

Use this form to request authorization to plan a new baccalaureate major, associate degree program, or graduate program; formal approval or waiver of an Intent to Plan is required before a university may submit a related full proposal request for a new program. The Executive Director and/or their designees may request additional information. After the university President approves the Intent to Plan, submit a signed copy to the Executive Director through the System Academic Officer through the proper process. Only post the Intent to Plan to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director, System Academic Officer or designee. This form is meant to capture critical elements for stakeholders to review prior to a full proposal.

University NSU - Northern State University

Degree AS : Associate of Science

Name of Major X999 : New Major Requested

Radiologic Technology

Specialization Required? *Note: If the new proposed program includes specific specializations within it, complete and submit a New Specialization Form for each proposed specialization and attach it to this form. Since specializations appear on transcripts, they require Board approval.*

College/Department 5A : NSU College of Arts & Sciences/NNUR : Nursing

Intended Date of Full Proposal Spring 2026

Planned CIP Code 51.0911

Program Description

1. Provide the working program description that may appear in the university catalog.

The Associate of Science (AS) in Radiologic Technology program provides students with the technical knowledge, clinical experience, and professional preparation necessary for entry-level positions in diagnostic imaging.

This program combines rigorous coursework in anatomy, physiology, patient care, and radiation physics with hands-on clinical training in affiliated healthcare facilities. Students learn to safely produce diagnostic images, apply radiation protection standards, and communicate effectively as members of the healthcare team.

Graduates of the program are prepared to sit for the national certification examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and pursue licensure required for professional practice. The degree also provides a strong foundation for students who wish to continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree in related fields such as healthcare administration, public health, or advanced imaging modalities.

Strategic Impact

2. Describe how the program fits in with the institutional mission, strategic plan, existing institutional program array, and academic priorities.

Mission Alignment:

Northern State University's mission is to "provide diverse academic, civic, social, and cultural opportunities that prepare students through the liberal arts, professional education, and E-learning for their future endeavors, while also enriching the local and regional community." The proposed AS in Radiologic Technology aligns closely with that mission. The program provides students with a strong foundation in professional education and prepares them for meaningful work in the healthcare field, which is essential to the health and growth of our region. By training students to deliver skilled and compassionate imaging care, the program supports Northern's commitment to developing graduates who contribute to their professions and to the communities they serve.

Strategic Plan and Academic Priorities:

This program fits directly within Northern's strategic priorities to expand access to professional and workforce-aligned programs, strengthen partnerships with healthcare providers, and meet high-need employment areas across the state. Healthcare consistently ranks among South Dakota's most critical workforce needs, and this program responds directly to that demand. It also reflects Northern's focus on connecting the liberal arts with professional preparation, helping students develop not only the technical skills needed for radiologic technology but also the communication, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning skills that make them effective healthcare professionals.

Program Array:

Within Northern's existing academic program array, the AS in Radiologic Technology complements programs such as Nursing, Biotechnology, and Biology and expands the university's offerings in the health sciences. The program strengthens Northern's ability to meet regional workforce needs by creating a direct, career-ready route into diagnostic imaging while maintaining the flexibility for those who wish to continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree. By adding Radiologic Technology, Northern broadens its role in preparing students for healthcare professions and reinforces its mission to serve the people and communities of northeastern South Dakota and the surrounding region.

If the program does not align to the strategic plan, provide a compelling rationale for the institution to offer the program.

3. How does the program connect to the Board of Regent's Strategic Plan?

Providing an Associate of Science degree in Radiologic Technology helps fulfill Goals 2 to 5 in the Board of Regents Strategic Plan.

Goal 2: A two-year degree that minimizes time and cost to students makes college education affordable and lays a foundation for access to further education. A compelling strategy to address access and affordability.

Goal 3: A two-year program that leans into certificates and other Board of Regents credentialing efforts creates an attainable, stackable educational journey. This ensures students are successful in completing their degree(s).

Goal 4: Creating a two-year program that addresses a workforce need helps ensure the Board of Regents is responsive to the demands of the health care field and facilitate economic viability of industry partners.

Goal 5: A two-year program in a critical need area where few programs exist helps the Board of Regents be efficient and effective in providing educational services to students. This helps improve financial health of the system and ensure viability of all six state universities.

Program Summary

4. If a new degree is proposed, what is the rationale?

This question refers to the type of degree, not the program. For example, if your university has authorization to offer the Bachelor of Science and the program requested is a Bachelor of Science, then the request is not for a new degree.

N/A

5. What modality/modalities will be used to offer the new program?

Note: The accreditation requirements of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) require Board approval for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery.

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On Campus	Yes	Fall 2026

	Yes/No	Location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off Campus Location	Yes	Clinical sites - hospitals and clinics	Fall 2026

	Yes/No	Delivery Method(s)	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery	Yes	HyFlex and Online	Fall 2026

	Yes/No	Identify Institutions
Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?	Yes	USD offers the BS Radiologic Technology online with the radiologic technology courses taught at Avera or Sanford. SDSU has a AA or BS in Radiologic Technology in concert with Avera's School of Radiologic Technology.

6. If the program will be offered through distance delivery, identify the planned instructional modality:

Both / HyFlex

Academic Quality

7. What peer institutions and current national standards will be referenced to develop the curriculum for this program? Include links to at least 3 comparable programs at peer institutions and links to national or accreditation standards, if any.

Fort Hayes State University (peer) - Fort Hayes State has a well-established associate degree program at a regional public university in Kansas. [1]

Mitchell Technical College (non-peer) – Mitchell Technical College is the only associate degree program in the region that offers a stand alone, two-year degree program to allow students to attain expertise in operating X-ray, MRI, or CT machines to create images for diagnosis and/or treatment. [2]

JRCERT – Joint Review Committee on education in Radiologic Technology. Standards, fees, resources, and information related to Radiologic Technology will be followed according to guidelines and information available on the JRCERT website. Program Faculty at Clinical settings will be identified and solidified.

