Enrollment Snapshot of Radiography, Radiation Therapy, and Nuclear Medicine Technology Programs – 2020

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Has the response to the COVID-19 virus reduced your ability to place students in a clinical rotation as you normally would?
Approximately what percentage of the clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated due to COVID-19?24
What alternatives are your program using to compensate for the reduced clinical schedule?
What is the most immediate need for your program in order to respond to the reduced clinical schedule?25
Does your program allow students to perform examinations on known or suspected COVID-19 patients? (n = 352)
How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?

Additional Documents (please contact the ASRT for a copy):

Survey Instruments and Invitation Letter Verbatim Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Executive Summary

In early October 2020, an invitation to complete an online questionnaire was sent via email to 957 radiography, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine technology programs listed by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). At the close of the survey in early November 2020, a total of 353 responses had been received, yielding an overall response rate of 36.9%.

				Margin of
			Percent	Error at the
	Return	Population	Sampled	95% Level
Radiography	278	734	37.9%	±4.6%
Radiation Therapy	39	107	36.4%	±12.6%
Nuclear Medicine	25	116	21.6%	±17.4%
Overall	353	957	36.9%	±4.2%

This report summarizes findings regarding radiologic sciences enrollment in ARRT-recognized programs based on the responses from program directors.

Demographic Analysis

Most programs that responded to the survey are in radiography (78.8%); of the remaining respondents, 11.0% were radiation therapy, 7.1% were nuclear medicine, and 3.1% were other types of imaging programs.

A plurality of respondents (42.8%) work at a community college; 29.2% work at a university, 17.3% at a medical center, 6.2% at a technical college, and 3.4% at a for-profit school. The remaining 1.1% work at another type of institution.

The most common terminal degree offered by responding institutions is an associate degree (65.7%); 21.2% offer a bachelor's degree, and 13.0% offer another type of degree.

The vast majority of programs surveyed (98.0%) are located in the United States; 1.4% are in Canada, and 0.6% are elsewhere.

The US regions with the most responses were South Atlantic and East North Central, representing 20.5% and 19.4% of all responses, respectively. The lowest response rates were in New England at 5.5% and the Mountain region at 4.6%.

Enrollment Analysis

Based on the survey response, radiography programs enrolled an average of 21.3 students in 2020. This represents a decline of 0.5 students per program from 2019. This produces an overall estimate of 15,620 students entering ARRT-certified radiography programs in 2020, down from 15,972 in 2019.

On average, radiation therapy programs enrolled 11.1 students in 2020. This represents an increase of 0.2 students per program from 2019 when, on average, 10.9 students enrolled in each radiation therapy program. This produces an overall estimate of 1,182 students enrolling in ARRT-certified radiation therapy programs in 2020, up from 1,155 in 2019.

On average, nuclear medicine programs enrolled 9.3 students in 2020. This represents a decline of 0.4 students per program from 2019 when, on average, 9.7 students enrolled in each nuclear medicine program. Overall, this produces an estimate of 1,076 students enrolling in nuclear medicine programs in 2020, down from 1,129 in 2019.

2020 Student Capacity

Asked whether their program is currently at full enrollment, 53.6% of radiography programs, 59.0% of radiation therapy programs, and 32.0% of nuclear medicine programs said that they are at capacity.

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There were no statistically significant differences between disciplines.

Programs not at full enrollment were asked how many additional students their program could accommodate. On average, radiography programs said they could accommodate an additional 6.3 students, radiation therapy programs said they could accommodate an additional 7.1 students, and nuclear medicine programs said they could accommodate an additional 6.3 students.

For programs not at capacity, this produces an estimate of 1,905 additional spaces for students across all radiography programs, 518 additional spaces students across all radiation therapy programs, and 339 additional spaces students in nuclear medicine.

The mean number of qualified students turned away by radiography programs was 21.4. Radiation therapy programs turned away an average of 14.2 qualified students, and nuclear medicine programs turned away an average of 3.7 qualified students.

This produces an estimate of 9,254 qualified students turned away in radiography, 485 turned away by therapy programs, and 231 turned away by nuclear medicine programs.

Near-term Changes

Most of the programs surveyed plan to maintain their current levels of enrollment; 80.4% of programs across these disciplines plan to keep their enrollment at the same level; 15.8% of programs plan to increase enrollment, and the remaining 3.8% plan to decrease their enrollment.

In radiography, 81.7% of programs plan to maintain current enrollment; 14.4% plan to increase their enrollment, and the remaining 4.0% of programs plan to decrease their enrollment. In radiation therapy, 74.4% of programs plan to keep their current enrollment; 23.1% are planning an increase, and 2.6% plan to decrease enrollment.

In nuclear medicine, 76.0% of programs plan to maintain current enrollment, 20.0% are planning an increase, and 4.0% plan to decrease their enrollment.

There were no statistically significant differences between groups.

The majority of programs across disciplines (77.7%) will definitely continue to operate; 21.4% will most likely continue operations, 0.3% will most likely close, and the remaining 0.6% will definitely close.

