipment to protect them from high doses of radiation, and they operate the radiological equipment. The equipment ranges from X-ray machines to computer-aided imaging equipment necessary for CAT scans or PET scans.

People who choose the career of a radiological technician generally study mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics in high school. These courses prepare them for American Medical Association (AMA)–approved professional or academic programs that range in duration from 1 to 4 years. These programs are available at vocational schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, and in the armed forces. Radiological technicians must usually be licensed in the state where they work.

Science/Math Career Preparation

High School
• Mathematics
• Biology
• Chemistry
• Physics

College
• Mathematics
• Biology
• Chemistry
• Physics