

Effective January 1, 2021

JRCERT

Excellence in Education

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 is recognized by both the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The JRCERT **Standards** incorporate many of the regulations required by the USDE for accrediting organizations to assure the quality of education offered by higher education programs. Accountability for performance and transparency are also reflected in the **Standards** as they are key factors for CHEA recognition.

The JRCERT accreditation process offers a means of providing assurance to the public that a program meets specific quality standards. The process not only helps to maintain program quality but stimulates program improvement through outcomes 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.

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Standard One: Accountability, Fair Practices, and Public Information

The sponsoring institution and program promote accountability and fair practices in relation to students, faculty, and the public. Policies and procedures of the sponsoring institution and program must support the rights of students and faculty, be well-defined, written, and readily available.

Objectives:

- 1.1 The sponsoring institution and program provide students, faculty, and the public with policies, procedures, and relevant information. Policies and procedures must be fair, equitably applied, and readily available.
- 1.2 The sponsoring institution and program have faculty recruitment and employment practices that are nondiscriminatory.
- 1.3 The sponsoring institution and program have student recruitment and admission practices that are nondiscriminatory and consistent with published policies.
- 1.4

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

- Review of institutional and program website
- Review of institutional and program materials
- Review of student handbook
- Review of student records
- Review of formal grievance(s) record(s), if applicable
- Interviews with institutional administration
- Interviews with faculty
- Interviews with staff
- Interviews with students

1.2 The sponsoring institution and program have faculty recruitment and employment practices that are nondiscriminatory.

Explanation:

Nondiscriminatory recruitment and employment practices assure fairness and integrity. Equal opportunity for employment must be offered to each applicant with respect to any legally protected status such as race, color, gender, age, disability, national origin, or any other protected class. Employment practices must be equitably applied.

Required Program Response:

Describe how nondiscriminatory recruitment and employment practices are assured.
Provide copies of employment policies and procedures that assure nondiscriminatory practices.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

Review of employee/faculty handbook
Review of employee/faculty application form
Review of institutional catalog
Interviews with faculty

1.7 The sponsoring institution and program comply with requirements to achieve and maintain JRCERT accreditation.

Explanation:

Programs must comply with all JRCERT policies and procedures to maintain accreditation. JRCERT policies are located at www.jrcert.org. In addition, substantive changes must be reviewed and approved by the JRCERT prior to implementation, with the exception of a change of ownership.

JRCERT accreditation requires that the sponsoring institution has the primary responsibility for the educational program and grants the terminal award. Sponsoring institutions may include educational programs established in colleges, universities, vocational/technical schools, hospitals, or military facilities. The JRCERT does not recognize a healthcare system as the program sponsor. A healthcare system consists of multiple institutions operating under a common governing body or parent corporation. A specific facility within the healthcare system must be identified as the sponsor. The JRCERT requires each program to have a separate accreditation award and does not recognize branch campuses. The JRCERT recognizes a consortium as an appropriate sponsor of an educational program.

The JRCERT requires programs to maintain a current and accurate database. The program must maintain documentation of all program official qualifications, including updated curricula vitae and current ARRT certification and registration, or equivalent documentation. This documentation is not required to be entered into the Accreditation Management System (AMS). Newly appointed institutional administrators, program officials, and clinical preceptors must be updated through the AMS within thirty (30) days of appointment.

No Required Program Response

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Method:

Review of a representative sample of program official qualifications

2.1 The sponsoring institution provides appropriate administrative support and demonstrates a sound financial commitment to the program.

Explanation:

The program must have sufficient institutional support and ongoing funding to operate effectively. The

enables the program to continue to provide high quality education and training to students.

The sponsoring institution should provide the 8 (t)-3.995stitut6[6 (i)-3.(m)5.996 (ee)7.998 (t)-3.995 (t)-4.00we

2.2 The sponsoring institution provides the program with the physical resources needed to

2.3 The sponsoring institution provides student resources.

Explanation:

Student resources refer to the variety of services and programs offered to promote academic success. The institution and/or program must provide access to information for personal counseling, requesting accommodations for disabilities, and financial aid.

The JRCERT does not endorse any specific student resources.

Required Program Response:

Describe how students are provided with access to information on personal counseling, disability services, and financial aid.

Describe how the program utilizes other student resources to promote student success.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

- Tour of facilities
- Review of published program materials
- Review of surveys
- Interviews with faculty
- Interviews with students

2.4 The sponsoring institution and program maintain compliance with United States Department of Education (USDE) Title IV financial aid policies and procedures, if the JRCERT serves as gatekeeper.

