Radiation Therapy Program (RT)

College of Science and Health  
Department of Health Professions  
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www.uwlax.edu/health-professions/undergraduate-majorsminors/radiation-therapy

Radiation therapists are health care professionals skilled in the art and science of medical radiation treatment delivery. The majority of patients receiving radiation therapy have cancer. Along with surgery and chemotherapy, radiation therapy offers these patients the best chance to succeed in the fight against their disease. The major focus areas of the profession are the care and assessment of patients, simulation, planning and delivery of treatments utilizing linear accelerator produced radiation and radio-isotopes. Aims of care include cure, relief of symptoms, and improvement of patients’ quality of life. High technology equipment and innovative treatment methods are utilized to maximize treatment effectiveness. Radiation therapists must have excellent technical skills, but must also be empathetic and effective communicators. Much satisfaction is gained from close patient interaction and the specialty's team approach with radiation oncologists, physicists, nurses and other medical specialists. Radiation therapy is “technology with a human touch.”

The major in radiation therapy provides students with an educational foundation in the sciences and humanities as well as clinical experience in a radiation therapy department. The curriculum requires six semesters on campus in pre-professional and professional core courses prior to the senior clinical internship. The clinical internship begins in July of the senior year, extends for 13 months, and is spent at an affiliated clinical internship site. When students have met all requirements of the major and the university, they are eligible for graduation and to apply to take the national certification exam.

UWL, in cooperation with its clinical internship sites, currently provides the only training and baccalaureate degree program in radiation therapy in the State of Wisconsin. The radiation therapy program at UWL is designed to offer a high quality radiation therapy curriculum rich in academic and clinical experiences. During the clinical internship, students will work directly with registered radiation therapists in direct patient care in busy and highly regarded radiation oncology departments. The program also seeks to foster, in its students, the professional development, problem solving and leadership skills needed for current and future health care environments.

Program mission

The mission of the radiation therapy program at UWL is to educate and train radiation therapists who are knowledgeable, technically competent and dedicated to their profession and their patients, while meeting the educational and personal needs of its students by emphasizing excellence in education and offering a broad based curriculum in liberal studies, professional courses and clinical internship. This program additionally seeks to promote research and provide a base for further professional development of graduates.

General education writing emphasis

This department incorporates a significant amount of writing through the required courses instead of identifying particular courses as writing emphasis courses. Students who complete a major in this department will fulfill the general education writing emphasis requirement (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/#generaleducationrequirementstext).

Major

- Radiation therapy major · BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/radiationtherapy/radiationtherapybs)