In radiography, 81.7% of programs said they would definitely continue to operate; 17.6% will most likely continue operation, 0.4% will likely close, and the remaining 0.4% will definitely close.

In radiation therapy, 64.1% of programs will definitely continue to operate, 33.3% will most likely continue operations, and the remaining 2.6% will definitely close.

In nuclear medicine, 54.2% of programs will definitely continue to operate, and 45.8% will likely continue to operate; there are no closures planned among responding nuclear medicine programs.

There were statistically significant differences between groups.

Program Outcomes

Asked about the attrition rate¹ of their program, respondents indicated that, on average:

• 15.6% of students in radiography programs failed to complete their course of study.

¹ Methodological Note: In previous years, no attempt was made to determine the plausibility of responses about attrition. In the last three years responses were recoded according to the following scheme: If the respondent indicated an attrition rate of 59% or lower, the response was left as is. If the respondent

indicated an attrition rate over 59%, the response was recoded as (1-x) where x = uncoded user response. For this reason, reported attrition means on the last three Enrollment Snapshots will be noticeably lower than they have been in previous years.



- 7.4% of students in radiation therapy programs failed to complete their course of study.
- 14.0% of students in nuclear medicine programs failed to finish their studies.

COVID-19 Questions

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, respondents were asked several questions pertaining to the pandemic's effect on their program. The results, where possible, were compared to those of an ASRT survey conducted in April 2020 on the effects of COVID-19.

Comparative Questions

Asked whether the response to COVID-19 has reduced their ability to place students in a clinical setting, 73.9% said yes; this represents a decline from 98.4% from April.

A majority of respondents (74.1%) said that less than twenty-five percent of their clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated as a result of COVID-19; another 25.4% estimate that between twenty-five and ninetynine percent of their clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated, while only 0.6% have eliminated their entire clinical rotation schedule. These responses indicate a large shift back toward allowing students into clinical rotations from the April 2020 survey when 61.8% of respondents had eliminated their entire clinical rotation schedule and only 13.3% had eliminated less than 25% of their scheduled clinical rotations.

Asked about alternatives being used to compensate for a reduced clinical schedule, 29.2% of programs are delaying their clinical schedule to a later date, down from 46.4% in April; 26.0% are using various online resources such as videos, up from 17.2% in April; 21.4% are using virtual solutions such as simulation, up from 15.8% in April; 19.2% are using alternative assignments such as papers, up from 8.6% in April; 4.2% are using some other alternative, down from 12.1% in April.

Asked about their program's most pressing needs to offset a reduced clinical schedule, a plurality of respondents (34.0%) listed alternatives to clinical

education as their most immediate concern, a decline from 38.7% in April; 27.1% listed an extended schedule to allow students to meet requirements at a later date, up from 17.2% in April; 21.5% listed a relaxation of clinical requirements, down from 23.7% in April; 12.9% listed additional resources for online instruction, up from 7.8% in April; 1.7% listed relaxation of graduation requirements, down from 5.1% in April; another 3.0% listed other concerns, down from 7.5% in April.

Questions Unique to the Enrollment Survey

Asked whether their program allows students to perform exams on known or suspected COVID-19 patients, 77.8% of respondents said no and the remaining 22.2% said yes.

The question, "How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?" was originally asked by the ARRT in their May 2020 survey, *Radiography Educational Program Director Survey Results & Analysis.* Asked again in the current Enrollment Survey, 38.9% of respondents said that 10 or more clinical sites are currently allowing students, up from 1.0% from the ARRT survey; 60.3% said that between 1 and 9 clinical sites were allowing students, up from 25.0%. Only 0.9% said they have no clinical sites currently allowing students, a decline from 74.0%.

Glossary

The following statistical results are displayed using a common set of acronyms and symbols for brevity. The symbols and acronyms used are listed here for reference.

Ν

Number of responses.

Valid Percent

Percentage of total responses.

Mean

The arithmetic average.

Population

The total number of programs.

SD Standard deviation.

X²

Chi-squared, from Pearson's Chi-Squared to test for statistical significance.

F

F-statistic, from analysis of variance (ANOVA) to test for statistical significance.

Ρ

Probability, as a measure for statistical significance when $P \le 0.05$.

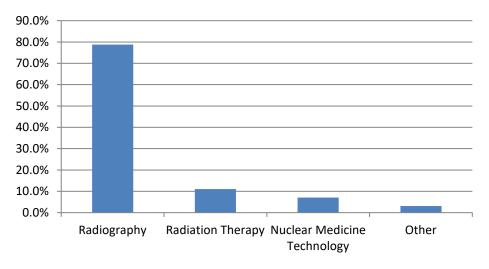
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Demographics

Indicate your program type.

			Sample Return as	
		Valid	Population	Percent of
	Ν	Percent	Distribution	Population
Radiography	278	78.8%	734	37.9%
Radiation Therapy	39	11.0%	107	36.4%
Nuclear Medicine Technology	25	7.1%	116	21.6%
Other	11	3.1%	n/a	n/a
Total	353	100.0%	957	36.9%

Indicate your program type.



