



**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the RADIOGRAPHY OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PHILOSOPHY

The Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) is a cooperative program between Chadron State College (CSC), Peru State College (PSC), Wayne State College (WSC) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Radiography Program. The purpose of the Program is to recruit and educate traditional and non-traditional students from rural areas of Nebraska with the expectation that each person will return to rural Nebraska to practice. The program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for the citizens of the state.

General Overview of the RHOP Radiography Option

The RHOP Program has two required phases. The first phase is a two year specifically designed curriculum at CSC or WSC with the goal of preparing students for the UNMC Radiography Program. The second phase of the RHOP Program is the 21 month completion of the professional Radiography Program at UNMC. Upon completion of the Radiography Program, the student will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in the radiation sciences from UNMC. An individual choosing the Radiography Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural medicine, be fully informed as to the role of the radiographer as a rural health care provider, be highly motivated toward academic achievement and professional competence, and be committed to returning to rural Nebraska to practice.

COURSE WORK

1. Each participant and alternates (hereafter referred to collectively as students) must follow a curriculum designed for the Radiography option of RHOP. A suggested program of study to be completed at the state college will be provided. The Radiography professional curriculum can be located on the UNMC Radiography website.
2. Students must complete the program of study within two academic years. Any exception to this time schedule must be approved by the Radiography State College Mentor and the Radiography Program Director.
3. Students must obtain approval from the undergraduate Radiography State College Program mentor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good standing and continue in the NSC phase of the RHOP Radiography Option, the following Academic Standards will apply:

1. Students must earn a "C-" or better in the **required courses**.
2. Students must maintain a **cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher to remain in the RHOP Pipeline**.
3. **Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher to be eligible to receive the RHOP scholarship**.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Mentor at the NSC institution responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Mentor, in consultation with the Radiography Program Director, will determine what the student must do to improve their academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. The student will be placed on academic probation if the:

1. Student earns less than a "C-" in a **required** course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Student does not maintain a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher.
3. Student withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time. Academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester).
4. Student withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Mentor and the Radiography Program Director.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC Radiography Program in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the:

1. Student does not comply with the terms of an academic probation.
2. Student does not complete all of the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Student does not obtain a grade of "C-" or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Student does not raise their cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or higher after one semester of remediation.
5. Student does not satisfactorily complete the NSC phase coursework as defined by the academic standards for good standing.
6. Student does not satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC (undergraduate) institution will be shared with the Radiography Program Director.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE

1. Students are strongly encouraged to visit/shadow a radiography department.
2. Students must participate in activities conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities that foster professional skills.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE

CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY PROCEDURE

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the State College Program Mentor and the Radiography Program Director. The petition should state the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admission, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the Radiography Program at UNMC. A decision to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that a candidate selected as an RHOP participant decides not to accept a position, withdraws after entering the program, or is dismissed from the program, the Radiography Program Director and the NSC institution may select a replacement among the alternates in the same matriculating cohort. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in the suggested professional development activities will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by the Radiography Program may be requested. Each alternate maintains their Radiography alternate status as long as they are enrolled full-time in the undergraduate program, and have met all of the academic, course work, and professional development requirements.

ENTRANCE OF THE PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the Radiography option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, participants must demonstrate their successful completion by means of a formal application during the undergraduate final year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the participant must:

1. Meet all academic standards and professional development expectations throughout the NSC phase.
2. Meet all admission requirements for the UNMC Radiography program.
3. Complete UNMC's Radiography admission process by the designated deadlines timed appropriately to the completion of the NSC phase to include an online application and an interview.

As a routine practice, students applying to the Radiography program via RHOP are assigned to a campus location outside of Omaha.

PERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Participants and alternates must exhibit professional and personal behaviors that reflect positively on them, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Chadron State College, and Wayne State College. The students must remember that this includes summers and vacations. The students in RHOP are expected to comply with all campus standards of behavior as described in the Student Handbook., **as well as RHOP standards which include attending classes as scheduled, promptness, exhibiting respect towards fellow students and faculty, displaying initiative and leadership skills. They are also expected to obey all laws and thus, avoid having any criminal charges brought against them.** Failure to

comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action including dismissal from RHOP. The students must also remember that drug and alcohol offenses, felony convictions, etc. can prevent them from getting a license to practice in their chosen profession.

