

RADIATION ONCOLOGY SHADOWING GUIDE

Expectations for Shadowing in Radiation Oncology

All shadowing students seeking admission to NWHSU are held to the following expectations.

- Agree to complete the immunization requirements or any other required documents from the health care setting.
- Agree to sign all clinic forms required to complete shadowing hours in a health care setting.
- Come dressed appropriately according to the clinical site dress code (if unsure, ask your contact for specific policies)
- Prepare questions to discuss with the healthcare professional you will be job shadowing. (Examples are listed below)
- Do not carry a cell phone or other personal electronic devices during your job shadow.
- At no time will you perform any direct patient care (clinical skills) work.
- Use proper hand hygiene while in the clinic and or hospital setting.
- Give the clinical staff and patients that you shadow the respect they deserve.
- The employees provide this opportunity as a service to their profession. The patients are there to receive care while maintaining their privacy and dignity. Please act accordingly.
- Always respect and maintain patient confidentiality, both during your job shadow and after you leave the hospital. Do not discuss anything that could reveal the identity of the patient(s) with anyone.
- Contact the manager of the department in which you are shadowing in advance if you have questions or need to reschedule your job shadow.
- Clothing/Apparel/
 - Business casual attire
 - Clothing must be neat, clean, and free from offending odors.
 - Footwear is to be clean and closed-toed shoes only.
 - Caps or hats, unless worn for medical or religious reasons, are not appropriate attire.
 - Body piercing - No visible body piercing may be worn.
- Grooming/Personal Hygiene:
 - Clinic policies state no fragrances/perfumes due to allergies and sensitivities to scents.
- Jewelry/Adornments:
 - Tattoos and body art with wording or images that may be perceived as offensive (such as racial slurs, swear words, revealing body parts in a way that a reasonable person could perceive as inappropriate, symbols of death) to patients, families, or other persons should be covered.
- **Applicants for the Twin Cities shadowing locations will need to have proof of their COVID-19 vaccination.** Those in other states or outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area: please check with the shadowing clinic for their requirements before scheduling a visit.

Requesting a Job-Shadowing Opportunity

Job shadows are offered only Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. For requests in the Twin Cities, email the appropriate contact:

Minneapolis Radiation Oncology

Admin: Kris Ferdinandt

<mailto:kferdinandt@mropa.com>

Note: All required paperwork must be completed before you schedule your shadow experience. Clinics receive numerous requests and prioritize individuals who have fulfilled all requirements.

If you are out of state or outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area, please contact a local radiation oncology center, ask to speak with the radiation oncology manager, and let them know you are a student being considered for a radiation therapy program and requesting to shadow a radiation therapist.

Sample email template

Subject line: Job-shadowing

Message:

Hello. I am requesting to shadow a radiation therapist in your clinic as part of my application to attend NWHSU's Radiation Therapy program. Would you be able to accommodate this request?

I am (age if under 18). I have completed (level of education: high school or college).

I am available on the following dates:

- Day, Date, time
- Day, Date, time

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Name

Address

Phone

Questions to ask the Radiologist when shadowing:

What do you do on a typical day?

What led you to this career?

What is the best part of this job?

What are other career pathways that radiation therapists have options to pursue?

How long have you been in the field, and has the profession changed since you entered?

What qualities are important for a person to possess if they are going to enter this field?

What has been the most difficult or challenging part of this job?

How often does technology change in radiation oncology?