What is your primary place of employment?

		Valid
	Ν	Percent
Community college or two-year	151	42.8%
institution		
University or four-year institution	103	29.2%
Medical center	61	17.3%
Technical college	22	6.2%
For-profit school	12	3.4%
Other	4	1.1%
Total	353	100.0%

45.0% 40.0% 35.0% 30.0% 25.0% 20.0% 15.0% 10.0% 5.0% 0.0% Community University Medical Technical For-profit Other college or or four-year center college school two-year institution institution

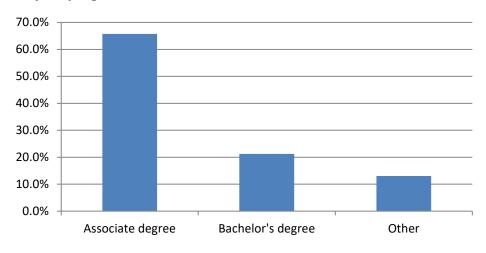
What is your primary place of employment?



What is the terminal degree earned by the graduates in your program?

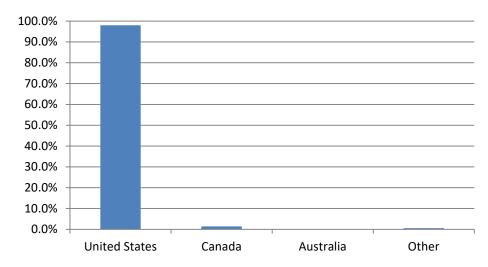
		Valid
	Ν	Percent
Associate degree	232	65.7%
Bachelor's degree	75	21.2%
Other	46	13.0%
Total	353	100.0%

What is the terminal degree earned by the graduates in your program?



In what country is your program located?

	Ν	Valid Percent
United States	346	98.0%
Canada	5	1.4%
Australia	0	0.0%
Other	2	0.6%
Total	353	100.0%

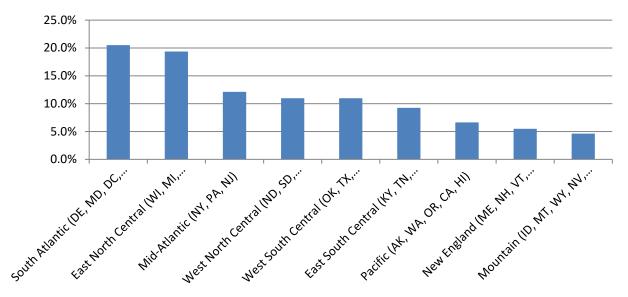


In what country is your program located?

If you chose the United States in the question above, please indicate in which region your program is located.

		Valid
	Ν	Percent
South Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL,	71	20.5%
PR)		
East North Central (WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)	67	19.4%
Mid-Atlantic (NY, PA, NJ)	42	12.1%
West North Central (ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO)	38	11.0%
West South Central (OK, TX, AR, LA)	38	11.0%
East South Central (KY, TN, MS, AL)	32	9.2%
Pacific (AK, WA, OR, CA, HI)	23	6.6%
New England (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)	19	5.5%
Mountain (ID, MT, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM)	16	4.6%
Total	346	100.0%

If you chose the United States in the question above, please indicate in which region your program is located.

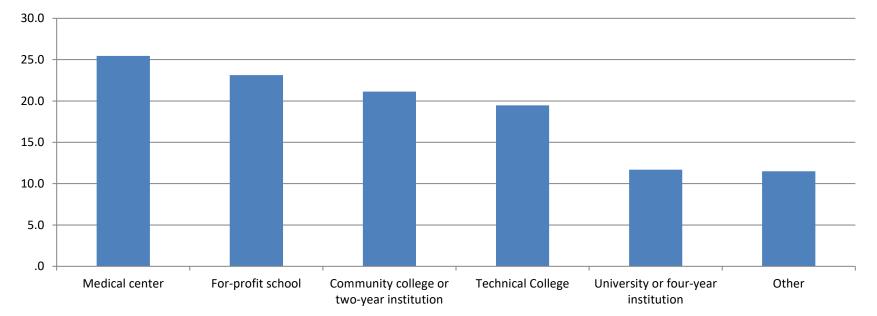


2020 Enrollment Analysis

Mean number of students entering by program and institution type.

	Radiography Ra			Radiatic	on The	erapy	Nuclear Medicine Technology			Overall		
	Mean N SD			Mean	Ν	SD	Mean	Ν	SD	Mean	Ν	SD
Medical center	27.1	9	16.7	18.0	2	5.7				25.5	11	15.5
For-profit school	23.1	22	8.9							23.1	22	8.9
Community college or two-year institution	22.5	129	13.1	10.6	11	6.0	11.7	7	6.6	21.1	147	13.0
Technical College	23.6	68	13.2	11.3	19	4.7	9.1	12	4.4	19.5	99	12.8
University or four-year institution	12.8	44	7.3	9.0	7	7.3	6.8	6	5.2	11.7	57	7.3
Other	11.5	4	8.9	•		•	•			11.5	4	8.9
Total	21.3	276	12.7	11.1	39	5.7	9.3	25	5.3	19.2	340	12.5

An ANOVA showed an overall difference in the mean number of students entering by institution type, F(5, 340) = 6.643, P < .001. Post hoc comparisons using the Bonferroni correction indicated that the mean number of students entering medical centers were statistically different than the other institution types, $P \le .003$, (3/6).

