



Frequently Asked Questions for Clinical Education: Imaging Sciences Programs

1. What is clinical education?

Clinical education in radiologic technology and diagnostic medical sonography programs involves hands-on training in real-world healthcare settings as part of the program's coursework. Clinical education is essential for students to apply theoretical knowledge, develop technical skills and gain practical experience under the supervision of experienced professionals.

For the **radiologic technology program**, clinical education typically includes:

- Assisting clinical supervisors in the performance of radiographic examinations on patients
- Demonstrating competencies in a range of skills, attitudes, and behaviors
- Collaborating with other healthcare professionals
- Ensuring patient safety during imaging procedures
- Operating and maintaining imaging equipment
- Learning specialized equipment (C-arm, fluoroscopy, etc.)
- Being exposed to patient care in specialized clinical settings (e.g., emergency room, operating room, etc.) or advanced imaging (CT, MRI, PET-CT, etc.)

For the **diagnostic medical sonography program**, clinical education typically involves:

- Conducting ultrasonographic examinations on various parts of the body, including the abdomen, vascular system, and obstetrics/gynecology, under the supervision of an experienced sonographer
- Interacting with patients to explain procedures and ensure their comfort
- Using sonographic equipment to capture images for interpretation
- Collaborating with healthcare professionals to provide accurate diagnostic information

Northeast clinical training takes place on campus or at clinical affiliates, both in New York State and in other states. This training emphasizes the importance of clinical rotations in diverse healthcare environments, such as hospitals, clinics and specialized imaging centers, to ensure comprehensive training and readiness for professional practice.

2. Do students need any special equipment or clothing for the clinical education experience?

Northeast College students are expected to wear royal blue scrubs and radiation markers for clinical rotations in accordance with the provisions outlined in the student handbook. Students in the radiologic technology program also must wear a radiation monitoring device, as required by law, to monitor for any radiation exposure.

3. When do students attend off-campus clinical education?

Students in the radiologic technology program attend off-campus clinical rotations starting in the second trimester, and students in the diagnostic medical sonography program initially start clinical observations at off-campus facilities and are assigned to off-campus clinical rotations starting in the third trimester.

4. What are some examples of your clinical education sites?

Examples of Northeast College imaging sciences clinical education sites include (but are not limited to):

- Rochester Regional Health facilities (e.g., Unity Hospital, Newark Wayne Community Hospital)
- Guthrie facilities (Corning Hospital)
- Oswego Health
- Auburn Community Hospital
- Finger Lakes Health Facilities (Geneva General Hospital, Interlakes Orthopedic Surgery)
- Adirondack Radiology
- University of Vermont Medical Center
- Seton Imaging (Buffalo)

5. Do you ever add new clinical education sites?

Yes, Northeast's clinical coordinator works closely with our students and the clinical affiliates to identify the best clinical training environment for each of our students. As a result, our list of clinical sites is regularly updated and may change frequently.

6. How far will students need to travel to a clinical education site?

The majority of sites are located within 120 miles of campus. Some sites are farther and may require temporary relocation for the duration of the clinical rotation. The College's clinical coordinator works closely with the sites and each student to minimize travel/commuting whenever possible.

7. How are students placed at clinical education sites? What is the selection process?

Northeast College approaches the clinical site assignment comprehensively, taking into consideration the student's age, progression in the program, clinical training needs, dependent care, site affiliate requests and other important information. Students are

expected to rotate through several different sites to maximize their experience with clinical affiliates, equipment and instrumentation, types of patients and healthcare facilities. The site assignment decision is at the discretion of the programs' clinical coordinator.

8. Should students work directly with potential clinical education sites to set up their own placement?

No, students are prohibited from contacting clinical sites or people affiliated or working at the sites to request a specific placement. However, when possible, the clinical coordinator works with students who have an interest in traveling out of state for a few months to identify a suitable educational site.

9. How many hours a week, on average, do students spend at their off-site clinical education site?

During off-campus clinical education placements, students spend between 16-24 hours, spread over 2-3 days each week, at their assigned clinical site.

10. Who covers the cost of housing, food, and transportation for clinical site placements?

Students are responsible for the costs of transportation, housing, food, and any incidentals connected to clinical education. Students are encouraged to contact the College's financial aid office to discuss financial aid resources that may be available to help support these costs.

11. Will students have the same clinical education site for all trimesters?

No, students rotate through different sites to maximize a variety of different clinical environments, patient types and conditions, procedures, and equipment.

12. How do students attend courses while assigned to a clinical education site?

Some trimesters coursework is offered completely online, allowing students to participate in more remote clinical opportunities. For example, during the spring trimester, the programs' non-clinical courses are offered exclusively online.

If students have on-campus classes in the same timeframe as their clinical education, they do need to travel between campus and their assigned clinical sites. If they don't have on-campus classes, students may choose to stay closer to the sites and even may temporarily relocate.

13. What is the length of an assignment to a particular clinical education site?

Generally, about four months (15 weeks).