

Thank you for applying to the VA Nuclear Medicine Technologist Training Program. Ours is a 12-month **full-time** commitment blending traditional didactics and clinical participation.

How rigorous is the program?

- Class room study includes instruction in subjects like Radiation Physics, Instrumentation, Cross-Sectional Anatomy, Radiochemistry and Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine.
- The course of study is strict and demanding. It is designed for highly motivated individuals who must assimilate a startling amount of information and apply it in a stressful clinical environment without error. Students must successfully complete both the clinical AND the didactic portions of the program to graduate. Graduates must then pass National and State certifying Board exams to practice in the field.
- Estimated 1 hour of evening study per subject (6 hours total per week). This may vary.

Travel Requirements

- Travel to clinical affiliates is required. Several remote clinical rotations are scheduled, each lasting six to eight weeks. Evening and Weekend shifts are not available.

Clinical rotations

- Clinical rotations are assigned by the Selection Committee and cannot be modified. There are a total of 8 rotations in a year (two per quarter), each lasting 6 – 8 weeks.
 - VA Sacramento-based students must attend two six-week rotations at the VA Martinez.
 - Palo Alto-based students rotate to clinics in San Francisco and San Jose.
 - San Francisco-based students rotate to UCSF and Palo Alto area clinics.
 - VA Fresno-based students largely stay within the greater Fresno area. However, a 4-week (minimum) PET/CT rotation in either Palo Alto or Sacramento is required.

Tuition and other expenses

- We do not charge tuition. Ancillary school expenses are estimated to be below \$500.
- We are a hospital-based program. As such, students aren't eligible for Federal loans.
- Loaner textbooks are available for those who elect not to purchase their own.
- Students are responsible for transport between sites & parking fees (\$8/day at UCSF).

Distance Learning/Video-teleconferencing

- Students attending remote clinical sites receive lectures via live video teleconference.
- Occasionally these students must travel to the Bay area for special projects or exams.

How will I know if I'm accepted?

- A select number of highly qualified applicants will be interviewed in March and April.
- Human Resources will contact those selected by phone or mail before the end of May.

If you are accepted to the Program...

- All students must attend a 2-week mandatory safety seminar from 7/6-7/16 in Palo Alto.
- A clinical health screen is also required including a TB test and immunizations.