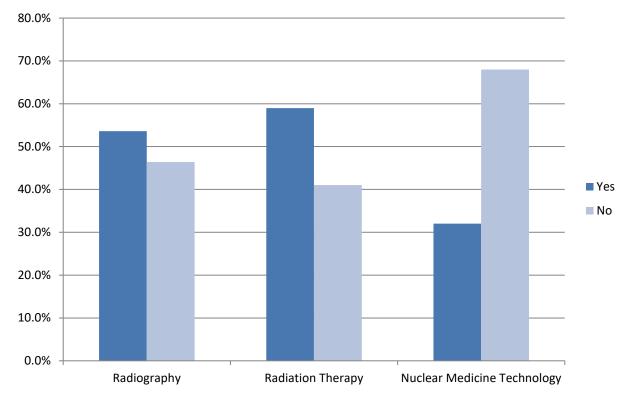


Mean number of students entering by institution type. (Overall)

				Nuclear	
			Radiation	Medicine	
		Radiography	Therapy	Technology	Total
Yes	Ν	149	23	8	180
res	%	53.6%	59.0%	32.0%	52.6%
No	Ν	129	16	17	162
NO	%	46.4%	41.0%	68.0%	47.4%
Total	Ν	278	39	25	342
TULAI	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Is your program currently at full enrollment?

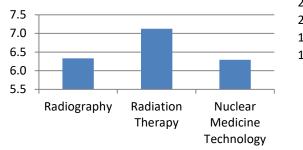
There were no statistically significant differences between disciplines.



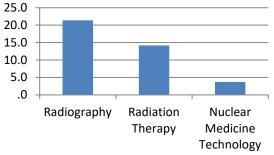
Is your program currently at full enrollment?

	Radiography			Radiat	ion T	herapy	Nuclear Me	Total				
	Mean	Ν	SD	Mean	Ν	SD	Mean	Ν	SD	Mean	Ν	SD
If you are not at full enrollment, how many additional students could be accommodated by your program?	6.3	126	7.0	7.1	16	6.8	6.3	17	4.4	6.4	159	6.7
How many qualified students did you turn away this fall?	21.4	267	31.5	14.2	38	16.6	3.7	24	8.4	19.3	329	29.4
What was the attrition rate for the class of 2019?	15.6%	272	12.6%	7.4%	38	10.6%	14.0%	25	14.7%	14.6%	335	12.8%

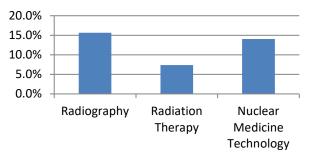
If you are not at full enrollment, how many additional students could be accommodated by your program?



How many qualified students did you turn away this fall?



What was the attrition rate for the class of 2019?

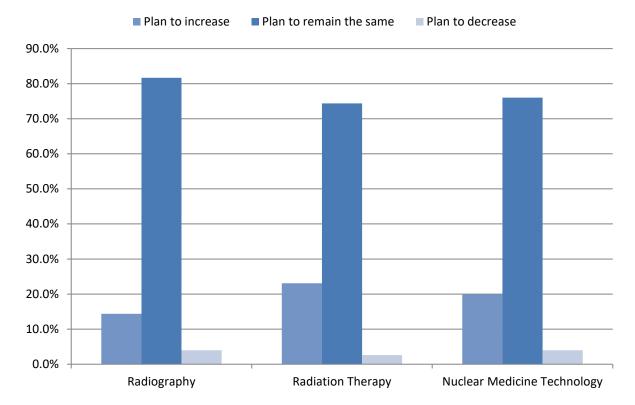


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Do you plan any changes related to enrollment?

			Radiation	Nuclear Medicine	
		Radiography	Therapy	Technology	Total
	1	Naulography	петару	Technology	TOLAI
Plan to increase	Ν	40	9	5	54
Pidii to increase	%	14.4%	23.1%	20.0%	15.8%
Plan to remain the	Ν	227	29	19	275
same	%	81.7%	74.4%	76.0%	80.4%
Dian to decrease	Ν	11	1	1	13
Plan to decrease	%	4.0%	2.6%	4.0%	3.8%
Total	Ν	278	39	25	342
Total	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

There were no statistically significant differences between disciplines.



