

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Would our clinical staff receive any training for their role as a clinical instructor and program rules and regulations for the students?***

Yes! While it will be up to the clinical affiliate to orient the student to their facility, the program is in the process of developing a **2 hour ASRT-approved CE credit (to be offered to all clinical affiliate staff free of charge!)** clinical orientation/effective clinical instruction videocast.

### ***Do we, the clinic, have any say about whether or not a student is accepted into the program through our clinic?***

**Yes!!** The prospective student must complete a 16 hour “job shadow” with any proposed distance site. There is a form that is filled-out by RTT staff that observe the student during this job shadow that counts as points towards acceptance.

Additionally, each distance student applicant must undergo a **formal interview** with YOUR CLINICAL SITE STAFF held between April 15 and May 10 (specific date and times coordinated between the clinical site and the college). **The prospective clinical affiliate has the opportunity to reject the prospective student for admission into the clinic based on the Interview results.**

More details about this process will be delivered to the clinical affiliate when the clinical site is approved through this application process (or, if desired, upon request by the proposed clinical site)

### ***Can online radiation therapy education be effective?***

In short, YES!

For a full and complete description (our JRCERT accreditation proposal that was accepted) of how our program has built its online curriculum delivery to be as effective, if not more so, than our already effective traditional program, [see our proposal at www](#)

But here's a short summary: The **clinical component** of the program is essentially unchanged from our traditional program. The same forms will be used and the same rules will apply. We have a faculty Clinical Coordinator that will oversee clinical operations and distribute information and forms to the clinical affiliate (many “forms” utilized by the program are electronic). The clinical affiliate will appoint a Clinical Supervisor (required for ALL radiation therapy and radiography programs) that will serve as the liaison between the clinical affiliate and the program Clinical Coordinator. Clinical Supervisor role and responsibilities are described later in this clinical affiliate application packet.

- Depending on the semester, students will be in the clinical area 2-3 ½ days per week

**Labs** will be taught through the program, with the student meeting with the clinical affiliate Clinical Supervisor to review some skills during the early part of the program (Clinical Supervisor description and role described later on in this packet).

**Academic classes** will be all online. Online curriculum delivery consists of workbooks (written by program faculty) with associated podcast lectures guiding the student through the academic curriculum. Additionally, students work together in small online groups connected by audio and video. Students also are connected via social media, discussion boards, and other community-building means. Faculty have regular contact with students and are available to address questions/concerns via audio and video means.

***We are already a clinical affiliate with another program. Is it possible to also affiliate with Amarillo College's program?***

Yes. But if you are already affiliated with another program, there are procedures to follow. Contact the Amarillo College Program Director if you are affiliated with another program so that we can ensure that we are in compliance with accreditation regulations described at <http://www.jrcert.org/site-utilization/>

***There are some other big online university-based radiation therapy programs that say they are accredited. Are they really accredited?***

As described in the greeting page, **While there are other online radiation therapy programs available, their radiation therapy programs are NOT accredited!** The universities that offer these radiation therapy programs are accredited, but their radiation therapy programs are NOT accredited!

Undergoing college/university accreditation typically entails (for the radiation therapy program) only a couple of pages of paperwork with no direct contact with the accrediting agency whatsoever. On the other hand, JRCERT (radiation therapy and radiography) program-specific accreditation results in about 400 hours of documentation reviewing ALL aspects of the program in exhausting detail-- including resources, faculty, curriculum, results (ARRT exam results, etc.), and MUCH more--culminating in a days-long site visit by a site-team consisting of other radiation therapy professionals (the site visit includes private interviews with all students).

The JRCERT is the ONLY radiation therapy program accrediting agency. To see if a program is accredited by JRCERT, you can go to the main JRCERT web site at [www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org) or you can take the short-cut directly to their "find a program area" at <https://portal.jrcertaccreditation.org/summary/accreditedprogramsearch.aspx>

Note: While there will be multiple programs listed that offer some form of "distance education" we expect to be the only program that offers 100% fully online as a primary means of delivering curriculum to all students. And, again, we have to pass rigorous accreditation standards in order to maintain our JRCERT accreditation status.

***Why is it important to have a JRCERT accredited option for online radiation therapy?***

As you are undoubtedly aware, the job market has been negatively impacted by the influx of large numbers of graduates from non-accredited radiation therapy programs. Our program encourages prospective students to enroll in an accredited option that enrolls smaller classes than the other options currently available. Over time, having a high-quality accredited online option that carefully monitors enrollment can have a more positive impact on the job market.

Additionally, professionalism entails maintaining rigorous standards of excellence. As described earlier, program accreditation (vs. college or university general accreditation) means that the program has undergone a detailed and extensive review of all aspects of the program, ensuring a quality program.

Graduates of a program that has passed the quality test of accreditation are likely to be high quality students. And higher quality graduates, over time, enhance the overall professionalism in our field!