Explanation:

If the program has elected to participate in Title IV financial aid and the JRCERT is identified as the gatekeeper, the program must:

- maintain financial documents including audit and budget processes confirming appropriate allocation and use of financial resources;
- have a monitoring process for student loan default rates;
- have an appropriate accounting system providing documentation for management of Title IV financial aid and expenditures; and
- inform students of responsibility for timely repayment of Title IV financial aid.

The program must comply with all USDE requirements to participate in Title IV financial aid.

Required Program Response:

Describe how the program informs students of their responsibility for timely repayment of financial aid.

Provide evidence that Title IV financial aid is managed and distributed according to the USDE regulations to include:

- recent student loan default data and
- results of financial or compliance audits.

Standard Three: Faculty and Staff

The sponsoring institution provides the program adequate and qualified faculty that enable the program to meet its mission and promote student learning.

Objectives:

- 3.1 The sponsoring institution provides an adequate number of faculty to meet all educational, accreditation, and administrative requirements.
- 3.2 The sponsoring institution and program assure that all faculty and staff possess the academic and professional qualifications appropriate for their assignments.
- 3.3 The sponsoring institution and program assure the responsibilities of faculty and clinical staff are delineated and performed.
- 3.4 The sponsoring institution and program assure program faculty performance is evaluated and results are

3.1 The sponsoring institution provides an adequate number of faculty to meet all educational, accreditation, and administrative requirements.

Explanation:

An adequate number of faculty promotes sound educational practices. Full- and part-time status is practices for faculty workload and release time must be consistent with faculty in other comparable health sciences programs in the same institution. Faculty workload and release time practices must include allocating time and/or reducing teaching load for educational, accreditation, and administrative requirements expected of the program director and clinical coordinator.

A full-time program director is required. A full-time equivalent clinical coordinator is required if the program has more than fifteen (15) students enrolled in the clinical component of the program (e.g., the total number of students simultaneously enrolled in all clinical courses during a term). The clinical coordinator position may be shared by no more than four (4) appointees. If a clinical coordinator is required, the program director may not be identified as the clinical coordinator. The clinical coordinator may not be identified as the program director.

A minimum of one clinical preceptor must be designated at each recognized clinical setting. The same clinical preceptor may be identified at more than one site as long as a ratio of one full-time equivalent clinical preceptor for every ten (10) students is maintained. The program director and clinical coordinator may perform clinical instruction; however, they may not be identified as clinical preceptors.

Required Program Response:

Describe faculty workload and release time in relation to institutional policies/practices and comparable health sciences programs within the sponsoring institution.

Describe the adequacy of the number of faculty and clinical preceptors to meet identified accreditation requirements and program needs.

Provide institutional

3.2 The sponsoring institution and program assure that all faculty and staff possess the academic and professional qualifications appropriate for their assignments.

Position	Qualifications
Program Director	a doctoral degree is preferred;
	Proficient in curriculum design, evaluation, instruction, program administration, and academic advising;
	discipline;
	accredited program;
	Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent ¹ , in radiography.
Clinical Coordinator	degree;
	Proficient in curriculum development, supervision, instruction, evaluation, and academic advising;
	discipline;
	accredited program;
	Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent ¹ , in radiography.

Explanation:
Faculty and

3.5 The sponsoring institution and/or program provide faculty with opportunities for continued professional development.

Explanation:

Opportunities that enhance and advance educational, technical, and professional knowledge must be available to program faculty. Faculty should take advantage of the available resources provided on an institutional campus. Program faculty should not be expected to use personal leave time in order to attend professional development activities external to the sponsoring institution.

Required Program Response

Standard Four: Curriculum and Academic Practices

prepare students for professional practice.

Objectives:

- 4.1 The program has a mission statement that defines its purpose.
- 4.2 The program provides a well-structured curriculum that prepares students to practice in the professional discipline.
- 4.3 All clinical settings must be recognized by the JRCERT.
- 4.4

4.2 The program provides a well-structured curriculum that prepares students to practice in the professional discipline.

Explanation:

A well-structured curriculum must be comprehensive, current, appropriately sequenced, and provide for evaluation of student achievement. This allows for effective student learning by providing a knowledge foundation in didactic and laboratory courses prior to competency achievement. Continual refinement of the competencies achieved is necessary to prepare students to assess and care for patients in a variety of situations and patient conditions. The well-structured curriculum is guided by a master plan of education.

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At a minimum, the curriculum should promote qualities that are necessary for students/graduates to practice competently, make ethical decisions, assess situations, provide appropriate patient care, communicate effectively, and keep abreast of current advancements within the profession. Expansion of

levels.