[1] <https://www.fhsu.edu/alliedhealth/academic-programs/asdegree/>

[2] <https://www.mitchelltech.edu/programs/radiologic-technology>

[3] <http://www.jrcert.org>.

8. What program accreditation is available, if any?

JRCERT – Joint Review Committee on education in Radiologic Technology. The United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognizes the JRCERT as the only agency for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry.

9. Will the proposed program pursue accreditation or certifications?

Yes

If no, why has the department elected not to pursue accreditation for the program?

N/A

Duplication and Competition

10. Do any related programs exist at other public universities in South Dakota?

*A list of existing programs is available through the university websites and the RIS Reporting: Academic Reports Database. If there are no related programs within the Regental system, indicate **none**.*

USD offers the BS Radiologic Technology online with the radiologic technology courses taught at Avera or Sanford.

SDSU has a AA or BS in Radiologic Technology in concert with Avera's School of Radiologic Technology.

A. If yes, defend the need for an additional program within the state, Include IPEDS enrollment data and additional data as needed.

Meetings with workforce development leaders at Avera, Sanford, and Monument revealed high demand for radiologic technologists in the state and especially in northeastern South Dakota.

B. If yes, would this program be a candidate for Regental system collaboration?

No because the clinical sites have to be coordinated by one specific program.

11. Do any related programs exist at any non-Regental college or university within 150 miles of the university?

List those programs here:

Yes, the University of Jamestown offers a degree in Radiologic Technology.

A. If yes, use IPEDS to identify the enrollment in those programs.

University of Jamestown does not list a Radiological Technology degree in its reported graduates on College Navigator (IPEDS), and neither does South Dakota State University. This is because the certification in radiologic technology comes from the program at Sanford, Avera, or another medical partner. Graduates are likely listed with a general studies associate or bachelor's degree.

B. What evidence suggests there is unmet student demand for the proposed program, or that the proposed program would attract students away from the existing program?

Students who enroll in Northern's gateway to health sciences certificate while in high school or in Northern's pre-nursing program as degree-seeking undergraduates are expressing an interest in health professions. Northern's AS in radiologic technology will provide students in health professions and pre-nursing programs another opportunity for a career in a health profession. Students can complete the degree in a shorter timeframe and enter a high demand field quickly.

Market Demand

This section establishes the market demand for the proposed program (eg Regental system need, institutional need, workforce need). Use the following sources for your data:

- [South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation](#)
- [O-Net](#)
- [US Department of Labor Projections Central](#)
- SDBOR Workforce and Degree Gap Analysis Report

12. What is the expected growth of the industry or occupation in South Dakota and nationally?

Include the number of openings, as well as the percentage of growth when possible.

Approximately, 569 jobs are expected in 2026 in South Dakota, 16% above the national average. In addition, among Radiologic Technologists jobs are expected to grow 3.9% in South Dakota, with a 6.3% growth on the national level, from 2026-2035. In December 2025, there were 25 unique postings - Sanford and Avera were the top companies posting positions. [4]
[4] LightCast

13. What evidence, if any, suggests there are unfilled openings in South Dakota or nationally?

see above.

14. What salaries can program graduates expect to earn in South Dakota and nationally?

The median earnings is \$65,400/year for South Dakota. Nationally, the median is \$33/hour or \$68,640. [5]

[5] LightCast

15. Optional: Provide any additional evidence of regional demand for the program.

e.g. prospective student interest survey data, letters of support from employers, community needs...

Northern had conversations with Monument Health, Sanford Health, and Avera Health regarding need in Radiologic Technology. All facilities said there was need with minimal educational opportunities for students. Each supported Northern State University's efforts to create an associate degree to meet the demands, suggesting their facility as a clinical site.

Student Demand

16. Provide evidence of student completers/graduates at that degree level at peer institutions that offer the same/similar program using data obtained from IPEDS.

Choose programs not already listed in question 11. Use the most recent year available.

University Name	State	Program Name	Number of Degrees Conferred in Program	Total Number of Conferrals at Level (Undergrad or Grad)
Fort Hays State University	KS : Kansas		35	78
Mitchell Technical Institute	SD : South Dakota		25	350
St. Catherine's University	MN : Minnesota		25	167

17. What evidence suggests there is interest from prospective students for this program at the university?

With the exponential growth in Northern's Nursing program, up to 105 pre-nursing and nursing students in a matter of 1.5 years, there is a need to continue to support additional pathways for students pursuing something in the health care field. Educational pathways, like Radiologic Technology, provide an opportunity to students in case nursing is not feasible based on time, money, or academics for students. Radiologic Technology meets an area of high workforce demand for students who want to minimize cost yet obtain a degree in an area of critical need.

Enrollment

18. Are students enrolling in this program expected to be new to the university or redirected from existing programs at the university?

Include the number of openings, as well as the percentage of growth when possible.

We expect both new and redirected students. In the first years, approximately, five students will be existing students at Northern State University, while 20 will be new students to the university.

19. Narrative Description of the preliminary estimates on annual enrollment in this program by year six

Include all students within the program, not just those new to the program.

Following accreditation guidelines, student clinical training must follow a 1:1 student to radiologic staff ratio. Time and clinical staffing limit the number of students accepted into the program each year. The recommended program size is 20-25 students per cohort. Using this as a model and keeping to a managing level, we expect to accept 25 students per cohort, with 50 students in the program at any given time, then graduating 20 students each year. These values are expected by the second accepting class of students.