



Certified Limited Radiology Technician Valeria Mireles, Medical Humanities, Fall 2021

Professional
Development

SUMMARY

In the Spring of 2019 I was offered the opportunity to participate in a Limited Radiology Certification (LRT) program. This program took place in Schertz, Texas at the Samuel Clemens High School Medical Wing. This course was overseen by Michael Wray, who's not only a previous high school teacher of mine, but a mentor as well. Throughout this program I learned body planes, anatomy of upper and lower extremities, as well as chest, abdomen, spine, and skull. I also learned how to position everybody part when taking an X-ray as well as everything having to do with the radiographic equipment such as effects, safety, protection, image production, evaluation, and processing. I even received my BLS CPR Certification in the process of receiving my LRT Certification and learned how to triage patients to make sure their waiting room experience isn't too long. I was able to shadow a series of clinics and hospitals, which helped me observe and meet many Doctors and their different styles of working. My professional goal was to receive this certification while also being able to gain experience in the medical atmosphere, as I am planning to become a trauma surgeon. I will be spending about 90% of my time in hospitals and clinics, so I wanted to know what to expect when the time came. I also wanted to get to know other medical professionals to understand what they did to make their professional goals come to life. As a personal goal I wanted to further my communication skills, as well as my time management. Overall I wanted to learn how to ensure I can give my future patients the best and quality of care possible.



SPICES

This experience helped me develop professionally through its intensity. It was very fast paced, but it gave me a sense of what Medical School will be like, as well as how the medical atmosphere works and what is expected. Being apart of the medical field is never heard to be easy, but it is not impossible. This certification helped me gain many valuable skills that will help me throughout my career, such as patient communication, taking vital signs, taking and reading patient X-rays, analyzing patient history, knowing basic Medical Regulations like HIPAA, and so many more skills that will help be along my medical pathway.

HERBS

Acquiring my LRT certification has proven to be an ethical development through Honor, Benevolence, and Support. I had to demonstrate honor in following certain regulations, such as HIPAA, to ensure patient information was confidential. I was benevolent when helping patients overcoming obstacles, such as heart defects, and overall I was honored to be part of such a supportive group, such as my radiology class and all the staff I met along the way.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This experience gave me a visual and a feel for what the medical field is really like. I was able to speak to patients at some of their most difficult times and help them get back to themselves. It allowed me to see the rewarding side of my job as a medical professional and gave me a clear view as to what my duties and responsibilities are for my patients. Not only am I supposed to be there for them at the medical clinics, but also outside. My job as a medical professional does not end the moment my shift ends, because I will continue to be recognized around the city which upholds you to a higher standard.



IMPACT

This experience impacted me by reassuring me that going into the medical field is what I truly want to do. My aspiration is to become a trauma surgeon and join the Airforce, because I enjoy serving others. Going into the program I was slightly afraid, because I did not want certain professionals to sway my opinion for the worst regarding my future career. I decided to go into the program open minded and having the opportunity to meet a series of physicians made me realize what makes a great physician great. For example, with Dr. Patel it was his compassion and sincerity, but with Dr. Hernandez it was his bluntness with a hint of empathy. Dr. Patel was very gentle with children, while Dr. Hernandez was a lot more by the rules and demanded children be disciplined in their everyday habits, but it was very noticeable that both professionals truly cared for their patients. Shadowing different styles of healthcare made me reflect on how impactful healthcare professionals really are to the community, and I can envision myself making a difference in people's everyday life. Every medical professional I had the opportunity to meet provided me with helpful insight, guidance, and overall encouragement. They are who I think of when life gets hard, and who I aspire to be in order to provide my future patients with the best healthcare possible.

ADVICE

I would advise anyone who is planning to join the medical field to shadow a physician. Even if the physician is not part of the specific field that you are considering. Every medical professional has a story and were able to get where they are today through hard work and dedication. When shadowing a physician and speaking to them 1 on 1 you get to see a different side of them. You will have the opportunity to build connections with them and they may even become your mentor or get you in contact with the personal in your preferred field. Overall opportunities, such as internships or certifications, give you the ability to see if the medical is the right fit for you and can even change your point of specialty.