Use of a standard curriculum promotes consistency in radiography education and prepares the student to practice in the professional discipline. All programs must follow a JRCERT-adopted curriculum. An adopted curriculum is defined as:

the most recent American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Radiography curriculum and/or

the most recent American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Radiography curriculum and/or

4.4 The program provides timely, equitable, and educationally valid clinical experiences for all students.

Explanation:

Programs must have a process in place to assure timely, appropriate, and educationally valid clinical experiences to all admitted students. A meaningful clinical education plan assures that activities are equitable, as well as prevents the use of students as replacements for employees. Students must have sufficient access to clinical settings that provide a wide range of procedures for competency achievement, including mobile, surgical, and trauma examinations. The maximum number of students assigned to a clinical setting must be supported by sufficient human and physical resources. The number of students assigned to the clinical setting must not exceed the number of assigned clinical staff. The student to clinical staff ratio must be 1:1; however, it is acceptable that more than one student may be temporarily assigned to one technologist during infrequently performed procedures.

Clinical placement must be nondiscriminatory in nature and solely determined by the program. Students must be cognizant of clinical policies and procedures including emergency preparedness and medical emergencies.

Programs must assure that clinical involvement for students is limited to not more than ten (10) hours per day. If the program utilizes evening and/or weekend assignments, these assignments must be equitable, and program total capacity must not be increased based on these assignments. Students may not be assigned to clinical settings on holidays that are observed by the sponsoring institution. Programs may permit students to make up clinical time during the term or scheduled breaks; however, appropriate supervision must be maintained. Program faculty need not be physically present; however, students must be able to contact program faculty during makeup assignments. The program must also assure that its liability insurance covers students during these makeup assignments.

Required Program Response:

Describe the process for student clinical placement including, but not limited to:

- assuring equitable learning opportunities,
- assuring access to a sufficient variety and volume of procedures to achieve program competencies, and
- orienting students to clinical settings.

Describe how the program assures a 1:1 student to radiography clinical staff ratio at all clinical settings.

Provide current clinical student assignment schedules in relation to student enrollment.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

Review of published program materials

Review of clinical placement process

Review of course objectives

Review of student clinical assignment schedules

Review of clinical orientation process/records

Review of student records

Interviews with faculty

Interviews with clinical preceptor 1 108.02 602.38 Tm0 g0 G[(I)7(nt)-4(er)-5(v)11(i)-4(ews w)5(il)-5()ET75(v)8

4.6 The program assures an appropriate relationship between program length and the subject matter taught for the terminal award offered.

Explanation:

Program length must be consistent with the terminal award. The JRCERT defines program length as the duration of the program, which may be stated as total academic or calendar year(s), total semesters, trimesters, or quarters.

Required Program Response:

Describe the relationship between the program length and the terminal award offered.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

- Review of course catalog
- Review of published program materials
- Review of class schedules
- Interviews with faculty
- Interviews with students

4.9 The program has procedures for maintaining the integrity of distance education courses.

Explanation:

Programs that offer distance education courses must have processes in place that assure that the students who register in the distance education courses are the same students that participate in, complete, and receive the credit. Programs must verify the identity of students by using methods such as, but not limited to,

Standard Five: Health and Safety

The sponsoring institution and program have policies and procedures that promote the health, safety, and optimal use of radiation for students, patients, and the public.

Objectives:

- 5.1 The program assures the radiation safety of students through the implementation of published policies and procedures.
- 5.2 The program assures each energized laboratory is in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws.
- 5.3 The program assures that students employ proper safety practices.
- 5.4 The program assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the appropriate supervision of a qualified radiographer.
- 5.5 The sponsoring institution and/or program have policies and procedures that safeguard the health and safety of students.

5.1 The program assures the radiation safety of students through the implementation of published policies and procedures.

Explanation:

Appropriate policies and procedures help assure that student radiation exposure is kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). The program must monitor and maintain student radiation exposure data. All students must be monitored for radiation exposure when using equipment in energized laboratories as well as in the clinical environment during, but not limited to, simulation procedures, image production, or quality assurance testing.

Students must be provided their radiation exposure report within thirty (30) school days following receipt of the data. The program must have a published protocol that identifies a threshold dose for incidents in which student dose limits are exceeded. Programs are encouraged to identify a threshold dose below those identi

5.2 The program assures each energized laboratory is in compliance with applicable state and/or federal radiation safety laws.

