The student choosing Nuclear Medicine Technology as a career should have a strong interest in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computer technology as well as the desire for close patient contact, direct interaction with physicians and willing to work as part of a team with other health care professionals. Nuclear Medicine Technologists are sensitive to patients' physical and psychological needs, they must pay attention to detail, follow instructions and operate imaging equipment that detect and map metabolic and biochemical changes within the body.

Nuclear Medicine Technology is a medical specialty that uses safe, micro-quantities of radioactive pharmaceuticals for diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of many serious diseases. Nuclear Medicine Technology imaging techniques provide information about both the function and structure of every organ in the body, often identifying organ abnormalities very early in the progression of a disease. This early detection allows a disease to be treated early in its course, when there may be a more positive prognosis.

Career Opportunities

The graduate is qualified to take a national exam to become a registered Nuclear Medicine Technologist. Certification is available from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and from the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board. Nuclear Medicine is considered to be a field at the forefront of modern clinical medicine and technological development. As a highly-specialized member of the health care profession, Nuclear Medicine Technologists have a wide variety of career options in: the clinical setting (hospitals, outpatient imaging facilities, research laboratories, regulatory agencies), industry sales and technical specialists of radiopharmaceutical and imaging equipment, entry into medical or graduate schools, and careers in education or administration in the specialty.

Courses in the Major

The Nuclear Medicine courses start in the third year of college. To get ready for the major, the student must complete the HepB immunization series, general education courses and prerequisites for the major, such as Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Physics, Precalculus, Statistics and Computer Literacy. After completion of approximately two years of college work, the student begins the four semesters of nuclear medicine courses. During each semester, a student is assigned to a clinical setting and will be working with patients in nuclear medicine departments throughout the city of San Antonio to gain clinical experience.

Nuclear Medicine

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Year</th>
<th>Senior Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMED 2420 Patient Care Technologies</td>
<td>NMED 4312 Physics of Medical Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 3210 Health Assessment and Communication</td>
<td>NMED 3305 Applications of Radionuclides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 3310 Pathophysiology for NMED</td>
<td>NMED 3510 Nuclear Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 3320 Radiation Safety</td>
<td>NMED 4545 Principles of PET and PET/CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 4322 Radiopharmacy</td>
<td>NMED 4604 Clinical I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 4331 Instrumentation</td>
<td>NMED 4606 Clinical II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMED 4341 Radiation Biology</td>
<td>NMED 4361 Registry Review</td>
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</tbody>
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Highlights  
Salaries in nuclear medicine are very competitive and vary by geographic regions. The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics project Nuclear Medicine as a "fast growing" field with an increase in available positions.

Location  
The University of the Incarnate Word is located in the city of San Antonio adjacent to Brackenridge Park and the suburb of Alamo Heights, which offers a quiet well established residential area as well as shopping, restaurants, cultural and recreation facilities. The headwaters of the San Antonio river are located on the campus which was once a favored campsite for Native American tribes.

Faculty  
The Nuclear Medicine program has a low student to teacher ratio. Generally, the class size ranges from 10-20 students and they are taught by a diverse faculty who are experts within the field of nuclear medicine with current clinical practice.

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