

# Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Give a patient a tiny radioactive tracer, then image how the body is working, not just what it looks like. Two to four years of school and one national exam.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$101,370**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$78k to \$135k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**2 to 4 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Moderate**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**Yes**

regulated job

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospital imaging departments,  
cancer centers, cardiology practi...**

## How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12  
 Biology, chemistry, physics and math. Anatomy if your school offers it.
- 2 An accredited program** 1 to 4 years  
 A certificate, a two-year degree or a four-year degree in nuclear medicine technology, accredited by the national review committee for these programs.
- 3 Clinical hours** Included in the program  
 Built into the program. You work in a real imaging department under supervision, with real patients.
- 4 National certification exam** After graduating  
 From the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, or the nuclear medicine exam run by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.
- 5 State license** Weeks  
 Most states require one before you can work. A few do not license this job at all.

## Pros and cons

- + Six figure median pay from a two-year degree
- + The lowest paid tenth still earn over \$78,000
- + Small, skilled teams and real patient contact
- You handle radioactive material every day and wear a badge to prove how much
- Programs are small and getting a clinical placement is competitive
- Early starts, and evening or weekend coverage in bigger hospitals

## Optional boosts

Computed tomography. Positron emission tomography. Nuclear cardiology. Nuclear medicine advanced associate.

### Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Nuclear Medicine Technologists (29-2033.00)

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists: nuclear medicine technology

Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology: accredited programs

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/nuclear-medicine-technologist>

## Good to know

### It images function, not shape

An X-ray or a scan shows you what an organ looks like. Nuclear medicine shows you what it is doing, because the tracer only collects where the body is actually working on something.

### Your supplies expire in hours

Many tracers have half-lives measured in hours, some in minutes. They cannot be stockpiled. Hospitals take delivery daily, or make them on site, and a delayed patient can waste an entire dose.



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