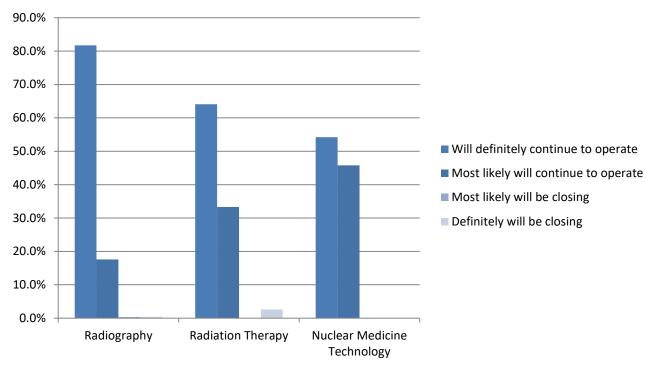
Do you plan any changes related to enrollment?

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			Radiation	Nuclear Medicine	
		Radiography	Therapy	Technology	Total
Will definitely continue to	Ν	227	25	13	265
operate	%	81.7%	64.1%	54.2%	77.7%
Most likely will continue to	Ν	49	13	11	73
operate	%	17.6%	33.3%	45.8%	21.4%
	N	1	0	0	1
Most likely will be closing	%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
	N	1	1	0	2
Definitely will be closing	%	0.4%	2.6%	0.0%	0.6%
Total	N	278	39	24	341
Total	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

How viable is your program over the next few years?

The proportional difference in the response distribution was statistically significant, χ^2 (6, n = 341) = 17.5 p = .007.



How viable is your program over the next few years?

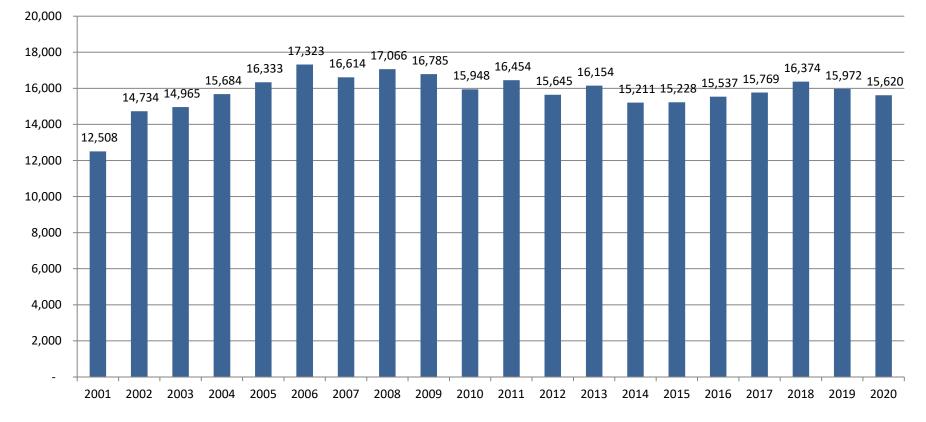


Longitudinal Enrollment Trends

Radiography

							Mean	Estimated		
		Percent of					additional	total	Mean	
		programs	Mean	Estimated		Percent	students	additional	qualified	Estimated
		responding	number	total		of	per	students	students	total
		to survey	of	students		programs	program	for	per	qualified
	ARRT	with	students	enrolled	Mean	not at	for those	programs	program	students
	recognized	enrollment	entering	for all	attrition	full	not at full	not at full	turned	turned
Year	programs	data	classroom	programs	Rate	capacity	capacity	capacity	away	away
2001	590	75.4%	21.2	12,508	21.6%	50.2%				
2002	631	67.5%	23.4	14,734	23.6%	30.9%	8.7	1,696	31.6	13,778
2003	639	71.4%	23.4	14,965	21.6%	21.2%	5.8	786	46.8	23,565
2004	684	68.7%	22.9	15,684	20.5%	21.7%	7.5	1,113	55.1	29,510
2005	715	66.4%	22.8	16,333	18.1%	20.9%	7.4	1,106	50.9	28,787
2006	723	74.7%	24.0	17,323	18.4%	22.6%	7.0	1,144	59.2	33,128
2007	729	69.3%	22.8	16,614	17.8%	30.2%	7.1	1,563	56.8	28,902
2008	742	71.0%	23.0	17,066	21.1%	33.3%	8.4	2,076	50.4	24,944
2009	746	61.0%	22.5	16,785	20.8%	40.0%	3.7	1,104	43.4	19,426
2010	751	65.5%	21.2	15,948	23.3%	43.7%	7.6	2,490	39.1	16,528
2011	751	57.8%	21.9	16,454	25.8%	46.2%	7.6	2,637	37.1	14,978
2012	750	62.8%	20.9	15,645	29.1%	44.9%	8.3	2,785	39.5	16,336
2013	741	50.5%	21.8	16,154	27.9%	46.5%	7.8	2,688	36.3	14,391
2014	739	49.1%	20.6	15,211	31.2%	50.3%	7.2	2,682	34.1	12,522
2015	736	54.2%	20.7	15,228	36.7%	49.9%	8.7	3,195	27.7	10,214
2016	736	39.5%	21.1	15,537	18.2%	47.6%	6.6	2,326	23.6	9,102
2017	727	35.6%	21.7	15,769	18.5%	47.5%	8.3	2,849	30.8	11,756
2018	730	40.8%	22.4	16,374	15.0%	43.3%	7.1	2,235	26.6	11,002
2019	734	36.1%	21.8	15,972	16.5%	43.0%	6.1	1,922	23.2	9,694
2020	734	37.9%	21.3	15,620	15.6%	41.0%	6.3	1,905	21.4	9,254



