

Radiological sciences offer 'unlimited potential'

BY MELANIE SCHOENFELD FOR THE YELL

At least one year of college finished, numerous papers written, finals crammed for, and dollars invested but you still have no idea what you want to do. There is an area you might consider.

An area with good employment prospects and excellent starting salaries but there is of course, a catch—radiation.

Art Meyers, assistant professor of radiological sciences, said if people could overcome what he calls an unwarranted fear of radiation, nuclear medicine has that most attractive of qualities—a good chance for employment.

"The great thing about nuclear medicine is its unlimited potential in terms of employment and future goals for people," Meyers said. He added nuclear medicine is in every hospital in the country and that students

can make \$30-40,000 a year in entry level positions.

"We're training people to get jobs," Meyers said.

Meyers said in this case the fear of radiation is unfounded because the levels are so small they pose no threat.

"You're being exposed to radiation at all times," Meyers said. "You get more radiation from going to your dentist but it's not scary because it does not have the word nuclear."

The word nuclear comes from the technique involved. A radioactive tracer is placed into the body, usually through intravenous injection and gamma rays are emitted by the tracer from inside the patient's body. The rays are then picked up by cameras, put on computer and analyzed.

Meyers said the amount and distribution of the radiation can tell the doctors about abnormalities in physiology. He said the

amount of radiation is less than that of an x-ray and is out of the body in 24 hours.

Meyers, adamant about the safety of the technique, described the materials involved as harmless. "I could drink the whole amount of radioactive iodine I have in there and it would have no effect on me," he said.

The "there" Meyers referred to is the place in the Rod Lee Bigelow Health Sciences where the materials are stored. Meyers said the doors to the rooms are locked and the materials are concealed and locked up in the room.

According to Meyers UNLV's program is one of the biggest in the country and has been around for quite a while.

"UNLV's program has been around since 1975," Meyers said. "We happen to be one of the largest programs in the country. We constantly get calls from all over recruiting students."



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- Always Important:**
- Dependability
 - Honesty & integrity
 - Ability to get things done
 - Desire to accept responsibility
 - Intelligence

- Usually Important (continued)**
- Writing Skills
 - Innovative Ideas
 - Time management skills
 - Competitive abilities
 - Mathematical skills
 - Health (physically)
 - Team management skills
 - Ability to "go along" with an organization's ways
 - Computer literacy

- Usually Important:**
- Common sense
 - Problem-solving skills
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Mental stability
 - Maturity
 - Self-confidence/poise
 - Decision-making abilities
 - Ambition
 - Flexibility/adaptability to change
 - Creative thinking skills
 - Motivational abilities
 - Leadership skills
 - Neatness of appearance
 - Diplomacy/tactfulness
 - Speaking abilities
 - Perseverance
 - Staying power and stability with an organization
 - Self-pride
 - An excellent example for others

- Important/Depending Upon Job:**
- Tactical & strategic planning skills
 - Entrepreneurial spirit
 - Physical fitness
 - Ability to delegate to others
 - Willingness to continue education
 - Interest in current events
 - Prior knowledge of an organization
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 - Financial planning skills
 - Ability to work in close quarters
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