

# X-RAYS

## & BROKEN BONES

Your average American can expect to experience two fractures in their lifetime. They are one of the most common orthopedic problems, with nearly 6.8 million people seeking medical attention each year in the United State alone, said Jonathan Cluett, M.D.

Radiographers are the medical personnel who see you when you have a fracture. Radiographers fall under the umbrella of radiology, which is the use of digital imaging such as ultrasounds, CT scans, and MRIs.

Florida State College at Jacksonville currently offers a radiography program, which allows those graduating to be able to seek employment as an X-ray technician with an associate's in applied science.

"I've always been fascinated with radiology," said Eliana Lo Giudice, a current student in the program. "Growing up I was a very clumsy child."

The program is five semesters total and the estimated cost of tuition is \$5,113 for Florida residents. The total credit hours in the associate's degree program adds up to 77 hours. Before entering students have to take seven prerequisite courses, including ENC 1101, college algebra, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology 1 and 2, a social science, and a humanities.

After graduating, students hoping to further their education can transfer to Franklin University, where they need apply and be accepted, before seeking their bachelors degree. A second option FSCJ offers is the ability

to complete prerequisites here and then apply to the Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville and transfer there.

The program also requires students to accomplish clinicals before graduating. During a clinical, students must successfully take x-ray images of 51 body parts, 36 that are mandatory and 15 that electives. The list includes ribs, sternum, wrist, knee, and skull.

"We go to hospitals twice a week," said Romak Vashi, a current student in the program. "You get to see a lot, as you go through it you see the techs and see how they do it and how they care for the patient. You practice it and then gain confidence until you can do it by yourself."

However, the job market in Jacksonville is daunting and leaving students looking for work that elsewhere. Keiser University, formerly known as Keiser College, has a campus located in Jacksonville, where they offer an associate of science in radiological technology.

"We do have a lot of schools that offer this program in Jacksonville, so there are a lot of students graduating," said Vashi. "Keiser graduates around 200 students and we have about 30 students."

Both Vashi and Lo Giudice had no idea the job market was dwindling for X-ray technicians. However, both have no regrets in their choice and would move if necessary.

"Moving might be an option," said Lo Giudice.

"It really depends on the situation at the point when we graduate," said Vashi. "I just really wanted to do this."



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