

# NOVA Radiation Therapy at NOVA

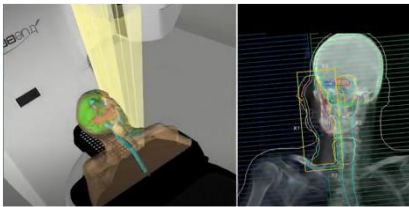


A Joint Venture Opportunity to Earn  
an Associate of Applied Science in  
Radiation Oncology from Virginia  
Western Community College



## What do radiation therapists do?

- Treat cancer and other disease by administering radiation treatments
- Simulate patients for accurate treatment planning
- Work with other radiation therapists, radiation oncologists, physicists, dosimetrists, and nurses
- Work in hospitals or cancer clinics, usually Monday-Friday with regular hours



**Nationwide Annual Salary in 2021: \$82,790\***

Employment of radiation therapists is projected to grow 9 percent from 2020 to 2030, about as fast as the average for all occupations. There is a shortage in many areas, currently.

\*National Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Why choose NOVA/Virginia Western's Radiation Oncology Program?

Our program is nationally accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The NOVA/Virginia Western Radiation Oncology joint venture is very successful in terms of pass rates and job placement for over 17 years. The faculty is vested in our students and provides one-on-one instruction and hands-on experience. We have graduates at Sloan-Kettering, UVA, Duke University, INOVA, Valley Health, Novant, Sibley, MD Anderson, The Huntsman at the University of Utah, Provision Proton Center in Knoxville, Hampton University Proton Institute, and more.

## Earn Your Bachelor's Degree While You Work in the Field

An articulation agreement with Old Dominion University affords graduates the opportunity to further their education and earn a bachelor's degree in health services administration. Earn an affordable radiation oncology degree and credential through our program, then work while you continue school if a bachelor's is your goal. It is not required to hold a bachelor's degree to practice radiation therapy. Many successful radiation therapists do not hold a bachelor's degree or other credentials.

## Cost

The NOVA/Virginia Western Radiation Oncology program is one of the most economical opportunities to become a radiation therapist in the nation! **The estimated cost is 15-16K.** A breakdown of that estimate is found [here](#).

## Length and Delivery of the Program

The NOVA/Virginia Western Radiation Oncology program is 21 months long, five sequential semesters. Part-time and online attendance are not options. **Some** courses/classes are delivered via a distance, hybrid, or online model. Others take place on the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Education Campus (MEC). The MEC campus is equipped with a [virtual linear accelerator](#) and simulation lab, since 2021. Clinical rotations begin during your second semester and require travel to sites throughout Northern Virginia.

## Prerequisites and Application

- Review the Online Information Session at [NOVA Radiation Oncology](#) (updated every August)
- Complete or transfer **two** SDV credits or equivalent; C or better grade.
  - If you hold an associate or bachelor's degree, you do not need to take SDV courses. You will receive transfer credit upon transcript review.
  - There are two ways to satisfy this prerequisite if you do not hold a degree:
    - At NOVA: Take SDV 100 College Success Skills (1 credit) **and** SDV 101 Orientation to Healthcare Professions (1 credit).
    - At VWCC: Take SDV 101 Orientation to Healthcare Professions (2 credits).
- Complete or transfer HLT 141 Introduction to Medical Terminology; C or better grade.
- Complete or transfer BIO 141 Human Anatomy and Physiology; must be within 5 years and C or better grade.
- Complete or transfer MTH 161 Pre-Calculus; must be within 5 years and C or better grade.
  - This must be college-level and the course may have pre/co-requisites.
- Cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher at the end of fall semester prior to application deadline.
- One unit of high school or college biology, chemistry, or physics lab science.

**Complete prerequisites by May 2024 (register for what you need by January 2024) and submit your application package by the March 15, 2024 deadline for an August 2024 start. Admission is competitive. Early application is recommended!**

## Explore the Field

Tours are increasingly difficult to arrange in some departments due to privacy and clinic admittance requirements. Prospective students are encouraged to research the field more online and reach out to radiation therapists, to help determine if the radiation oncology field is a good fit for you.

**Look for the radiation therapists in these videos, to start:**

[An Introduction to Radiation Therapy](#)

[Treating Cancer – Radiation Therapy Treatment Process](#)

## More Information

- Visit the [NOVA Radiation Oncology](#) website (QR code at top) for details and **view the information session**. Note that it's updated every September. You can also find out about our partner in this endeavor at [Virginia Western Radiation Oncology](#).

After reviewing the website and information session, direct program-related questions to Kerry Cropper MSRT(T) [kcropper@nvcc.edu](mailto:kcropper@nvcc.edu). **All questions regarding prerequisites taken at NOVA should be directed to NOVA student services**. All application and transfer credit questions go to Pam Woody and the team at [healthprofessions@virginiawestern.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@virginiawestern.edu). Apply early and they will get you on the right track for the interview qualification!