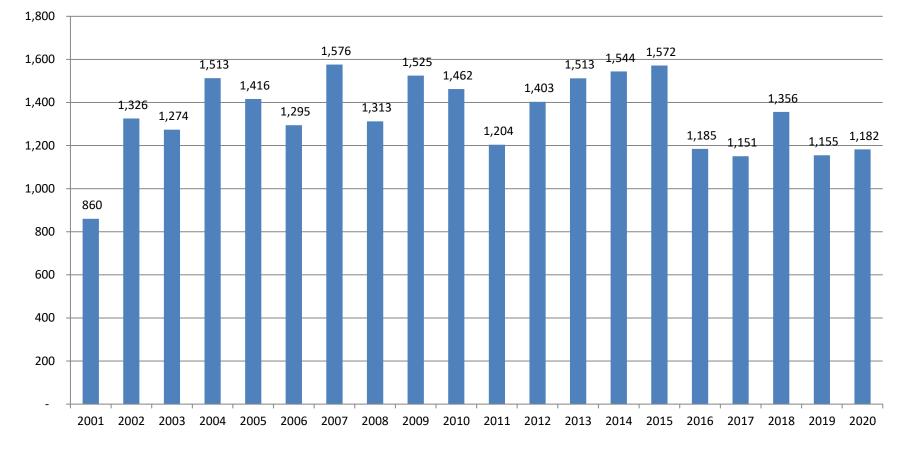


Estimated total number of students entering radiography programs:

Radiation Therapy

							Mean	Estimated		
		Percent of					additional	total	Mean	
		programs	Mean	Estimated		Percent	students	additional	qualified	Estimated
		responding	number	total		of	per	students	students	total
		to survey	of	students		programs	program	for	per	qualified
	ARRT	with	students	enrolled	Mean	not at	for those	programs	program	students
	recognized	enrollment	entering	for all	attrition	full	not at full	not at full	turned	turned
Year	programs	data	classroom	programs	Rate	capacity	capacity	capacity	away	away
2001	86	60.5%	10.0	860	18.1%	44.4%			•	
2002	95	58.9%	14.0	1,326	11.1%	48.0%	5.7	260	9.1	450
2003	101	57.4%	12.6	1,274	18.0%	44.6%	4.4	198	13.6	761
2004	105	55.2%	14.4	1,513	11.9%	30.5%	12.5	400	13.4	978
2005	113	63.7%	12.5	1,416	16.8%	32.1%	3.4	123	24.5	1880
2006	118	68.6%	11.0	1,295	16.6%	49.3%	6.4	372	21.6	1292
2007	122	57.4%	12.9	1,576	15.2%	51.5%	6.3	396	13.3	787
2008	125	49.6%	10.5	1,313	14.4%	58.6%	4.5	330	33.0	1708
2009	122	50.8%	12.5	1,525	10.9%	55.5%	3.7	251	15.8	858
2010	122	58.2%	12.0	1,462	18.3%	49.3%	7.9	475	18.0	1112
2011	123	42.3%	9.8	1,204	21.9%	51.9%	6.1	388	14.3	846
2012	122	48.4%	11.5	1,403	18.9%	53.4%	6.9	451	14.4	818
2013	121	55.4%	12.5	1,513	21.8%	57.6%	5.7	397	17.1	877
2014	117	45.3%	13.2	1,544	26.5%	49.1%	6.2	355	15.7	935
2015	113	49.6%	13.9	1,572	24.6%	55.4%	7.1	444	14.8	746
2016	110	35.5%	10.8	1,185	7.3%	60.5%	4.6	309	11.3	492
2017	110	33.6%	10.5	1,151	10.0%	43.2%	5.2	247	16.0	998
2018	109	37.6%	12.4	1,356	9.4%	43.9%	7.7	369	29.0	1773
2019	106	29.2%	10.9	1,155	7.0%	58.1%	4.1	250	16.4	726
2020	107	36.4%	11.1	1,182	7.4%	68.0%	7.1	518	14.2	485