Explanation:

Compliance with applicable laws promotes a safe environment for students and others. Records of compliance must be ma

Required Program Response:

Provide certificates and/or letters for each energized laboratory documenting compliance with state and/or federal radiation safety laws.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

Review of published program materials

Review of compliance records

Interviews with faculty

5.3 The program

5.4 The program assures that medical imaging procedures are performed under the appropriate supervision of a qualified radiographer.

Explanation:

Appropriate supervision assures patient safety and proper educational practices. The program must develop and publish supervision policies that clearly delineate its expectations of students, clinical preceptors, and clinical staff.

The JRCERT defines direct supervision as student supervision by a qualified radiographer who:

is physically present during the conduct of the procedure, and reviews and approves the procedure and/or image.

Students must be directly supervised until competency is achieved. Once students have achieved competency, they may work under indirect supervision. The JRCERT defines indirect supervision as student supervision provided by a qualified radiographer who is immediately available to assist students regardless of the level of student achievement.

Repeat images must be completed under direct supervision. The presence of a qualified radiographer during the repeat of an unsatisfactory image assures patient safety and proper educational practices.

Students must be directly supervised during surgical and all mobile, including mobile fluoroscopy, procedures regardless of the level of competency.

6.1 The program maintains 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, and
annual program completion rate.**

Explanation:

Program effectiveness outcomes focus on issues pertaining to the overall curriculum such as admissions, retention, completion, credentialing examination performance, and job placement.

The JRCERT has developed the following definitions and criteria related to program effectiveness outcomes:

Credentialing examination pass rate: The number of graduates who pass, on first attempt, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification examination, or an unrestricted state licensing examination, compared with the number of graduates who take the examination within six months of graduation

6.2 The program analyzes and shares its program effectiveness data to facilitate ongoing program improvement.

Explanation:

Analysis of program effectiveness data allows the program to determine if it is meeting its mission. This analysis also provides a means of accountability to faculty, students, and other communities of interest. Faculty should assure all data have been analyzed and discussed prior to sharing results with an assessment committee or other communities of interest. Sharing the program effectiveness data results should take place in a timely manner.

6.5 The program periodically reevaluates its assessment process to assure continuous program improvement.

Explanation:

Identifying and implementing needed improvements in the assessment process leads to program improvement and renewal. As part of the assessment process, the program must review its mission statement, goals, student learning outcomes, and assessment plan to assure that assessment methods are providing credible information to make evidence-based decisions.

The program must assure the assessment process is effective in measuring student learning outcomes. At a minimum, this evaluation must occur at least every three years and be documented. In order to assure that student learning outcomes have been achieved and that curricular content is well-integrated across the curriculum, programs may consider the development and evaluation of a curriculum map. Programs may wish to utilize assessment rubrics to assist in validating the assessment process.

Required Program Response:

Describe how assessment process reevaluation has occurred.

Discuss changes to the assessment process that have occurred since the last accreditation award.

Provide documentation that the assessment process is evaluated at least once every three years.

Possible Site Visitor Evaluation Methods:

Review of documentation related to the assessment process reevaluation

Review of curriculum mapping documentation, if applicable

Interviews with faculty

Interview with institutional assessment coordinator, if applicable

Asynchronous distance learning: learning and instruction that do not occur in the same place or at the same time.

Distance education: an educational process characterized by the separation, in time and/or place, between instructor and student. Distance education supports regular and substantive interaction synchronously or asynchronously between the instructor and student through one or more interactive distance delivery technologies.

Distance (Delivery) technology: instructional/delivery methods that may include the use of TV, audio, or computer transmissions (broadcast, closed-circuit, cable, microwave, satellite)

Master plan of education: an overview of the program and documentation of all aspects of the program. In the event of new faculty and/or leadership to the program, a master plan of education provides the information needed to understand the program and its operations. At a minimum, a master plan of education must include course syllabi (didactic and clinical courses), program policies and procedures, and the curricular sequence calendar. If the program utilizes an electronic format, the components must be accessible by all program faculty.

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) is initiated by a program through the written request for accreditation sent to the JRCERT, on program/institutional letterhead. The request must include the name of the program, the type of program, and the address of the program. The request is to be submitted, with the applicable fee, to:

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2850

B. JRCERT Responsibilities

1. Administering the Accreditation Review Process

The JRCERT reviews educational programs to assess compliance with the **Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography**.

The accreditation process includes a site visit.

Before the JRCERT takes accreditation action, the program being reviewed must respond to the report of findings.

The JRCERT is responsible for recognition of clinical settings.

2. Accreditation Actions

Consistent with JRCERT policy, the JRCERT defines the following as accreditation actions:

Accreditation, Probationary A

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