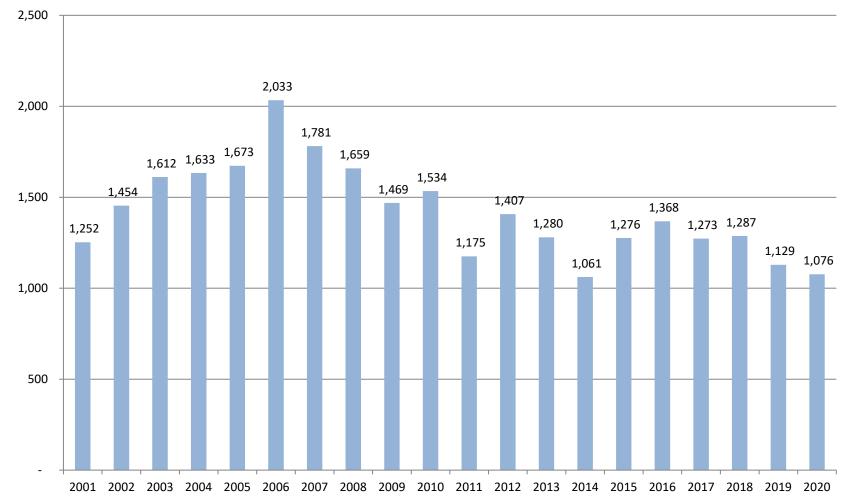


Estimated total number of students entering radiation therapy programs:

Nuclear Medicine

							Mean	Estimated		
		Percent of					additional	total	Mean	
		programs	Mean	Estimated		Percent	students	additional	qualified	Estimated
		responding	number	total		of	per	students	students	total
		to survey	of	students		programs	program	for	per	qualified
	ARRT	with	students	enrolled	Mean	not at	for those	programs	program	students
	recognized	enrollment	entering	for all	attrition	full	not at full	not at full	turned	turned
Year	programs	data	classroom	programs	Rate	capacity	capacity	capacity	away	away
2001	101	62.4%	12.4	1,252	11.8%	53.2%				
2002	104	55.8%	14.0	1,454	8.0%	35.7%	6.7	249	19.7	1317
2003	111	59.5%	14.5	1,612	7.1%	33.3%	2.7	100	32.1	2377
2004	117	58.1%	14.0	1,633	9.8%	20.9%	3.6	88	24.4	2258
2005	122	57.4%	13.7	1,673	8.6%	30.6%	5.1	190	32.9	2786
2006	131	71.8%	15.5	2,033	10.2%	31.8%	5.7	237	30.2	2698
2007	132	56.8%	13.5	1,781	8.3%	39.7%	6.3	330	24.2	1926
2008	136	59.6%	12.2	1,659	12.3%	58.4%	10.0	794	18.2	1030
2009	136	48.5%	10.8	1,469	7.0%	63.0%	4.3	368	9.3	468
2010	136	48.5%	11.3	1,534	12.9%	78.8%	7.0	748	12.9	372
2011	134	47.0%	8.8	1,175	11.3%	82.5%	7.2	796	8.0	187
2012	134	56.7%	10.5	1,407	18.4%	73.0%	8.7	851	6.4	231
2013	128	46.9%	10.0	1,280	23.8%	76.1%	7.9	770	7.8	239
2014	125	42.4%	8.5	1,061	36.7%	79.2%	8.1	802	8.3	216
2015	122	50.8%	10.5	1,276	17.3%	68.9%	6.0	504	4.5	171
2016	120	33.3%	11.4	1,368	11.1%	67.5%	7.8	632	3.2	124
2017	117	27.4%	10.9	1,273	9.3%	71.9%	6.7	559	2.5	82
2018	117	23.1%	11.0	1,287	8.1%	59.3%	11.0	761	8.8	418
2019	116	22.4%	9.7	1,129	15.0%	53.8%	4.4	276	2.1	114
2020	116	21.6%	9.3	1,076	14.0%	46.4%	6.3	339	3.7	231

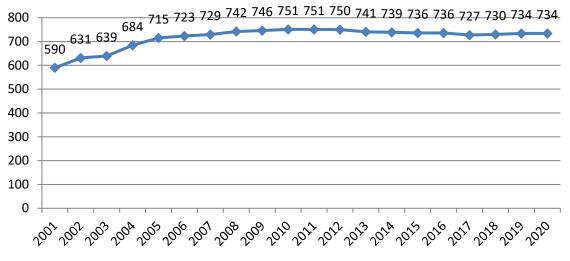




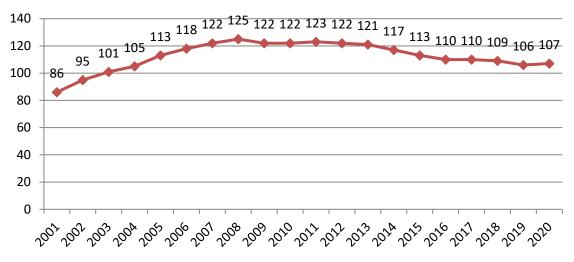
Estimated total number of students entering nuclear medicine technology programs:

Number of ARRT-recognized programs by discipline:

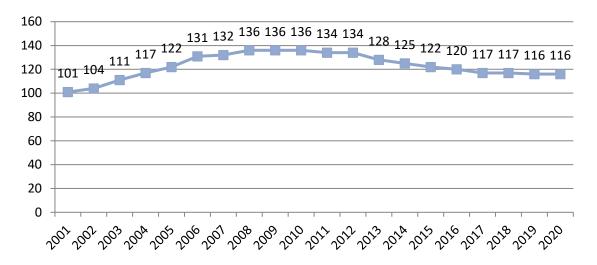
Radiography



Radiation Therapy



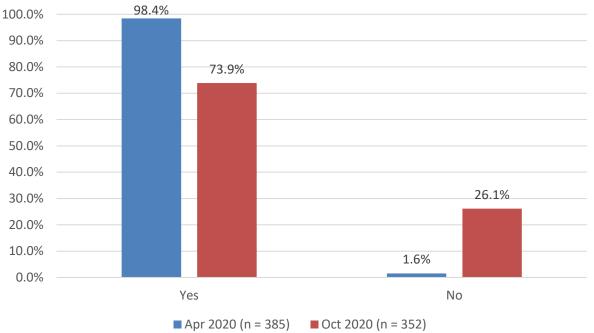




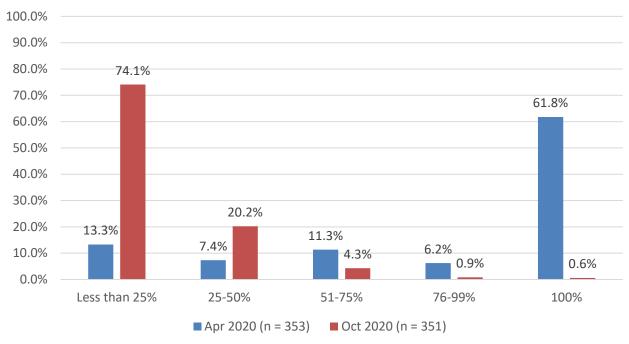
COVID-19 Clinical Education Questions

Comparing the April 2020 COVID-19 Educational Survey and Oct 2020 Enrollment Survey 2020.

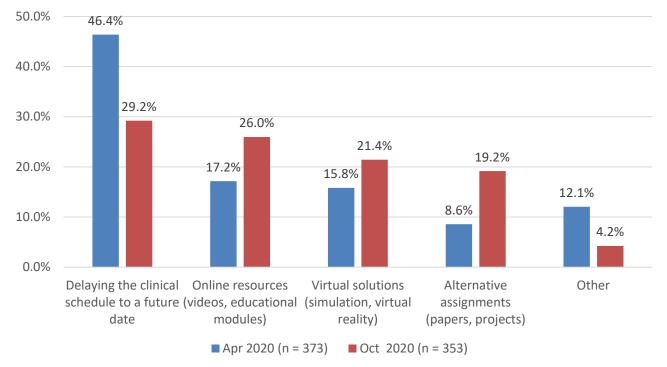




Approximately what percentage of the clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated due to COVID-19?

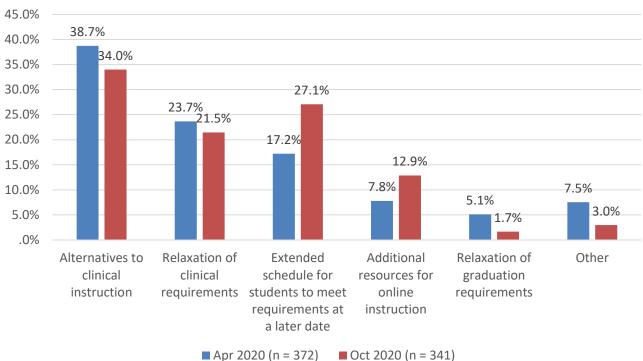




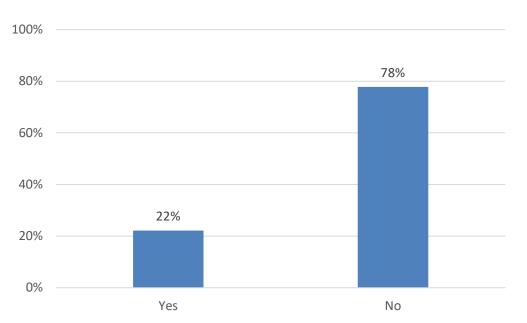


What alternatives are your program using to compensate for the reduced clinical schedule?

What is the most immediate need for your program in order to respond to the reduced clinical schedule?

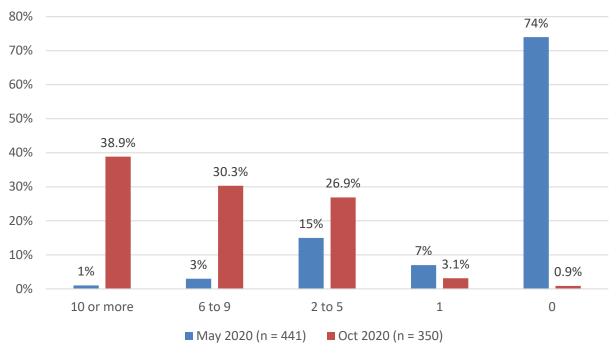


Unique Questions (Enrollment Survey 2020)



Does your program allow students to perform examinations on known or suspected COVID-19 patients? (n = 352)

How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?²



² This question was originally asked by the ARRT in the May 2020 survey *Radiography Educational Program Director Survey Results & Analysis*